THE TIMES-UNION
ALBANY, N. Y.
(m) 70,000 (S) 130,000

SEP 21 1975

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WEEK IN REVIEW

DMH tops news with new plan

The Times-Union disclosed Saturday a reorganization plan for the Department of Mental Hygiene which had been promised by Gov. Hugh L. Carey earlier last week.

A spokesman for the governor said the plan call for creation of new functions and offices and the possible elimination of some high-level DMH posts.

If implemented as envisioned, the reorganization — at least on paper — would clearly separate management responsibilities from health program activities, establish a management analysis function, strengthen evaluation responsibilities and give DMH regional directors more clout and institutional directors less autonomy. The latter action is designed to keep the DMH system dcentralizd as much as posible while reducing what appears to be fragmentation in the field.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hugh G. Lafave won back on the job last week as director of the Oswald D. Heck Developmental Center in Niskayuna after Kolb had suspended him or almost two months while the department investigated Heck and Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Services.

Teacher strikes expanded in Capitaland, as Ballston Spa instructors walked off their jobs early Friday morning, joining pickets in Colonie and Schenectady. The teachers' union had voted to walk out if negotiations with the district hadn't produced a settlement by then.

An extensive stream monitoring and water testing program, involving 70 new sampling stations to protect state fisheries from contaminants and counteracting "acid rain" in Adirondack lakes was proposed Thursday by Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ogden Reid.

The program will concentrate on identifying sources of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which have been spilling into to Hudson River from General Electric Co. plants in Washington County and possibly other industrial sites endangering Atlantic Ocean fishing grounds.

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