

Civil Service

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# Councilmen Mum On Union Threat

By Don Righetti

It's hard to find one quiet politician, Santa Cruz, however, is blessed with several of them.

The members of the city council are adamantly mum on the threatened union affiliation of city employees over a wage dispute.

Councilmen Ernest Wicklund and Richard Werner are out of town and unavailable for comment.

Mayor Samuel Leask III will say only that city employees "have the right to talk to anyone they want to" in reference to next Wednesday's meeting of the workers with union organizers.

Councilman Norman Walters says he doesn't want to talk until he has spoken with the employees. Councilman Ray Goodrich and Councilwoman Lorette Wood both said they agreed with Leask's comment and would not add to it.

Councilman Eugene Fleming did elaborate to some extent:

"I'm in no position to tell the city employees the right and proper direction they should go for their own benefit," he stated. "I definitely feel that the council, in my years of experience, has dealt fairly with the employees and has assumed them to be a definite and won-

derful asset to the community.

"I'm sure that in the future we will . . . maintain the best possible relationship with the best salaries available on the basis of the city's economy.

"I would very definitely hate to see the relationship between the council and employees split through any action that union affiliation might induce."

A summit meeting has been set tomorrow between employees' association leaders and top city administrators. No specific time or place has been scheduled, and it is reported the talk will be an informal one.

Meanwhile, the meeting be-

tween the employees and organizers for AFL-CIO and the Teamsters has been slated at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the civic auditorium.

Employees salary committee Chairman Kenneth Doler stated he believes a majority of city employees is now in favor of union affiliation. He reported that salary is the big issue in the dispute; there are no other major grievances.

Employees' association President Sam Gaub said he thinks most employees don't actually want to join a union, but feel they are being forced into the move.