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# Why 52 At State Hospital Face Layoffs

Although it's a tax-supported institution. Northville State Hospital is suffering the effects of a recession.
It hasn't had the usual turnover of employes. As a result,

partment officials in an effort to avoid the deficit without to avoid the deficit without interest of a \$100.000 deficit.

Interviewed in his office in the may have to lay off as many as \$2 employes to avoid that deficit.

Last week he was meeting with state Mental Health De

saving steps at this time. "It will just start rumors." Here is the overall picture: NSH has about \$70 employes and an operating budget of \$9.75 million for the fiscal year that ends July 1. With the an-ticipated deficit. 38 salaries

would have to be saved to bal-ance the books.

To save 38 salaries, there would have to be 52 layoffs because it takes three layoffs to eliminate two jobs, unem-ployment compensation costs being what they are.

Dr. Budd explained:
"Normally we have a turn-over of employes. In the nurs-ing department, we've had up-to a 40% turnover in one month - mostly attendant nurses." But the hospital has been losing fewer and fewer attend-

try lately, in the curr nomic belt-tightening

"IN THE FIRST six months of the fiscal year (July to December), we osually earry duditional people; in the second six months, the normal exodus from the employment column of the said.

When that "normal exodus" disht occur. NSH officials in January found themselves heading for 3 slow, 500 deficit. So one had been laid off yet. "We have started the laydf procedure. I announced that two weeks ago, it takes a couple of weeks to set up the administrative procedure. It can be called off at the last moment, "Dr. Budd said. Then he cautioned: "The longer I wait to lay off," where the procedure is the fast moment, "Dr. Budd said. Then he cautioned: "The longer I wait to lay off," where the procedure is the fast moment, "Dr. Budd said. Then he cautioned: "The longer I wait to lay off," where the procedure is the said. "The complete is have to lay off." "The seniority and probation."

off."

Low-seniority and probation-ary employes with no civil service status would go first. One complicating factor is thous sen-iority could, when facing a layoff, "bump" a less skilled employe.

layoff. "bump" a less skilled employe.

Dr. Budd estimated that about 30 of the 32 who would be laid off would be from the maring service, which has 500 of the 570 jobs along with the highest turnover, will "lighten" to cours. Will "lighten" the hospital staff but won't be cutbacks in any programs. Dr. Budd said. "It will put us back to last June's spatient-staff level."

June's (patient-staff i level."

MEANWHILE, A committee of NSH employes has sought television time and written letters complaining about the impending layoffs and charging than NSH is being discriminated against by state-level officials.

"I do not feel this is true."

The Budd responded, adding that "the Department of Mental Health has been working closely with Northville. The hospital programs have been continuing to expand.

"The programs have been continuing to expand."

Of the programs are a right to late a volet. They can write to the governor, the Legislature, the Mental Health Department. This is part of their enthusiasm.
"Many statements have

enthusiasm.

"Many statements have been attributed to me." he added, "but they do not represent me or the hospital admin-

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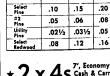


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