

Prison Guard Union Threatens 'Lock-In' to Enforce Demands

**Wurf Says Action Will Be Taken Oct. 7
Unless State Meets 'Six Legitimate
Needs' of Officers and Inmates**

By RICHARD PHALON SEP 23 1971
Special to The New York Times

ALBANY, Sept. 22 — Jerry Wurf, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said today that prison guards would stage a "lock-in" on Oct. 7 if the state did not meet six union demands to fulfill the "legitimate needs" of correction officers and inmates by then.

Security Unit Employees Council 82, which represents about 8,000 state correction officers, including those at Attica prison, is affiliated with the State, County and Municipal Employees.

There is a "crisis in the state institutions with the safety and security of prison personnel and with the rehabilitation and well-being of inmates," Mr. Wurf said at a news conference at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel here.

Noting the Oct. 7 deadline, he said:

"We want a crash program. If these minimal demands are not met, we will go on a lock-in.

"We can't abandon the inmates and we can't turn them out, so we have no choice but to lock them in and feed them. All other outside activities will cease."

Challenged as Agent

Security Unit Council 82 is being challenged as a bargaining agent for prison guards by the Civil Service Employees Association, which represents civilian workers in the jails—cooks, for example, and about 200,000 other state employees. A representation election is scheduled for Oct. 28.

Council 82 signed a two-year contract with the state on July 17, 1970, that set correctional officers' starting salaries at \$8,500 a year. They reach a maximum of \$10,800 a year after 15 years' service.

Mr. Wurf contended today that correction officers were paid on a much lower scale than policemen.

He said the following were among the demands the union sent by telegram today to Governor Rockefeller and Correction Commissioner Russell G. Oswald:

with a menace to personnel and inmates."

Rehiring of the 140 correction officers, mostly women, and the 1,000 narcotics corrections officers who have been laid off this fiscal year because of budget restrictions. The narcotics officers, Mr. Wurf told the news conference, could be rehired and then given permanent status as they qualified for the job.

Formal training programs for correction officers by experts in the state police or other law enforcement agencies. Mr. Wurf maintained that some correction officers were given an "ad hoc" two-week training program that was "ridiculous," and added that guards had never been trained to prevent what happened in Attica or to control it if it did happen."

Vocational training and legitimate rehabilitation training programs for prisoners and a real effort to meet their physical needs. "This business of toilet paper every three weeks, one shower a week, and bad clothing and shoes," Mr. Wurf continued, "does not contribute to a reasonable environment."

A spokesman for Governor Rockefeller said the union telegram had not been received and Correction Department spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

Prison for Militants Urged

By FRED FERRETTI

Special to The New York Times

ELMIRA, N. Y., Sept. 22—A deputy commissioner who is regarded as chief troubleshooter for Correction Commissioner Russell G. Oswald said today that he would recommend to Mr. Oswald the establishment of a "maximum security facility" to which the "more militant people, the aggressive people" within the state's prison population would be concentrated "so they won't spread their poison" to other inmates.

He said that in the atmosphere that existed in the wake of Attica "I believe we will be able to do it."

Segregation of the "6 per cent to 10 per cent" of the prison population that is "incorrigible" into a separate institution. "Our people" can identify the "incorrigibles" Mr. Wurf said. "We have to establish maximum security to deal

The deputy, Harold Butler, was sent to the Elmira Correctional Facility to supersede the prison's superintendent, Daniel Damon, and to squelch an incipient revolt among correction guards one day after



The New York Times/William E. Sauro

DISCUSS PRISON PLAN: Harold Butler, left, Deputy Commissioner of Correction; Daniel Damon, center, whom he will replace as superintendent at Elmira, and State Senator John R. Dunn, chairman of Senate committee on crime, at prison yesterday.

the rioting began in Attica on Sept. 9.

He said Commissioner Oswald was in basic agreement with the plan, which he said he proposed initially after the riots in Auburn prison last November.

State Senator John R. Dunne, chairman of the Senate Committee on Crime and Correction who is touring the state's prisons, took issue with the proposal.

"I believe the net result might be a facility which could be characterized as a black concentration camp, which might be more destructive than those forces which we are now trying to overcome," he said.

Agrees with Proposal

Late today the superintendent of Auburn Correctional Facility, Robert Henderson, told Senator Dunne he agreed with Mr. Butler.

"This might be the only solution," he said. "We're vastly outnumbered. A 1-to-4 ratio. We have to have people who cooperate . . . we've always had problems with disturbing elements. The manual says get them out, but we've never had such cohesive groups in our history. They act in concert.

"We discussed having a place to take these inmates out of the general population where they can't contaminate other prisoners. You can't run a facility with this kind of agitation and disorder."

Mr. Butler said that out of the state's prison population of 18,000 only 600 inmates would be involved and that 95 per cent of them would be black.

They would be, he said.

"those most difficult to handle—those who incite to riot, those who refuse to obey orders, those who harass employees, those who try to promote problems."

"If they are all troublesome," he said, "there is little they can do when they are segregated from the rest of the population. At least in that kind of facility he can have a program for them and they won't be able to spread their poison to the other inmates. After all, you can't recruit Republicans at a Republican convention."

He said Commissioner Oswald "considered the proposal" after the Auburn disturbances, "but we could not move enough people to establish this maximum security prison. We wanted to do it then, but it was impossible because of the overcrowded conditions. But now I believe we'll be able to do it."

Mr. Butler is superintendent of the Wallkill Correctional Facility but is used by Commissioner Oswald as a roving "operations man," as he describes his role.

Senator Dunne's tour will take him to the Clinton Correctional Facility at Dannemora and to the Great Meadow Correctional Facility at Comstock tomorrow.