

AGNEW CRITICIZES MEDIA ON ATTICA

Says 'Radical Left' Seeks
Another Cause Celebre

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—

Vice President Agnew accused the "radical left" and news media today of seeking to transform the Attica Prison revolt into "yet another cause célèbre in the pantheon of radical revolutionary propaganda."

The Vice President praised Governor Rockefeller for "the courageous action he took in ending the confrontation at Attica after exhausting all practicable alternatives."

Mr. Agnew thus took issue with critics who have blamed Mr. Rockefeller for complicity in the deaths of 29 inmates and nine hostages who died as a result of the armed assault Sept. 13 on sections of the prison held by the inmates. There were 42 deaths in all stemming from the five-day uprising at the maximum security prison.

633 Law Officials Killed

Instead of paying homage to 633 law enforcement officials killed in the United States in 10 years, there has been "inordinate attention focused on the self-declared and proven enemies of our society," the Vice President declared in a speech to the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Anaheim, Calif. Copies of the speech were made available here.

"Now the name 'Attica' joins the list of geographic place names and slogans whose very utterance, in the litany of anti-American hate preached by radical propagandists, is a dagger at the heart of our country's free institutions," Mr. Agnew said.

Some members of an observer committee of legislators, lawyers, newsmen and former Attica inmates have criticized Governor Rockefeller for refusing to visit the prison when they sought to mediate an end to the uprising.

Demands Are Scored

"A Governor of a state can-

not allow himself to be peremptorily summoned into the presence of outlaws to meet their demands," the Vice President said. "Had he gone, and still refused to surrender the state, the next demand might have been for the President of the United States to demean himself in their presence."

Although he said no citizen could ignore the real need for prison reform, Mr. Agnew said that was not the primary issue of Attica.

"Only by the total inversion of all civilized values can those among the militant inmates who killed a guard and slashed the throats of fellow inmates during the period of their holdout be termed heroes in a struggle for human life and dignity," he said.

Buckley Chides Press, Too

ROCHESTER, Sept. 27 (AP)—United States Senator James L. Buckley told New York newspaper editors today that he was greatly disappointed by the way "much of the press" handled the Attica Prison revolt. The New York Conservative-

Republican said he objected especially to stories that compared the shooting at Attica to the killings at Mylai in Vietnam and that portrayed the rebelling prisoners as heroes and Governor Rockefeller as a villain.

"The American public will not buy the pro-prisoner line that seems to characterize so much of the reporting," Mr. Buckley told the annual meeting of the New York State Associated Press Association.