

141,000 POISED TO STRIKE STATE We'll Close N.Y., Workers Vow

Employees Ready to Shut Down State

By THOMAS POSTER

More than 141,000 state workers, poised to strike tomorrow morning, will try to close scores of hospitals and state agencies, including the World Trade Center, leaders of the Civil Service Employees Association said yesterday.

"We will put up solid walls of picket lines at all of the major buildings," said Roger Cole, spokesman for the union that broke off negotiations with Gov. Carey's office of employee relations.

The union leaders sat in their headquarters in Albany across the street from the capitol while Carey's representatives sat in the State Police Academy several miles away. Each side said it was waiting for the other to call a meeting.

Negotiations collapsed Friday night after Theodore Wenzl, president of the union, rejected a final offer made by Carey's representative, Donald Wollett, director of the office of employee relations. The offer was for a one-year contract with a 5.75% pay hike, which would be a previous offer of a two-year contract with pay hikes of 5% each year.

Cole said the final offer included a one-shot bonus payment, to be made in December, of an average of \$75 per worker on top of the 5% pay raise. "There was no 5.75% pay raise," said Cole. "It was 5%, the same as before, plus a one-shot bonus."

Advertise Their Case

The union took out ads in newspapers across the state and on selected radio stations warning, "New York State will be closed April 18!" The ads say, "We regret the inconvenience, but Gov. Carey is forcing state employees to go out on strike on Monday, April 18, 1977! We regret that unemployment checks, tax refund checks, welfare payments, and vendor payments WILL STOP! We regret that unemployment and motor vehicle of fices WILL BE CLOSED, that highway

repairs and maintenance WILL STOP that state hospitals and institutions WILL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. In short, all essential services will cease and state government operations will be entirely shut down."

The union won a modification yesterday of a court injunction barring the strike set for 6 a.m. tomorrow. The court said that only state employees would be penalized in a strike, thus lifting the threat of jail sentences for the union's leaders, most of whom are rehired state workers.

Gov. Carey flew to Albany yesterday but an aide said the governor would not take a personal role in the dispute. The governor had authorized a two-year pact costing \$170 million on Thursday. The offer was increased by \$9 million Friday night, according to Wollett. But the union rejected the offer, and yesterday it declined to resume negotiations at the urging of the Public Employee Relations Board.

Technically, the dispute is before the Legislature, to which Carey sent it on March 17 under terms of the Taylor Law. But, because the Legislature does not return from its Easter-Passover recess until Tuesday the state has been trying to resolve the dispute. The union wants a 12% pay raise because the state workers have gone without an increase since Carey took office. Carey had offered 5% this year, another 5% next year, and other im-

Workers Getting Word

While the union leaders in Albany refused to return to the bargaining table unless a new commitment is made to negotiate a higher pay raise, local strike leaders were busy telling workers to strike tomorrow.

The union said it would set up picket lines, and ask other public employees to join them, at the World Trade Center, where 8,000 state workers are assigned to some 40 agencies; at 270 Broadway, a state building across the street from City Hall; 80 Centre St. where the Motor Vehicle Department has its main office here.

Also, Willowbrook State School and South Beach Psychiatric Center, on Staten Island; Kingsborough Psychiatric Center, and the Downstate Medical Center, both in Brooklyn; Wards Island Psychiatric Center; Bronx State Hospital; Creedmor State Hospital in Queens.

And, the New York State Maritime Academy at Fort Schuyler; all State Unemployment Insurance offices and Motor Vehicle Department annexes; all State Tax Department offices, and drug addiction centers.

About 25,000 state workers in New York City are union members. Another 35,000 are employed in large mental institutions on Long Island at Pilgrim State, Kings Park, Central Islip, as well as the State University Campuses at Stony Brook, Old Westbury, and Farmingdale.