
Nixon Reaffirms Backing Shootout

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The White House said today President Nixon stands by his early public support of New York Gov. Nelson S. Rockefeller's decision to use force to end the Attica State Prison rebellion.

Press secretary Ronald Ziegler was asked today if Nixon stood by that backing in view of later information indicating that eight hostages apparently died from gunfire rather than at the hands of knife-wielding convicts.

"Of course he does. The governor had the responsibility to deal with a very difficult situation. He met that responsibility . . . the President's not going to second-guess him," Ziegler said.

Nixon had telephoned Rockefeller Monday afternoon to express his support.

Ziegler disclosed the President and Rockefeller had another telephone conference last night. He said he did not know the nature of the conversation.

The press aide, when asked if Nixon regarded the outcome of the Attica uprising as a "great tragedy," he responded, "I don't think there's any question about that."

Ziegler acknowledged there has been some discussion between the White House and the Justice Department about the possibility of unrest in federal prisons following the bloody Attica revolt. But he said he did not want to suggest that any widespread disorders are anticipated.
