SFExaminer

Con Rebels Backed at 2 Rallies

By The Associated Press

Demonstrators in two cities have rallied in support of the inmates at New York's Attica State Prison as reaction continues to the bloody end of its prisioner rebellion.

About 150 persons paraded through the midday, 90-degree heat in Los Angeles yesterday to show support for what they called the "Attica 1200" and to voice demands for nationwide prison reform.

In an orderly rally attended by many members of the Black Panthers and the Angela Davis Defense Committee, one speaker described the Attica inmates as "heroic brothers . . . laying down their lives to human dignity."

Blockade

At the University of Oklahoma in Norman about 75 black students blockaded a one-way street for about two hours to show sympathy. About 85 percent of the Attica inmates are black or Puerto Rican.

"There is one way...the right way...but it ain't the white way," the protesters chanted. They posted a sign reading:

"30 brothers dead, and things go on as usual."

University police blocked all entrances to the area during the protest "to help insure a peaceful demonstration and prevent cars from confronting the black students."

'Nonviolent Men'

In Buffalo, N.Y., state Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve wept as he told a State University audience that the inmates had refused to kill their hostages even when the police assault began.

"Those were nonviolent men in there." Eve said. "When the attack began, they refused to plunge knives into their hostages. Even when the gas came, they refused to kill them. Even when the shooting began, they refused to kill them."

Eve. a black legislator who served on a mediating committee requested by the rebellious inmates, said he blamed Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller for the tragic outcome.

"He flies all over the country to campaign; he comes to Buffalo to talk to both newspaper editors, but he won't fly 30 minutes away to save 1200 to 1500 lives," Eve said.

'Real Men'

William L. Kunstler, the activist lawyer who also was among the Attica mediators, told a gathering at Stout State University in Menomonee, Wis.. that the inmates "were real men who had legitimate grievances." He said the riot was "the only way they had to bring their grievances to the attention of authorities."

"There were more decent men behind the walls than in front of them." Kunstler said. He accused Rockefeller of endorsing force.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell told a Republican fund - raising dinner at Millburn, N.J., that the Attica rebellion and its bloody aftermath was a "most unfortunate situation," but he declined to make any more specific comment.

Dr. Robert R. Carkhuff, an expert in human relations who has dealt extensively with prison riots, said he expected retaliation for the killings at Attica.

Carkhuff, a professor of psychology at American International College in Springfield. Mass., said continued negotiations would have prevented the deaths.

He termed the assault "a national tragedy of major proportions equal to a declaration of war on minority groups.