

# 'Appalled' legislators weigh state pay hike

By ROBERT M. SHAW

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Saying they were appalled that mental patients and prison inmates were "used as virtual hostages" in the state employees' strike, legislative leaders are considering whether to raise the \$60 million needed to pay for the pay raises the workers won.

Republican leaders of both houses said Monday they were "highly disturbed over the illegal strike" which began at midnight Friday and ended Sunday afternoon with a four per cent pay raise offer.

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller called the strike "intolerable." He said there would be no amnesty for the striking workers, who face the loss of two days pay for every day they refused to work.

There was no figure immediately available on the number of workers who would be penalized, since the strike occurred over the weekend when most state offices are closed.

The strike was felt most at state mental hospitals and at prisons where guards refused to cross the CSEA picket lines. The guards are members of another union which currently is negotiating with the state on a new contract.

Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea and Senate Majority Leader Earl Brydges issued a joint statement Monday promising legislative action on the strike.

They pointed out that the legislature "now is faced with the

problem of deciding whether to ratify this agreement and, in the event that it does so, where to find the money to finance its implementation.

"Since no new taxes will be levied, fixing the necessary appropriations within the state's fiscal plan may mean further curtailment of state operations and local assistance," they said.

Rockefeller said the money would have to come from the \$400 million the state hopes to get from the federal revenue

sharing bill which is before Congress, or from short-term borrowing by the state.

He said his Office of Employee Relations, Atty. Gen. Louis Lefkowitz and the Public Employment Relations Board would administer penalties to state workers who violated the Taylor Law prohibiting strikes by public employees.

Brydges and Duryea called for enforcement of the law to the letter.

"Any lesser step would completely undermine the intent of that statute and would serve as an open invitation—at every level of government—for continued nose-thumbing at this and other law covering public employe activities," they said.

An official of CSEA said at the taping of a television interview show that "I didn't expect amnesty from this administration."

John Carey, CSEA's coordinator for state negotiations, told the interviewer that "they'll extract their pound of flesh—and perhaps rightfully so."

CSEA President Theodore

Wenzl accused the state of provoking the strike by letting conditions build up over the past five years.

Wenzl, Carey and Joe Roulier, CSEA's public relations director, were guests on WMHT's "Capitol Report" scheduled for viewing tonight.

Wenzl said he is confident that legislators will ratify the contract.

And he said he was glad the strike was conducted in a peaceful manner and that "there was no big tragedy or anything."