

# Teen-Aged Inmates Tell of

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Young prisoners were the first to leave Cellblock 1, where the hostages were being held.

As they walked into an open space between the front of D.C. jail and the chain-link and barbed-wire fence along the sidewalk, Patey Greene saw them and he began to cry. With tears streaming down his face, Greene, ex-convict and ex-dope addict who now helps dope ex-convicts and dope addicts, said:

"You've got a bunch of babies here."

There were about 20 young men in the group. As they stood in their prison benches in the clear autumn sun-

shine, one of them, who said he was John Ferguson, 17, said:

"We don't even belong here."

He was referring he said, to the fact that younger prisoners were being kept with older prisoners.

Across the street from the jail fence was a crowd. Many claimed to be relatives of prisoners. Police allowed some of them to go up to the fence and call to prisoners in the windows above. By midafternoon, however, police confined them to the sidewalk across the street and there were occasional pushing and shoving matches between members of the crowd and police as the afternoon wore on.

As Greene, one of those chosen to negotiate with the prisoners in Cellblock 1 who were holding D.C. Corrections Director Kenneth L. Hardy and nine guards, stood with tears rolling down his lean face, the young prisoners talked to a group of newsmen who had been permitted inside the fence.

Clarence Moore, 19, said he was in jail awaiting trial on a burglary charge.

"I came over here with (VD), and didn't get treated for a month," he said. "The food is bad. There are roaches crawling in it."

A prisoner named Johnson who said he was 17, said: "The rats are jumping all over our heads in there,

and the roaches race all over."

Johnson said he was suffering from a skin rash when he was sent to the jail about three weeks ago, and that he had never been treated for it. He removed his shirt to show reporters scars on his chest and what appeared to be a rash.

After the young prisoners were removed from Cellblock 1, other prisoners began to leave. By late afternoon, 132 inmates had left the block and only 50 remained, according to School Board President Marion Barry, another negotiator.

Barry and Charles Rodgers, deputy commissioner of corrections, held a curb-side conversation with the crowd

## Rats, Roaches in D.C. Jail

across the street from the jail. A voice from the crowd said:

"When will we get to see the prisoners?"

"The families will not get in there today," Rodgers replied.

Earlier, in response to appeals broadcast through the news media, a few relatives of prisoners began to gather at Eastern High School. From there, the press said, they would be bused to the jail.

William J. Saunders, the principal of Eastern, told a reporter he had not received permission from the school board to allow the relatives to use the school auditorium.

In any case, reporters at

the school counted only seven persons who appeared to have responded to the appeal. Three young men who said they were friends of the prisoner-negotiators told the seven not to talk to the press, and escorted them to a station wagon driven by D.C. corrections officials.

They were driven to the jail where corrections officials said they would be allowed to communicate with prisoners by shouting through the windows. It could not be learned whether any had actually been admitted to the jail.

From the crowd across the street, meanwhile, other voices called other questions: Who are the 50 prisoners? Are they armed? How

the prisoners received meals?

"We don't know who they are," Barry said in answer to one question. "We'll go back and ask if they'll tell us, 'cause their families are here."

None of the 132 men who voluntarily left the cellblock was armed, Rodgers said. Barry added that "we're not sure" about the remaining 50.

Rodgers said, yes, all the prisoners had received their meals.

As for Kenneth Hardy, Barry said: "Mr. Hardy is free to roam around. He's making calls. The prisoners want us to support him. They want community sup-

port, because, they said, he's the best they've ever had."

At about 5 p.m., a bus carrying Hardy, six prisoner-negotiators and officials left the jail so the prisoners could tell their complaints to a judge.

The crowd across the street, which numbered about 200, surged against the rope along the sidewalk and the line of policemen.

As the bus drew away, people in the crowd shouted, "Remember Attica!" and other slogans. They waved their arms in the clenched-fist black-power salute.

From the bus, some prisoners shouted back and waved their fists. The crowd shouted, "Right on!"



By Joe Heiberser—The Washington Post  
In this picture, Sen. Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy is at left and Post reporter William L. Claiborne is at right.