

# STATE AND UNION CONTINUE TALKS

## Hurd Hints at Possibility of Sending In Emergency Help to Institutions

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ALBANY, April 1—Negotiators for the state and the Civil Service Employees Association met twice today, but gave no indication that they had made progress toward settling the strike by state employes that began at 12:01 this morning.

T. Norman Hurd, Director of Government Operations, said this afternoon that the state was prepared to take "whatever steps necessary" to protect the interests of the state during the strike.

Mr. Hurd did not elaborate on the meaning of his statement, but sources said he was referring to the possibility that the state police and the National Guard might go to work in hospitals and prisons of personnel shortages in such institutions became critical.

### Union Awaits New Offer

Lieut. Gov. Malcolm Wilson, who is Acting Governor in the absence of the vacationing Governor Rockefeller, said the state would make "no new offers" today to the union, which represents 140,000 of the 185,000 state workers. Union officials said they were waiting for a new offer from the state.

The strike followed the collapse Friday of a tentative agreement that would have provided a 4 per cent increase in the rate of state workers' pay, but—through a bookkeeping device—no actual cash increases for the next year. The tentative agreement provoked angry rejection by rank-and-file union members who telephoned the Albany headquarters of the Civil Service Employees Association to complain.

Visibly shaken, the president of the union, Theodore Wenzel, announced that the tentative agreement was rejected.

On Friday afternoon, District Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, which represents 4,100 guards at state prisons, had postponed its strike deadline for a week, to next Friday.

**Governor Back Tomorrow**  
Mr. Wilson said that he and other high state officials had been in frequent telephone contact yesterday and today with Mr. Rockefeller, who is scheduled to return from the Virgin Islands Monday afternoon.

There was no indication today whether the Civil Service union, by ignoring the order not to strike, signed by State Supreme Court Justice Edward Conway, might be held in contempt of court. The order requires the union's officials to appear in court next Friday, by which time the strike could be settled.

The Taylor Law, governing disputes between public bodies and their employes, provides penalties for strikers, their unions and union officials.

The union's leaders contend that they were not properly served with the order enjoining the strike.

### Productivity Study

In addition to the 4 per cent salary increase, the tentative agreement rejected by the union rank-and-file also called for a productivity study that could lead to a 1.5 per cent bonus to the workers in April, 1973.

According to union officials, other issues that remain unsettled include health insurance, retirement benefits, job security and grievance procedures.

The officials said that the job-security issue included a demand that the state would not lay off workers this year under Governor Rockefeller's "no-growth" \$7.87-billion budget approved for 1972-73 by the Legislature on Tuesday. The budget holds spending levels for most state functions to what they were last year.