

# Rocky wants to invoke Taylor Law against CSEA members who struck

By JOHN M. GREENE  
OF OUR ALBANY BUREAU

ALBANY — An indignant Gov. Rockefeller is demanding that the Civil Service Employees' Association be penalized for its temerity in striking the state for more money last weekend.

"Whatever provisions have been violated by the Taylor Law will be carried out," the governor stated.

Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges, and Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea Jr. have agreed the strike has put the Legislature in a bind because it means that somewhere in the very tight \$7.85 billion budget for the current year an additional \$82 million must be found — if they decide to ratify the terms of the agreement that ended the two-day walkout.

Leaders of the CSEA insist the strike was provoked by the state. Dr. Theodore Wenzl, president of the 140,000 member union, who blew a fuse last Friday and called off all

negotiations, is scheduled to appear today in Albany Supreme Court to face a contempt charge.

All this because Dr. Wenzl refused to go along with the state's proposal to meet the final two weeks wages due the employees this year out of the budget for the 1973-74 fiscal year. There was no disagreement over the increase nor over the 1½ per cent "inducement" to get greater productivity out of the members. CM and Harris roared.

Back of Wenzl's action is the fact that the CSEA had become known as a "paper tiger." Over its 62 years of existence it had roared repeatedly but had never actually used the teeth. This time it did. It wasn't the right time.

Brydges and Duryea apparently gave word no new taxes will be imposed to meet the \$82 million. They have said further curtailment of state operations and local assistance may be necessary.

"The need for legislative action," they agreed, "is imperative."

At last reports, Brydges was in Florida and Duryea in

California. The governor was not around during the negotiations. He was sunning himself somewhere on the Virgin Islands.

So the second string — Tom Norman Hurd, director of state operations, and Abe Levine, then in charge of labor relations — did the dickering. The first team should have been on the field.

The agreement, called the "worst April Fool joke that

could have been played on the over-burdened taxpayers," was a fiscally irresponsible pact. So was the demand — and the walkout — of the CSEA.