

ROCKEFELLER BARS A VISIT TO ATTICA

Cites Lack of Authority to
Grant Total Amnesty

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Signaling a harder line toward rebellious inmates at the Attica Correctional Facility, Governor Rockefeller yesterday rejected a prisoner demand and a citizen committee's recommendation that he go to the prison.

The Governor declared in a statement issued from his Pocantico Hills estate that he could not legally grant total amnesty to the rebellious inmates and would not even if he could.

"In view of the fact that the key issue is total amnesty... I do not feel that my physical presence on the site can contribute to a settlement," Mr. Rockefeller said.

Sources close to the Governor indicated that the use of force to break the rebellion would be the next step if the prisoners rejected the 28 concessions offered by State Correction Commissioner Russell G. Oswald with the approval of the Governor. The concessions do not include total amnesty against possible criminal charges.

The citizen group that has been asked by the prisoners to serve as mediators and observers at the embattled prison had suggested the Governor go to Attica but stopped short of endorsing a prisoner demand that he negotiate in the prison yard with the inmates.

Time Seen Running Out

Rejecting any direct intervention, Mr. Rockefeller said the prisoners must now be given the opportunity to respond to the concessions offered by Mr. Oswald. One state aide described the Governor's reply as a veiled warning that time was running out for negotiations.

Mr. Rockefeller made it plain that he would not back down on his refusal to offer total amnesty.

"I do not have the constitutional authority to grant such a demand and I would not even if I had the authority because to do so would undermine the very essence of our free society—the fair and impartial application of the law," the Governor said.

Mr. Rockefeller, faced with the most serious prison rebellion during his administration,

Schoolteacher Turned Warden

NYTimes

Vincent Ralph Mancusi

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By LINDA CHARLTON

Vincent R. Mancusi, whose removal as superintendent of Attica Correctional Facility is one of the demands of the rebellious inmates, has been in what is called "correctional administration" in New York State for many years, having worked his way up from guard.

"When they talk about removing him, they're talking about someone with 35 years of working in prisons under his belt," said his wife, Dorothy, when reached yesterday by telephone at the Mancusis' brick residence on the grounds of the prison.

Mr. Mancusi, who is 57 years old, has been the invisible man to outsiders during the days of siege at the maximum-security prison. Seen only briefly as he raced down a corridor, he has been heard to make only passing comments such as, "I've got a bad one here."

Image as a Hard Man

A craggy-faced, chunky man about five-feet, seven-inches tall, with thinning dark hair combed straight back from his forehead, Mr. Mancusi speaks quietly and deliberately as befits the schoolteacher he once was.

He will have been Attica's superintendent—the new title replaces that of "warden"—for six years next week, and it is said that he was sent there with the unenviable assignment of "keeping the lid on."

The odds against succeed-

remained at his Westchester estate over the weekend but was in constant telephone contact with state and other public officials at the scene.

Officials at Scene

Included, according to Rockefeller aides, State Senator John R. Dunne, Republican of Garden City, L.I., who has been serving as chairman of the unofficial citizen committee at the prison, Representative Herman Badillo, Democrat of the Bronx, and Tom Wicker, a columnist of The New York Times.

At the scene are the Governor's two top aides, Robert R. Douglass, his secretary or chief



Associated Press

Quiet and deliberate

ing may well have contributed to the current image of him as a hard man—a hard man and one disliked by the inmates. "If he had set foot inside that courtyard [where the insurgents gathered for negotiating sessions], they would have killed him," said one Attica resident.

Another criticism of Mr. Mancusi, who has a master's degree in correctional administration from St. Lawrence University, is that he has a "cage approach" to penology.

But his wife says "he just loves it [prison work], because he feels he'd doing a job, a very important job."

His work, she says, is "his whole life," although it was initially a lack of money that led him to give up teaching school.

Vincent Ralph Mancusi was born May 16, 1914, in Liberty, N. Y., the son of a detective on the New Rochelle police force. He went to local schools and got his bachelor's degree from the State Teachers College in New Paltz, N. Y. He taught in grammar schools for three years before becoming a prison guard—the term now is "correction officer"—and beginning the climb "up through the ranks," as his wife puts it.

During his career in prison work, he has been assigned to several state institutions—Elmira Reformatory, Clinton Prison in Dannemora, Auburn Prison, and others.

He and his wife, who have been married 37 years, have two daughters, both married. During his vacations, the Mancusis like to travel—"Europe, the Caribbean—all over," Mrs. Mancusi said. Mr. Mancusi, who served in the Navy during World War II, also likes to play golf.

Mrs. Mancusi, while making it clear that she would not comment on the prison crisis, could not, as the wife of a man who has worked in prisons for so long, entirely contain her reaction to events there. No, she said, she has not seen much of her husband in recent days.

"It's a little sickening after a while," she said, to hear about the grievances of the prisoners from everyone "They're not worrying about the poor hostages in there."

of staff, and T. Norman Hurd, Director of State Operations, as well as Mr. Oswald. A Rockefeller aide said that no major moves had been made by the state officials without the approval of Mr. Rockefeller.

The Governor himself was described as "deeply distressed" by the rebellion and the threat to the hostages particularly.

He had been scheduled to appear at a Nassau County Republican dinner Saturday evening but canceled the engagement in order to keep in touch with the Attica rebellion.

Mr. Rockefeller is scheduled to leave for the three-day National Governors Conference

meeting in San Juan, P. R., today but these plans could also be changed if the rebellion continues.