

Bad news from Albany:

Legislature weighs state pay pact veto

By CLAY F. RICHARDS

ALBANY (UPI) — There were indications today the leaders of the Legislature are considering rejecting the 5.3 per cent pay raise agreement between the Rockefeller administration and the Civil Service Employees Association.

Angered by CSEA's Easter weekend strike against the state, the lawmakers, instead, are considering approving an earlier plan that would give state workers four per cent of the raise only when they resign, retire or die.

At the same time, Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees would get the full raise since they did not strike. Council 82 represents about

8,000 workers including state prison guards, while CSEA represents 140,000 persons, the bulk of the state work force.

Under law, the Legislature must approve state employ contracts.

'A HARD LOOK'

"We're taking a hard look at the proposal which was agreed on by CSEA and the state before the strike," a source close to Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges and Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea said.

"There is general agreement that state workers do deserve some kind of pay raise," he said. "But there is also a strong feeling that to go beyond the pre-strike agreement would be rewarding an illegal walkout."

Brydges and Duryea have both named committees which

since Monday, have been investigating the CSEA strike and the agreement the Rockefeller administration made with the two unions.

A CSEA spokesman said the union would have "no comment" on the idea of approving the earlier agreement in the legislature until it is formally proposed by Duryea and Brydges.

There is a dispute as to whether CSEA ever formally agreed to the lag payment four per cent raise. The state claims that the union agreed to the plan which would pay the raise only when an employe left state service. CSEA said it told Rockefeller administration negotiators before the strike it would go along with a delayed raise only if it was made up in the first pay period of next year.