

"It's Cheaper"

On 2/18/86 a motion to reconsider moving Department of Social Services offices out of downtown Ithaca was defeated by the newly elected County Board of Representatives. The ostensible reason given by most representatives was based on financial data alleging that hospital space could be converted into office space for \$7.00 a square foot. Later meetings revealed that the way the County intends to maintain that low cost is to undercut prevailing wage laws. The County intends to work on this public project utilizing public funds by hiring workers to do painting and fix up under the civil services classification of cleaner at an annual salary of \$10,156. Further, the conversion plan does not provide for compliance with New York State Building and Fire Code Regulations. The move is vehemently opposed by CSEA, that maintains that the plan does not meet County space needs responsibly. The County intends to hide total cost of the project by stringing it out over years and expecting the workers to shoulder the burdens and inconvenience of such a move with the tax payer ultimately picking up the tax.

A coalition (including CSEA) entitled RESCIND can be reached at the local CSEA office, 273-8353. They are asking people to contact their Representatives asking for a vote to RESCIND resolutions to move county offices to the old hospital building.

In a year when the County is already discussing a 20% tax increase allegedly because of loss of revenue sharing, they found over \$90,000 to convert the hospital to office space. The hospital should be sold, returned to tax roles and rehabilitated by local labor!

The following Representatives voted to move county offices:

Watros -- 844-8100
Proto -- 539-6499
Surtliff -- 898-3601
Winch -- 564-7813
Mason -- 387-9048
Tillapaugh -- 272-5958
True -- 272-4706
Howell -- 533-4306