

State workers deserve break

First of all, I'd like to say "thanks" for the writeup in the April 3 Advance regarding the CSEA strike situation. The Staten Island Advance has been the only paper in the New York area to even mention the subject to date.

However, I am very unhappy about the contents of the writeup. I deem it a very simplistic explanation of a festering problem that threatens to boil over in the next several weeks. A problem that continues to be fueled and exacerbated by a governor who has been completely dishonest and unfair in carrying out the state's collective bargaining process, aided and abetted by a legislature which appears to be merely a rubber stamp for his edicts.

In two out of the last three years, Carey has completely ignored the recommendations of fact-finding boards, after he himself recommended this so-called tool. In this year he has been quoted as saying that it doesn't matter what the board recommended because he wasn't going to change his mind regarding his original proposals. Last year, pursuant to recommendations of the CSEA the rank and file agreed not to disturb the status quo, in view of New York State's financial bind. We thought this would earn points for us in this year's negotiations, in view of the fact that we haven't received a pay raise since 1974. This has proven to be wrong in the light of the present impasse, again submitted to the legislature.

The above stated facts constitute the obvious reasons why there should be changes in the Taylor Law, as presently promulgated. The law is all one sided when you have a governor like Mr. Carey, who insists he is above the law. His outright provocation of the N.Y. State employees, since his inauguration, has left us with no alternative but to consider a strike, which no one really wants.

My criticism of your report, is that all I've written above is the crux of the matter and should be brought to the public's attention, so that it won't be surprised and will be understanding, when in the near future the headlines will say, "N.Y. State employees are on strike."

I feel it is the obligation of a good paper to state all the facts of a given situation, in order to achieve an honest, complete and impartial coverage of a situation in dispute, which concerns all the citizens of this state.

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