

"The question of labor relations with public employees has become a critical governmental problem throughout the country, and the relationship of government with employee organizations is growing even more complex," Governor Agnew said.

"A clearly defined State policy is needed to handle the disputes, and avoid the crippling work stoppages and all-out strikes that we have witnessed."

He asked the task force to examine eight basic considerations outlined in a report by the National Governors' Conference:

1. The feasibility of authorizing collective bargaining with the public sector either through administrative policy or legislation.
2. The role and recognition of one or several public employee representative organizations, and the alternatives to the principle of exclusive recognition.
3. *The relationship and applicability of any State collective bargaining legislation to local governments.*
4. The development of an appropriate administrative unit to focus exclusively on public employer-employee relations.
5. The possible impact of legalized collective bargaining upon the budget and the fiscal condition of government.
6. The relationship between the merit system and any possible collective bargaining arrangements.
7. The scope and limits of governmental collective bargaining that should be prescribed by law.
8. Procedures by which bargaining disputes may be settled without interruption to public service.

"There is no reason to believe that the public sector cannot devise new approaches in this area, and I have confidence that this Task Force is well qualified to adapt successful private labor relations techniques to the more sensitive needs of public service," Governor Agnew said.

"I am particularly pleased that we have been able to obtain the services of Mr. Aronin, who has an excellent background in labor-management relations, to serve as chairman."

Other members will be:

Herbert H. Hubbard, attorney for the Maryland Classified Employees Association.