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New contract a coverup, say state workers

By PETER HARRIGAN
and TERENCE J. KIVLAN

Gov. Carey and union leaders deliberately misrepresented the terms of the proposed contract with the Civil Service Employees Association Sunday to avert a statewide walkout, South Beach Psychiatric Center workers charged yesterday.

Union representatives at the mental institution said they were led to believe that the pay hikes called for in the contract, 9 per cent this year and 5 per cent in 1978, would be built into the basic salary structure of civil service workers.

But it was established yesterday, the representatives contend, that the increases actually constitute "one-shot bonuses" because the permanent pay scale would remain the same and the hikes would not apply to employees hired after March 31.

"If Carey had made this known Sunday, I'm sure there would have been a strike," Rose Marie Truscello said during a briefing at the center yesterday.

Union leaders, meanwhile, called a press conference in Albany to deny the coverup charge, which was prompted by newspaper reports in the capital alleging that since the contract did not affect the pay scale, the bonuses would cancel out normal step increments and promotion hikes.

CSEA President Theodore Wenzl



Civil Service Employees Association, representatives discuss the new contract at the South Beach Psychiatric Center. From the left are Tom Gregor, Marie Genatempo, Barry Markman, Joseph D'Amore, Rose Marie Truscello and Thomas Bucaro.

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