

# Panel orders CSEA, state to submit briefs

Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — The state and the Civil Service Employees Association yesterday were directed to submit briefs to a bi-partisan legislative panel formed earlier this month to mediate a contract dispute affecting 147,000 state workers.

State Sen. John J. Marchi of

Staten Island and Assemblyman Stephen R. Greco, D-Buffalo, who co-chair the legislative committee, also announced that the panel will begin hearings on the contract impasse June 4 in Albany. Briefs from the state and the CSEA must be submitted to the committee by June 2.

At the center of the current dispute is the recommendation by a fact-finding panel that state employes be given a 6 per cent across-the-board pay hike, retroactive to April 1.

The 6 per cent figure was accepted by the CSEA, which had sought raises of as much as 15 per cent. Gov. Carey rejected the recommendation, however, contending that it would cost the state more than \$102 million.

The governor instead proposed a one-time \$250 bonus to state workers, along with regular pay increments negotiated under previous contracts. That program, Carey said, would cost \$51 million in additional wages.

Both the state and the CSEA are in agreement with other recommendations made by the fact-finding panel last month, including improvements in health insurance, changes in grievance procedures and provision for an agency shop.

Under the latter proposal, the CSEA would be permitted to collect a fee from non-union state employes it represents at the negotiating table. Although agency shops are now illegal among public employe unions in the state, bills currently pending before the Legislature would legalize the practice.

The fact-finding panel recommended that the CSEA be allowed to charge non-members \$27.30 a year as opposed to the \$45.50 annual dues for union members.

The 12-member legislative committee was formed on May 5 after Carey formally rejected the 6 per cent pay hike proposal. The panel must recommend legislation to re-

solve the impasse, and that recommendation must be approved by the Legislature.

Still unclear is whether legislation approved by the Senate and Assembly must be acted upon by the governor, as is the case with other bills passed by lawmakers.

Carey's counsels reportedly have concluded informally that the governor must approve or veto any solution to the impasse arrived at by the Legislature. Aides to Marchi, however, believe the Legislature's proposal does not have to be acted upon by the governor.

The last time the issue arose was in 1973, when a special legislative committee was formed to settle a stalemate between the state and the State Police. Then-Gov. Rockefeller signed a bill approved by the Legislature, in order to avoid any legal questions.

The CSEA represents nearly 4,000 employes at state-run facilities on the Island, including 3,400 at the Willowbrook Developmental Center, 350 at the South Beach Psychiatric Center, and 90 at the Arthur Kill Drug Rehabilitation Center.