



STRIKE AFFECTS MENTAL INSTITUTION: Picket lines formed outside Willowbrook State School, Staten Island. There was no violence. Inside, a reduced number of staff workers and volunteers took care of the patients.

The New York Times/Michael Evans

# Strike Beginning to Disrupt State Services

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

The union representing three-quarters of the state's 185,000 employes mounted the first major public-employee strike against the state yesterday, disrupting services at a dozen mental hospitals, schools for the retarded, prisons and other facilities.

In defiance of a court injunction and the state's Taylor Law, which bans public-employee strikes, picket lines of the Civil Service Employees Association were thrown up at some 40 facilities across the state.

Because most agencies were closed for the weekend, the strike had limited impact and there were no reports of serious hardships. Union officials warned of widespread disrupt-

tions with the reopening of state offices tomorrow. They said workers would be called out at the Motor Vehicles Department, the Department of Social Services, the Law and Tax Departments and other agencies.

"We are building up to a crescendo," said William Farrell, the union's regional field supervisor here. "By Monday or Tuesday, the state will be tied up as tight as a whistle."

Manpower shortages delayed meals for more than 5,000 retarded children at the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, generated appeals for volunteers at various mental institutions and forced some parents to take their retarded children home. Picket-line disputes led to at least four arrests.

Negotiators for the union and the state resumed talks that had been broken off in Albany, but there were no signs of a break-through in the dispute over wages and other benefits for 145,000 employes representing 75 percent of the state's fiscal year yesterday.

The employees are the labor force for virtually every agency and institution operated by the state, with the exception of the state police, prison guards, and workers in a number of New York City branch offices of state agencies. The prison guards had threatened to strike Friday night with the expiration of their contract, but delayed the deadline for one week.

With most workaday state agencies closed for the Easter weekend, the Civil Service Employees Association concentrated

its strike efforts on state facilities that never close, throwing up picket lines at about 40 institutions across the state.

The effects of the strike, which began at 12:01 A.M., appeared to be scattered and limited, though spokesmen for the state and the union gave conflicting reports on this.

The strike appeared to be most effective at a half-dozen of the state's 51 mental hospitals and schools for the retarded and at two training schools for delinquents.

Guards at three of the 20 institutions maintained by the State Department of Correctional Services refused to cross the union picket lines. They were at Attica, Auburn and Elmira. At all three, the guards who were on duty remained on duty.

A departmental spokesman said that the guards still on duty, who began their third