

Rocky says union to face penalties

Labeling "intolerable" last weekend's strike by state employees, Gov. Rockefeller says the state will act to impose penalties for violation of the Taylor Act prohibiting strikes by public employees.

Rockefeller said yesterday the state employees should have continued negotiations, reopened at their request, instead of "illegally striking" when their contract expired at midnight Friday.

The governor said a key point in the final prestrike talks, relating to the final payment date for an increased salary during

1972-73, "should have been settled without violating the Taylor Law, causing hardship and human suffering at state mental institutions, and threatening security at state prisons."

The 40-hour walkout by employees belonging to the 140,000-member Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) necessitated the curtailment of patient services at several mental hospitals and the assignment of state troopers to three upstate prisons where guards refused to cross CSEA picket lines.

Rockefeller said provisions of the Taylor Act would be en-

forced by State Atty. Gen. Louis Lefkowitz, the Public Employment Relations Bureau and Abe Lavine, director of the Office of Employee Relations.

The law permits striking public employees to be penalized by the loss of two days' pay for each day on strike. Also, the strikers could be subject to one years probation, which they must serve without job tenure.

In addition, striking employees may be punished for misconduct under Civil Service rules, with penalties ranging from a reprimand up to a \$100 fine, suspension or discharge.