

## State, union meeting on hospitals

ALBANY, N. Y. (AP) — State and union officials scheduled another round of meetings today after eleventh-hour efforts failed to avert the threat of a work stoppage at state mental hospitals.

The union announced last week that the work stoppage would be initiated at the Creedmoor State Hospital in Queens Village. Hospital officials transferred or sent home about half of the 6,300 patients.

Dr. Alan D. Miller, commissioner of the Mental Hygiene Department, declared a "state of emergency" Sunday night at the hospital in what was described as a precautionary move.

### URGED STOPPAGE

Council 50 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, AFL-CIO, called for the work stoppage.

A strike vote at Willowbrook State School on Staten Island is not expected for at least two weeks, according to union officials. They predicted that Willowbrook, the largest institution in the state, would be "among the last" to be struck.

The union is demanding that the state hold an election to determine the bargaining agent for ward service personnel at the 24 hospitals operated by the State Mental Hygiene Department. It also wants the state to stop talks with the Civil Service Employes Association, which Gov. Rockefeller has designated as the temporary bargaining agent for the ward service workers.

A special three-man panel named by the Public Employes Relation Board conducted mediation sessions over the weekend among representatives of Council 50, the governor's office, and the State Mental Hygiene Department. Sunday's session lasted until almost 1 a.m. today before it was recessed.

### CALLED CORDIAL

A spokesman for the PERB described the sessions as cordial and conducted "without antagonism." The special panel and Alton G. Marshall, as secretary to Gov. Rockefeller, met in a hotel room in Albany and talked by telephone to Morton Shaprio, international representative for the union, in New York City.

The state agency said Saturday that all of its hospitals had been asked to send as many patients home as possible in view of the anticipated emergency. The 24 hospitals house about 75,000 patients.

Gov. Rockefeller has said he would invoke the state's Taylor Law if the union "tries to make a state hospital for the mentally ill a testing ground for a jurisdictional question."

The law prohibits strikes by public employes. A violating union could be fined and its leaders jailed.