

Report 4 arrests at Willowbrook

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At least four persons were reported to have been arrested this morning at the entrance to Willowbrook State School as Civil Service Employees Association pickets attempted to block access to the 5,000-patient facility.

Dr. Jack Hammond, director of the school, said today the "situation is very bad" and that "patient care services are below minimum." Officials at the school also reported that the Department of Mental Hygiene had requested state police assistance to strengthen security at the school.

The strike by 140,000 employees statewide was called at midnight in defiance of a court order and in spite of a last-minute contract offer by the state. Union representatives were scheduled to meet with state fact-finders this morning in the continuing negotiations.

Pickets began assembling at the school at midnight, and approximately 60 pickets were reported present during the night. The ranks swelled this morning, as nearly 300 persons arrived at the school's entrance.

The arrests were reported early after 7 a.m. Among those brought to the New Dorp precinct were Thomas Delaney, president of the Willowbrook CSEA chapter, and Al Iversen, union representative from the school's maintenance department. According to unofficial reports, several pickets threw themselves in front of cars attempting to enter the school, precipitating the arrests.

Dr. Hammond said this morning most of the 184 night shift employees had stayed on duty past 7 a.m. today, but that only 119 of the scheduled 463 employee day shift had reported for work.

School officials asked again today that parents able to remove their children from the school do so, and-or report to the school to assist in care and feeding of patients.

Approximately 20 volunteers were reported to have arrived at the school by early today.

Two kitchens at the school, which normally handle food for 3,000 patients, were reported shut this morning, and laundry and bus workers were also reported staying off the job.

The children at the school were fed cookies and milk for breakfast, according to school officials, who said they were attempting to operate two smaller kitchens and open a third at the school. Plans for feeding the children included use of civil defense ration supplies, and the use of a shipment of TV dinners reportedly coming to the school some time today.

A nurse arriving at the school this morning told reporters she was reporting to work because she had to care for the children because they need shots and they're sick.

Stanley Ostrowski, a union representative, said today he felt the strike was effective, but that he hoped it would be over soon.

Picket signs carried by the strikers this morning said "Rocky kills the little fellow," "Strike Now," "Rocky, Where were you when they passed out brains?," and "We are mad."

Pickets also appeared at Attica state prison and at the reformatory and reception center at Elmira, and prison guards on the night shift at Elmira were ordered to stay in the prison overnight.

The prison guards, whose union agreed Friday evening to a one-week postponement of its threatened strike, were not directly involved in the action. But spokesmen for the

guards' unions said the guards were considering honoring the CSEA picket lines.

DODGE ATTORNEYS

A spokesman for the Correctional Services Department said that guards at other prisons might be held over after their shifts end "if the pickets pose a threat to our operations."

CSEA officials dodged attorneys seeking to serve a show-cause order prohibiting the strike. The order was signed by State Supreme Court Justice Edward Conway Friday night, and was later amended to let it take effect when it was tacked on the door of CSEA headquarters. The papers were attached to the entranceway at 11:40 p.m.

The state's Taylor Law prohibits strikes by public employees.

The union declared it would ignore the court order. "We've locked into this strike because it expressed the wishes of the members," a spokesman aid. "The only thing that could sway us now would be a reasonable contract settlement."

PROPOSAL REJECTED

A state proposal offered through mediators of the Public Employment Relations Board as the midnight strike deadline neared was rejected by union officials. They contended it differed from earlier versions only in insignificant language changes.

Friday morning the CSEA walked out of a bargaining session with the state and announced it was rejecting both a tentative Thursday-night wage offer and a proposal for a fact-finding board.

The walkout came seven hours after the union representing the state's prison guards announced a one-week postponement of its threatened

strike. Negotiations will continue in that dispute, and a hearing to settle a key issue—civil service ratings for correctional officers — is scheduled for Tuesday.

The guards' union-Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — maintained its demand for pay parity with New York City correctional officers and for improvements in prison conditions and security. The pay the guards want would amount to raises of \$2,500 to \$4,000 a year. Bargaining talks in that dispute resumed this morning.

In an action with indirect bearing on the contract negotiations with the guards, the Rockefeller administration today introduced a package of prison reform legislation.

The package includes provisions for prisoner furloughs, changes in the internal structure of the Correctional Services Department, and changes in the state parole system. The bills reflected many of the major demands of officials, inmates and guards at the time of the bloody uprising at Attica in September.

Talks between the state and the CSEA appeared to be making progress Thursday night but then abruptly collapsed late yesterday morning.