

# Prison Riot Blamed on Short Funds

ATTICA, N.Y. (AP)—The chairman of a congressional panel investigating the riot at Attica state prison said Saturday that "had there been enough money, much of this tragedy could have been prevented."

Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla., and members of his House Select Committee on Crime, spent seven hours at the prison. Pepper said afterward that because of

inadequate financing of penal institutions "all of us are responsible for what happened here."

Another panel member charged there had been "indiscriminate shooting" when a heavily armed force of state troopers and backup personnel retook the prison Monday.

Pepper said Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller had told him earlier that it would take between \$100 million and \$200 million to bring correctional facilities up to an adequate level in New York State.

Committee member Charles Rangel, a Democrat from Harlem in New York City, said, "I believe there was indiscriminate shooting . . . that much of the gunfire was unnecessary."

Rangel said what happened at Attica when the prison uprising was quelled was a "proper subject for a grand jury."

Meanwhile, six prison employees who had been hostages during the uprising were buried Saturday after authorities made a final examination of their bodies in the official state investigation of the rebellion.

Funeral services for the six were held Friday. But the

bodies were returned to funeral homes at the request of investigators. The bodies were examined by two pathologists, Dr. Henry Siegel and Dr. Michael Baden.

Robert E. Fischer, the deputy state attorney general in charge of New York's official investigation, Saturday said his staff had met with the pathologists and "reviewed the medical facts pertaining to such matters as the nature

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of the wounds, probably time of death, and cause of death."

He did not indicate of the pathologists' findings, however.

One member of the state panel, Clarence B. Jones, publisher of the *Amsterdam News*, told newsmen 20 inmates had complained of physical abuse by corrections officers and state troopers after the rebel-held cellblock was retaken.

Jones added that the committee had "no basis to make an independent verification" of the complaints.

He also said several prisoners had reported that they were run through "the gauntlet"—between two lines of prison officers—and hit with sticks as they went up a stairway.

State Correction Commissioner Russell G. Oswald and several of his associates flew to Albany for the weekend. Oswald had not left the Attica area since the start of the prison uprising there Sept. 9.

The debate over what went on at Attica continued.

Rep. Herman Badillo, R-N.Y., member of the unofficial observer committee, said

it had unanimously agreed that:

"It was the condition in the prison which precipitated the rebellion at Attica.

"Official intransigence was responsible for the bloodshed on Monday morning.

"No individual on the observer committee adopted any position which prevented or hindered a peaceful resolution of the crisis."

At Attica Saturday, Livingston Wingate, executive director of the New York Urban League, said that during the "raid" on Monday "nine black inmates were lined up against a wall and shot in the back by state troopers," according to one prisoner to whom Wingate spoke. Wingate did not identify the prisoner.