Decision halts out-of-title abuse

CSEA has strongly endorsed the Transportation Bond Issue. I urge your support of Proposition One November 6.

William L. McGowan President

LPN reclassification appeal turned down

ALBANY — The State Civil Service Commission has turned down a CSEA appeal of an earlier decision, rejecting the reallocation of Licensed Practical Nurses from Grade 9's to Grade 12's.

Cindy Chovanec, a research analyst for the union, presented the appeal on Oct. 23, pointing out to the Commission that LPN's differ substantially from the Grade-9 Mental Hygiene Therapy Aides with whom they most frequently work, in that the nurses must be licensed, perform several treatment tasks that the MIPTA's cannot perform, and have a greater responsibility for and knowledge of medical procedures.

"This request for reallocation would rectify a long-standing inequity in the Civil Service classification plan," she noted.

However, the Commission stood by its earlier decision to reject the reallocation.

The request was first proposed, and researched by Alice Pope, a CSEA member and LPN from Central Islip Psychiatric Center. In a letter to Ms. Pope, dated Oct. 26, 1979, John Keefe, assistant administrative director of the Civil Service Department, wrote, "The Commission was impressed by the sincerity of the appellants at the hearing, and the devotion to their work and those they care for. However... the duties and responsibilities of LPN's are comparable to Mental Hygiene Therapy Aides.

Commission, therefore, reaffirmed the present allocation."
Dangers found at Westchester sewage facility

YONKERS — Conditions at the Westchester County Environmental Facility have prompted the filing of a health and safety grievance. The grievance was filed by the unit’s Health and Safety Committee following extensive modification and expansion of the facility, the former Yonkers Joint Sewage Treatment Plant, Westchester County CSEA Unit President Raymond J. O’Connor said.

Among the health and safety problems identified by the committee were:
- Open manholes without protective fencing.
- Ladders without foot pads.
- Lack of security for personal and county-issued gear.
- No aid station or medically trained employee.
- Poor communication between indoor and outdoor work areas, including inoperative walkie-talkies.
- Lack of absorbent materials for oil spills in and around pumps.
- No enough safety helmets for all workers.
- No enough foul weather gear for all workers.
- Grating missing in walkways over sewage tanks.
- Lack of full-time safety engineer.

LOOKOUT BELOW! A grating on the walkway over a sewage tank at the Westchester County Environmental Facility is missing.

In Watervliet the union has selected J. Leo O’Brien for Mayor and Louis J. DiNuzzo for councilman. In the City of Cohoes, CSEA has selected Ronald J. Canestrari.

In Legislative District races the Albany County Political Action Committee is backing William McNulty in the 21st Legislative District, Jacob Oreshan, Sr. in the 24th Legislative District, Ed Bahrmaster in the 25th and James W. Darbyshire in the 28th Legislative District.

Fred Field has been endorsed for a second term as Town of Colonie Supervisor, Nicholas J. Greisler was endorsed for the position of Colonie Town Justice and Clayton Russell was selected for Colonie Highway Superintendent. In Council and Town Board races, CSEA is backing Jay Sherman, Jim Sheehan and Joan Friedman. For the position of Colonie Town Clerk, the workers are endorsing Michael J. Hoblock.

16 candidates endorsed by Capital Region

ALBANY — The Capital Region Political Action Committee of the Albany County Local of the Civil Service Employees Association, with the approval of the Capital Region Political Action Committee, has endorsed 16 candidates for various public offices within Albany County.

For the position of Albany County Executive, the public employees have endorsed James Coyne, in the County Comptroller’s race the workers back Edward Stack.

In Watervliet the union has selected J. Leo O’Brien for Mayor and Louis J. DiNuzzo for councilman. In the City of Cohoes, CSEA has selected Ronald J. Canestrari.

In Legislative District races the Albany County Political Action Committee is backing William McNulty in the 21st Legislative District, Jacob Oreshan, Sr. in the 24th Legislative District, Ed Bahrmaster in the 25th and James W. Darbyshire in the 28th Legislative District.

Fred Field has been endorsed for a second term as Town of Colonie Supervisor, Nicholas J. Greisler was endorsed for the position of Colonie Town Justice and Clayton Russell was selected for Colonie Highway Superintendent. In Council and Town Board races, CSEA is backing Jay Sherman, Jim Sheehan and Joan Friedman. For the position of Colonie Town Clerk, the workers are endorsing Michael J. Hoblock.

Spinelli Local 201 president

ROME — New officers for CSEA Local 201 at the New York State School for the Deaf were installed recently, and the Local honored nine retirees with 140 years of service as part of the installation program.

Newly installed officers are President Charles C. Spinelli, Vice President Floyd Edick, Treasurer Peter Podkowka, Secretary Ruth King, and Delegate James Venditte. William Weller was named alternate delegate. CSEA Region V Treasurer Anna Mae Darby installed the slate of officers.

Local 201 retirees honored were Mrs. Gladys Schliast, 18 years; Harry Woodcock, a past president of Local 201, 12 years; Joseph Madonia, also a past Local 201 president, 13 years; Mrs. Elsie Higgins, 25 years. Also, Mrs. Sue Mercodlie, 26 years; Mrs. Christine Patterson, nine years; Mrs. Janet Dain, 20 years; Mrs. Helen Schram, 16 years; and Mrs. Angela Campola, 15 years.

AN OPEN MANHOLE without a protective fence is but one hazard at the Westchester County Environmental Facility in Yonkers according to the Health and Safety Committee of the Westchester County Unit of CSEA Local 860.

OIL COVERS THE FLOORS near pumps at the Westchester County Environmental Facility. No absorbent materials are placed near the pumps to control the situation.

A FENCE IS IN DISREPAIR on the walkway by the sewage holding tank at the Westchester County Environmental Facility.

Calendar of EVENTS

November
7 — Combined general membership meeting, Utica Psychiatric Center and Mercy Psychiatric Center Locals, 7 p.m., Roselawn Restaurant, Main Street, New York Mills.
7 — Region 1 LPN Seminar, Holiday Inn, Hauppauge, 6:45 p.m.
9 — Kings Park Psychiatric Center Local, Recognition Night, Holiday Inn, Hauppauge, 8 p.m.
16-18 — Capital Region IV Fall Conference, Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid.

December
1 — Seneca County Local 850 annual Christmas dinner-dance, Boatyard Restaurant, Waterloo, N.Y., 6:30 p.m.
CSEA supports Kahn, Prior

ALBANY — Two CSEA Regions have jointly announced the endorsement of Lawrence Kahn and Daniel Prior for Justices of the State Supreme Court in the Third Judicial District, which encompasses both regions.

The joint endorsements of the two candidates were made by the Political Action Committees of the Capital Region and the Southern Region.

According to the Political Action Committee, Judge Kahn was selected due to his concern for the fair treatment of court employees by both management and the courts, and also his concern for the fair application of the Taylor Law in cases involving public employees and employers.

Judge Prior was selected due to his understanding of the internal operations of unions and public management structures and also his proven ability to approach cases involving public sector matters with a neutral attitude.

DUTCHESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE LUCILLE FATTISON has received the backing and endorsement of all CSEA Locals in Dutchess County in her re-election bid November 6. Ms. Fattison, center, is shown surrounded by eight CSEA state Local presidents in the group photo. She is flanked on her right by Dutchess Unit President C. Scott Daniels and on her left by Dutchess County Local President Ellis Adams. In the other adjacent photo, Ms. Pattison is greeted by CSEA state wide President William L. McGowan, left, and CSEA Region III President James J. Lennon, right. The photos were taken at a special reception in her honor during CSEA's recent 69th Annual Meeting at Kiamesha Lake.
Q. My husband was badly burned in an accident. It will be a year or more before he can go back to work. I’ve arranged for a social security representative to help him apply for disability benefits, but he wants me to find out if he can get rehabilitation services to help him recover. Where can I get information about these services?

A. All people who apply for social security disability benefits are considered for vocational rehabilitation services. Services which may be offered include counseling and guidance; medical examination and medical, surgical, or hospital services; and physical aids such as artificial limbs, braces, hearing aids, eyeglasses, or other devices. Even if a person doesn’t qualify for disability payments, he or she may still be offered help in preparing for and finding work. The social security representative can give you more information.

Q. I recently applied for a loan from a finance company. The person who took my application asked for my social security number. I didn’t want to give it to him, but he said the company uses social security numbers for filing purposes. Is this practice legal?

A. Some non-government organizations use social security numbers for recordkeeping purposes. Such use is neither required nor prohibited by Federal law. Knowing your number, however, does not allow these organizations to get information from your social security records.

**Directory of Regional Offices**

**REGION 1 — Long Island**
(516) 691-1170
Irving Flaumenbaum, President
Ed Cleary, Regional Director

**REGION 2 — Metro Region**
(212) 962-3090
Jimmy Gripper, President
George Bispham, Regional Director

**REGION 3 — Southern Region**
(914) 896-8180
James Lennon, President
Thomas Luposello, Regional Director

**REGION 4 — Capital Region**
(518) 489-5424
Joseph McDermott, President
John Corcoran, Regional Director

**REGION 5 — Central Region**
(315) 451-6330
James Moore, President
Frank Martello, Regional Director

**REGION 6 — Western Region**
(716) 634-3540
Robert Lattimer, President
Lee Frank, Regional Director

**KEEP CSEA INFORMED ON MAILING ADDRESS**

In the event that you change your mailing address, please fill out the below form and send it to:

CSEA, Inc., P.O. Box 125, Capitol Station, Albany, New York 12224.

This form is also available from local presidents for CSEA members, but is reproduced here for convenience.

**Change of Address for The Public Sector**

Please allow 3-4 weeks for change to take effect.

My present label reads exactly as shown here (or affix mailing label)

- Name
- Street
- City
- State-Local Number.
- Zip.

MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

- Street
- City
- State-Local Number.
- Zip.

Agency where employed.

- My social security no.
- Agency No.

**Local 322 installs new president**

Patricia Nealon of Middletown, formerly secretary and treasurer of CSEA Court Employees Local 332, has been installed as Local 332 President for a two-year term.

Others elected are Mary Garrison of Salt Point, First Vice President; Frank DonDanto Jr. of Middletown, Second Vice President, and Joan O’Riley of Wappingers Falls, Treasurer. The office of secretary is currently vacant, and interested persons may contact Ms. Nealon.
The direction that the Civil Service Employees Assn. pursues in the course of its activities as the largest public employee union in New York State is determined, in large part, by the member-elected delegates of the union. The 1,200-member delegate body is the policy-making arm of CSEA. The powerful group officially meets once, and often twice, annually to re-evaluate the policies and direction of the union. The 69th Annual Meeting of the delegates just concluded at the Concord Hotel at Kiamesha Lake. The Public Sector began coverage of the annual meeting in the previous edition. On pages 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this issue the coverage continues as we report on a variety of actions that impact directly on CSEA’s membership.

KIAMESHA LAKE — The 1,167 delegates to the CSEA Annual Meeting, Oct. 21-26 at the Concord Hotel here, voted on a variety of items and issues, including:

Constitutional Amendments

The delegates passed on first reading an amendment which would require the delegates to ratify any approval by the CSEA Board of Directors of the affiliation with AFSCME or with any other organization.

To become part of the constitution, the delegates must pass the amendment by a two-thirds vote on second reading. CSEA must make a decision on the affiliation with AFSCME by February 1981.

The amendment reads: “Any affiliation or merger of The Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., with another organization after approval by the Board of Directors must be ratified by a majority vote of the delegate body in order to be effective.”

Also on first reading, an amendment was passed to increase the membership of the Directors’ Budget Committee from five to six with three members each from the County and State divisions.

Amendments to drop the Regional Office and Work Performance and Examinations committees were passed on first readings.

Defeated on second reading was an amendment to determine a local’s delegate voting strength by previously paid membership if dues checkoff is lost following a job action.

By-Law Amendments

No amendments to the By-Laws were passed by the delegates. Amendments on officer honorariums and on the structure of future Annual Meetings were referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for future action.

Resolutions

Resolutions passed by the delegates to the CSEA Annual meeting included:

• “Be it resolved that CSEA strive to eliminate unnecessary college degree, practices and inappropriate educational requirements for Civil Service examinations, and substitute years of experience.”

• Opposition to the $5 fee for taking a Civil Service examination and opposition to the no-refund policy if a person is disqualified from taking the examination.

• An affirmative action program be part of CSEA’s position at its next negotiations with the State of New York.

• An affirmative action program for CSEA staff be implemented.

• Reaffirmed that field representatives should be consulted before requests for legal assistance are submitted by local presidents.

• Referred to committee a proposal to indemnify local officers and grievance representatives from malpractice suits regarding duty of fair representation.

• Referred to committee an amendment to the constitution to make the 10 statewide officers delegates. It was discovered at the annual meeting that the officers are not automatically delegates by virtue of their statewide office.

• Support for members of AFSCME District Council 37 in New York City who work at city-run hospitals facing the possibility of closings and/or being turned over to private agencies.

CSEA President William L. McGowan said such support could include use of CSEA’s name, staff, money and members at demonstrations. Staten Island Developmental Center Local President Felton King told the delegates CSEA may one day face the same problem at the mental institutions.

The Legislative and Political Action Committee make available to the delegates information on the donations to political candidates made by the Political Action Fund.

• CSEA will seek the assistance of retirees who are willing to help.

TWO CSEA DELEGATES from Department of Health compare notes. Genevieve Clark, left, is also first vice president of CSEA Region VI, and Al Meade is also first vice president of CSEA Region IV.

CSEA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Thomas H. McDonough addresses the nearly 1,200 official union delegates attending the 69th Annual Meeting.

GERI BELL AND ROY HARGROVE are union delegates from Staten Island Developmental Center CSEA Local 429.

WILTON DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER LOCAL 416 was represented by, from left, Awiramaria Visscher, Pauline Pofahl and Claudia Hollenbeck.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR, Wednesday, November 7, 1979 Page 5
KIAMESHA LAKE — In an institution, we (CSEA and AFSCME) need to gather power...to bring a measure of decency and justice to public employees...for a better life,” AFSCME International President Jerry Wurf told the delegates to the CSEA Annual Meeting on Oct. 25.

"CSEA gave AFSCME strength in New York State with 440,000 members...gave CSEA a national union with power in Washington..."This gives us impact in Albany and in Washington," Wurf said.

With the evolving of the Proposition 13 mentality, Wurf said the affiliation of CSEA and AFSCME could not have come at a more opportune time.

Wurf said: "AFSCME has been impressing by CSEA. I have noticed wonderful and interesting things since the affiliation. It identified some of those things...AFSCME's fundamental soundness...Politicians not misusing CSEA...A sound and solid contract...Progress in relation to the light movement...He also called attention to the feature of the affiliation which maintains CSEA's autonomous structure.

"We will find ways to make the affiliation work. Your leadership displays a willingness to reach out for new ways, new molds and new methods." Wurf said.

CSEA Region I President Irving Flaumenbaum, who is an AFSCME International Vice President (AFSCME District Council 22 in New York City), told the delegates what CSEA has gained by its affiliation with AFSCME, including:

• Training and education programs for officers, stewards, leadership, grievances, etc.
• Budget analysis for contract negotiations, AFSCME analyzed six budgets from Region I. In one case, $7 million was found hidden in the budget.
• Joint public relations advertising campaigns in New York State have been conducted with AFSCME paying half of the costs.
• AFSCME lobbyist in Washington on revenue-sharing, CETA and other issues which affect CSEA members.
• The joint legislative office in Albany brings the forces of 400,000 members to bear on the State Legislature.
• AFSCME gives CSEA direct in- side to Congress and to the President of the United States.
• Political Action Seminars have been conducted by CSEA and AFSCME staff to teach the nuts and bolts of political action throughout the nation.
• Both organizations have endorsed legislation. This will be the case in relation to the labor lobbying highlighted this year in Michigan.
• Also the CSEA and AFSCME adver- tising campaign received praise in a national magazine: ‘SALT’ will cost $11 million. "What about schools, counties, etc?" Why should SALT be tied into us?" he asked.

Gotbaum explained how other proposed and/or passed legislation impacts on public employees, including:

• The proposed rebate on home heating oil tax will cost $4 million (the equivalent of a $400 raise) for each of 400,000 AFSCME members in New York State. In effect,.
• Municipalities may also be left with
• The proposed rebate on home heating oil tax...for public employees...
• The proposed rebate on home heating oil tax...

Gotbaum explained how other financial and/or passed legislation impacts on public employees, including:

• The proposed rebate on home heating oil tax will cost $4 million (the equivalent of a $400 raise) for each of 400,000 AFSCME members in New York State.

Wurf: Power for justice

"AFSCME...has been impressed by CSEA...since the two giant unions cut a deal...in background is CSEA President William L. McGowan, who is also an AFSCME International vice president.

Gotbaum: Political cooperation

"As an institution, we (CSEA and AFSCME) need to gather power...to bring a measure of decency and justice to public employees...for a better life."

Gotbaum explained how other financial and/or passed legislation impacts on public employees, including:

• The proposed rebate on home heating oil tax will cost $4 million (the equivalent of a $400 raise) for each of 400,000 AFSCME members in New York State.

Wurf: Power for justice

"As an institution, we (CSEA and AFSCME) need to gather power...to bring a measure of decency and justice to public employees...for a better life."

Wurf explained how other financial and/or passed legislation impacts on public employees, including:

• The proposed rebate on home heating oil tax will cost $4 million (the equivalent of a $400 raise) for each of 400,000 AFSCME members in New York State.
CSEA TREASURER JOHN GALLAGHER delivers a report on CSEA’s financial picture to the union delegates. He said CSEA has regained financial stability and will show a surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. A copy of CSEA’s General Fund statement of income and expenses for the year to date through August appears on this page.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR delegates George Caloumeno and Shirley Brown chaired a meeting of department delegates during the course of the Annual Meeting.

For PEOPLE

KAMESHA LAKE — Persons attending the CSEA Annual Meeting at the Concord Hotel, Oct. 21-23, voluntarily contributed more than $7,000 to AFSCME’s PEOPLE campaign during the meeting.

PEOPLE, AFSCME’s political arm, stands for Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality.

Federal law requires union contributions to political candidates in federal elections to be entirely voluntary. This prevents the use of political action funds from union dues to be used for those candidates. CSEA locals and units wishing to take up voluntary contributions for the PEOPLE Campaign were supplied with the proper forms in each delegate’s packet of materials at the Annual Meeting.

CHARLES MAMERI, a delegate from Rockland County CSEA Local 841, listens during one of many special meetings for delegates during the weekend Annual Meeting.

BINGHAMTON PSYCHIATRIC CENTER LOCAL 441 delegates included, from left, Ray Davies, Mike Villecco and Bill Childester.

THIS TRIO OF DELEGATES, all from Nassau County Local 830, are Dudley Kinsley, Ken Darby and Tony Giannetti.
Local 860 PAC busy in county’s political process

(Editor’s note: Public employers all across New York State were involved, on a grander scale than ever before, in the political process leading up to the November 6 general elections. Scores of CSEA Locals endorsed local candidates and became directly involved in supporting selected candidates. Westchester County Local 860 was just one of them. Their story is, in many respects, a carbon copy of union efforts throughout the State.)

WHITE PLAINS — Westchester County CSEA Local 860’s Legislative and Political Action Committee has been heavily involved in political activity leading up to the November 6 election. Heading the committee are Eleanor McDonald, Edward Carafa, Pug Lanza and Pat Mascioli. The committee hosted a political action seminar in August, conducted by the CSEA/AFSCME Legislative Office headed by Bernard Ryan, CSEA legislative and political action director.

The seminar showed the importance of involvement in political action and how to handle voter registration, phone banks, mailings and other forms of political action. Among the 52 persons at the seminar were Local 860 officers, unit presidents and committee members, Region III President James Lennon; and Steve Regenstreif and Ron Coder of AFSCME.

The next step was to set up candidate’s night in Harrison and provide moderators. Candidates for town justice, town supervisor and town council were interviewed. Endorsed candidates were notified by mail-o-gram.

A surprise development took place when the endorsed candidate for supervisor in Harrison, John Passidomo, would not accept the endorsement unless his council running mates also were endorsed. The committee has taken the position that endorsements are made by the union and not by prospective candidates.

The committee then spent four nights interviewing for endorsement candidates for the 17 county legislative districts, county court judge and county clerk.

The Yorktown Unit hosted its first candidate’s night. Unit President John Schroeder said he was impressed with the turnout and was happy that Local 860 provided moderators.

Other candidate’s nights were held by the City of New Rochelle and the City of Yonkers units. The Yonkers meeting was hosted by Unit President Janice Schaff and Barbara Rosengaft.

A candidate’s night for the City of White Plains also was planned.

More than 60 candidates have been interviewed, and endorsements have been made in 33 races. The most recent endorsements include: Bruno Strati and Paul Marino for Town of Harrison Council; Angelo Martinelli for Yonkers Mayor; Edward Fagan and Steve Kubasek for Yonkers Council, and Theodore Dachenhausen, Vincent Gurahian, Robert Stolarik and Abraham Isseks for Supreme Court Justice.

Records have been reviewed and discussed, past election results scrutinized, win probability calculated and the committee vote was taken. All endorsed candidates’ names have been forwarded to the Region III Legislative and Political Action Committee for the official endorsement. A 12-page newspaper is in print announcing the endorsed candidates and requesting the union members to get out and vote on Nov. 6.

Endorsed candidates have been contacting the committee requesting help with their campaigns. To date, the committee has addressed 8,000 envelopes for one candidate, had plans for mailing 60,000 pieces of mail, for radio announcements and for monetary contributions.

It also had plans to set up tables at several political functions in late October. The committee has kept in close contact with Region III Legislative and Political Action Director Carmine DiBattista, and with Ryan and Tom Haley of the CSEA/AFSCME Legislative Office.

THE PROCESS OF ENDORSING CANDIDATES in Westchester County has involved a number of candidates’ nights where candidates seeking the CSEA endorsement were interviewed. Among the candidates’ nights were, from top: City of Yonkers, Town of Harrison and Town of Yorktown units.
Ready To Retire?

Protect your future with Retiree membership in CSEA.

- Take an active role in CSEA Retirees’ legislative campaigns for pension cost-of-living increases
- Share in activities of the CSEA retiree chapter nearest you
- Continue present CSEA’s life insurance policies at the low group rate
- Become eligible for CSEA’s “Senior Security 55” life insurance policy for members only
- Acquire low hospital cash-to-you protection for CSEA retirees and spouses
- Send coupon below for additional information on benefits of retiree membership in CSEA

Send the coupon for membership information.

NEW OFFICERS OF BROOKLYN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER CSEA
Local 447 are, from left, Brenda Nichols, president; Kirk Scott, first vice president; Ann Worthy, secretary; and Glinnie Chamble, treasurer. Local 447 officers were installed at a recent Region II installation dinner.

STATE OPEN COMPETITIVE JOB CALENDAR

Filing Ends November 5, 1979

Title

Salary Exam No.

Building Construction Project Manager, Senior

$18,901

25-081

Central Medical Supply Technician

8,345

25-082

Commissary Clerk IV

11,085

25-083

Commissary Clerk III

9,865

25-084

Commissary Clerk II

8,895

25-085

Commissary Clerk I

7,800

25-086

Drafting Technician (Electrical), Senior

9,481

25-087

Drafting Technician (Mechanical), Senior

9,481

25-088

Engineering Materials Technician

7,097

25-089

Engineering Materials Technician, Senior

9,481

25-090

Environmental Conservation Officer Trainee I

11,095

25-091

Environmental Conservation Officer Trainee II

12,713

25-092

Horticultural Inspector

10,624

25-093

Horticultural Inspector Trainee

9,348

25-094

Horticulturist

9,431

25-095

Institution Safety Officer

10,114

24-925

Probation Program Consultant

17,365

25-096

Toll Collector

9,865

25-097

Thruway Toll Collector

9,017

25-098

Chief Baker

13,398

25-099

Dental Program Coordinator

17,365

25-100

Librarian (Reference), Principal

25,000

25-101

Medical Social Worker A

11,250

25-102

Medical Social Worker B

13,304

25-103

Public Health Consultant

14,650

25-104

Senior Medical Social Worker

14,650

25-105

Supervising Public Health Dental Hygienist

12,196

25-106

STATE JOB CALENDAR

OPEN CONTINUOUS
Radioactivity safety problem solved

ALBANY — Local and Region officials in the Capital Region of the Civil Service Employees Assn. say they are satisfied with State assurances that radioactive contamination found in the State Division of Laboratories and Research facility on New Scotland Avenue poses no threat to the safety of CSEA represented employees at the site. But they say the State did not properly inform the union of the incident as it was happening.

The contamination, alleged to have resulted from mishandling of radioactive materials by supervisors, was determined to be fixed radiation, which is harmful only if ingested and which is easily cleaned up.

According to Daniel Campbell, communications specialist for the CSEA, during its routine monthly inspection of the facility, the State Radioactivity Safety Unit discovered contamination in three rooms, which were immediately sealed off.

The union Local, he said, was told that the contamination was there, and Local officials contacted the Region about the situation. The state made no contact with the Region however.

"Because our members were involved, the State should have contacted this department directly," said Campbell. "The State was not responsible in its actions to the higher levels of the CSEA."

New contract

HUDSON — The Columbia County Unit of the Civil Service Employees Assn. ratified a three year contract containing across the board increases of $637 in the first year, $682 in the second year and $730 in the third.

Additional benefits include increased vacation and union business leave time, a job posting agreement and a 90 percent County-paid family health insurance plan in the second year.

Steward training starts in Ithaca

ITHACA — The new steward training program in CSEA Central Region V got underway Oct. 18 when 12 new stewards at Tompkins County Hospital attended their first training session.

The first of three 2-hour sessions was conducted by steward trainer Marney Kirchgessner of Tompkins County CSEA Local 865 and by CSEA Field Representative Michael White at Laborers Union Hall in Ithaca.

The next session was scheduled to be held Nov. 1 at 5:30 p.m., also at Laborers Union Hall.

The topics of the first session were problem identification and union building. Among the observers at the first session were CSEA Education Director Thomas Quimby and steward instructor Nancy Roark.

PEOPLE — Leaders of the political arm of AFSCME and CSEA pause during a discussion on political action during CSEA's recent 69th Annual Meeting at Kiamesha Lake. At left is Lawrence E. Reinold, director of Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality (PEOPLE) for AFSCME in Washington, and Bernard J. Ryan, director of CSEA/AFSCME's Legislative and Political Action department in Albany.
CSEA PRESIDENT WILLIAM L. McGOWAN, right, discusses the union's determination to achieve occupational safety and health act legislation for public employees in New York State with some of the participants in the PEC workshop.

McGowan tells PEC
CSEA wants OSHA Law

KIAMESHA LAKE — A CSEA attorney called Mayor Koch's civil service reform proposals an attempt to bust unions in a workshop at the second annual convention of the New York State Public Employees Conference held here Oct. 17, 18 and 19.

Another workshop chaired by CSEA President William L. McGowan saw the president restate CSEA's determination to achieve passage of Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) legislation for New York state public employees.

James Featherstonhaugh, general counsel to CSEA, criticized Mayor Koch's proposals, presented by the mayor's representative, S. Michael Nadel.

Featherstonhaugh said Koch's call for more managers to better administrate New York City is a device to cut into union power. Similarly, he knocked another proposal seeking the power to transfer employees without their consent. The attorney said this was an attempt to disperse shop stewards.

Featherstonhaugh reiterated CSEA's support for Governor Carey's proposal, presented by Meyer "Sandy" Frucher, Director of Employee Relations, calling for the establishment of a Department of Personnel Services. Featherstonhaugh said the department should be established with a separate and independent Merit Protection Board to allow impartial review of the civil service system.

The CSEA counsel noted recent progress at the negotiation table between the union and the state regarding the establishment of incentives for employee advancement.

He concluded that CSEA would not support any changes in the legislature that should be addressed at the collective bargaining table.

Joe Collier of the U.S. Department of Labor opened the panel discussion on OSHA. He said the effort to establish a health and safety plan for New York state public employees faces several obstacles.

He said that many state officials have the misconception that such a plan would cost the state more than it could afford. On the contrary, Collier said a plan would save the state money by lessening accidents, lost work time, compensation and claims.

Collier said the public has the wrong image of the public employee as an office worker, free from dangerous work. He asked unions to continue to encourage their employees to be aware of work hazards and to inform the public of such hazards.

James Ducker, Safety Director for AFSCME District Council 37, offered a suggestion to counteract government employer's irresponsibility in failing to provide safe working conditions. He said each employer or agency's budget should cover the cost of accidents rather than passing such costs along to an agency specifically created for that purpose.

Richard Andre, Region II Director of DOL, said that exposure to such hazards as gases and chemicals can extend beyond the worker and the work area, noting that families could be exposed to the same hazards through workers' clothing.

McGowan wrapped up the workshop saying, "I resent the fact that we're the only people on earth who put a price tag on people's lives."

He cited the success of CSEA's recently established toll free line for employees to report hazardous conditions.

McGowan said CSEA has been in the forefront of the fight to secure OSHA-like legislation in New York state and urged other unions to join CSEA's efforts.

CSEA's NELS CARLSON, center, the union's safety expert, discusses the problems created by a lack of adequate safety and health legislation covering public workers with members of an OSHA workshop panel. The panel conducted the OSHA workshop as part of the Public Employees Conference second annual convention.