

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Monday, March 31, 1975

## State employes talking strike

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The policy-making arm of the state Civil Service Employees Association meets today, with talk of strike in the air, to review deadlocked salary talks with the state.

On Sunday, the state's chief negotiator, James Northrop, declared an impasse in negotiations with the union that represents 147,000 public servants. Northrop asked that the

state's Public Employment Relations Board intervene in the dispute.

"I can't prejudge what these people are going to do," said CSEA spokesman Roger Cole on the eve of the meeting of the organization's 1,200 delegates. "But the indications are that the people are really uptight."

Asked if a strike is possible, Cole replied, "I would say the feelings are overwhelming that if we do not have a settlement—and obviously the state feels that we will not—that the

possibility of strong reaction in the form of job action of some type is absolutely possible and probable."

The Public Employment Relations Board was to name a three-member fact-finding panel today and was to schedule hearings "as soon as possible," a PERB spokesman said. In the meantime, Erwin Kelly, director of conciliation, will continue to be in touch with the state and the CSEA in order to assist them in any way possible, the spokesman added.