

# City CSEA unit spurns contract

By TERENCE J. KIVLAN

In a rebellious mood, state workers in New York City yesterday agreed to reject Gov. Carey's contract offer amid calls for a strike and accusations of a "sellout" by the top union leadership in Albany.

"I think we are being taken," declared Sol Bendet, president of the city chapter of the Civil Service Employees Association, as several hundred members registered their disapproval of the contract by voice vote during a sometimes raucous meeting in the World Trade Center.

But Bendet stopped short of endorsing a strike, explaining he was warned last week in Albany that any walkout in the city would not be backed by the statewide union leaders.

"I was taunted," Bendet informed the lunchtime crowd. "They told me, If you go out, you go out alone."

Some of the more disgruntled workers at the meeting nevertheless felt the situation called for more than a contract rejection. "When are you sending us out on strike so we can get a raise," one man shouted.

"Are there enough state workers who are going to be sick on Friday to indi-

cate just how sick we are," another cried.

The rank and file membership and the union officials in the city are upset because the 14 per cent wage increase provided for in the contract would not be applied to the civil service salary schedule. Thus, the workers contend, an employe could actually end up losing money if he is promoted.

In addition, the city workers and officials point out, the failure to roll the increases into the salary scale would put a cloud over future contract talks. "Two

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Several hundred Civil Service Employee Association members attend a meeting in Manhattan's World Trade Center before agreeing to reject a proposed contract.

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