

Easter weekend strikers begin paying

ALBANY (AP) Today's paychecks for about 7,500 state employees will be appreciably smaller, despite efforts by two employe organizations to keep the state from penalizing the workers for an Easter weekend strike.

A series of legal maneuvers has left the employees, members of the Civil Service Employees Association and Council 82 of the American Federation of state, County and Municipal Employees, back where they started facing the payday penalties.

After their attorneys got a court order blocking the state from assessing the penalties, state officials filed notices that they would appeal the order. This, in effect, neutralized the first order.

The legal hassling involves the CSEA's 40-hour-long strike April 1 and 2—a Saturday and Sunday. Some 900 Willowbrook State School employes participated in the strike those days.

The CSEA is challenging the constitutionality of the penalty provision of the Taylor Law which allows the state to withhold two days pay for each day an employe is off work while participating in a strike.

Council 82, which called off its own strike, claims its members, primarily prison guards, should not be penalized because they were ready to work but couldn't because of the CSEA picket lines.

About 7,000 of CSEA's 140,000 members are involved in the penalty action, as are about 500 of Council 82's 7,000 members.