

Carey threatens action if CSEA strikes

By PETER HARRIGAN

Advance Staff Writer

ALBANY — Gov. Carey yesterday called on members of the Civil Service Employees Association to reject the union leadership's call to strike on Monday and threatened to invoke the full provisions of the Taylor Law against any workers who walk off the job in protest over a pay dispute.

The governor, during an afternoon press conference, said he hopes there will not be a job action but added he has developed a contingency plan for use in the event the 147,000-member union strikes as planned at 8 a.m. Monday.

Carey indicated the plan might involve the use of National Guard troops to staff mental institutions and similar facilities which would be hardest hit by an employe walkout, but he said the Guardsmen would be called out only as a last resort.

"We would hope to be able to carry on with volunteers and those who care about the patients," he said.

The union represents about 3,000 workers at state-run facilities on Staten Island, including the Willowbrook Developmental Center, the Institute for Basic Research, the South Beach Psychiatric Center and the Arthur Kill Narcotics Rehabilitation Center.

During a wide-ranging, 40-minute session with reporters, Carey also:

Admitted the Municipal Assistance Corp. — the agency set up last month to help the city with its short-term debt problems — has had trouble selling the first \$1 billion of the \$3-billion-worth of bonds it is authorized to market. He said it is up to Mayor Beame to take steps to build investor confidence.

Chided legislators for in-

creasing their "lulus" — cash stipends above their basic salaries — without acting on a bill that would have required lawmakers to make a full public disclosure of their financial dealings.

The CSEA strike threat centers on the refusal by Carey and the Legislature to grant the 6 per cent across-the-board pay hike the union had demanded. The Legislature last Friday approved a one-shot \$250 bonus for state workers, which works out to about a 3 per cent raise for most employes.

That was rejected by the CSEA, however, and strike ballots were mailed out last week. Returned ballots are now being counted at CSEA headquarters here, and reportedly are running heavily in favor of a strike.

Carey, who during last year's gubernatorial campaign supported the right of non-public employes to strike, said yesterday that such an action by CSEA members would be illegal since the Taylor Law prohibits strikes by state or municipal workers.

"I hope there will not be a strike, but I will enforce the provisions of the Taylor Law," the governor said. The law provides that public employes may be fined two days' pay for each day they participate in a strike, and also for the loss of certain privileges by striking unions.

While declining to disclose most details of his strike contingency plan, Carey admitted in response to repeated questioning that National Guard troops might be used at mental institutions and similar facilities as a last resort.

"Such forces that are at the hands of the state can always be used," he said in reference to the Guard, "but we don't contemplate that as a first priority."

On another subject, meanwhile, Carey said that "a variety of conditions" contributed to the less-than-successful initial offering of \$1 billion in Municipal Assistance Corp. bonds earlier this month.

He added that directors of the agency — which was created to help refinance the city's short-term debt as New York was on the verge of default last month — were to meet with Mayor Beame in Manhattan today to discuss ways of increasing investor confidence in the MAC's bonds.

"Steps must be taken which only the mayor can take," Carey said without being specific. "The Big MAC board can encourage the city to take those steps, and that's a matter for negotiation and understanding."

Carey also mildly criticized the Legislature for approving higher "lulus" or extra stipends, for some leaders, committee chairmen and staff members while failing to act on a bill that would have mandated full financial disclosure by lawmakers.

He said that as the Legislature "begins to compensate itself with larger emoluments and greater income" it should also look to adopt a system of "full disclosure and a system of ethics."