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THE INJURED WARDEN OF RAHWAY STATE PRISON
U. Samuel Vukceovich, shown in hospital, sustained stab wounds

—AP Photo

Warden: 'Not Permissive'

RAHWAY (N.J.) — (AP) — Superintendent U. Samuel Vukceovich of Rahway State Prison, who was injured and held hostage by prisoners during the prison revolt, denied charges by a guard that there was "too much permissiveness" among officials of the prison.

"The prison was well-run, taking into consideration the fact that one does not have the adequate budget to accomplish all the goals he would like," Vucevich said, speaking from a hospital bed.

He refused to make

comparisons between the situation at Rahway and the riot at Attica State Prison in upstate New York that claimed 43 lives in September.

"I'm not bitter," he said, adding he is looking forward to going back to work.

Vukceovich said a prisoner "I didn't even know" took special care of him after he was injured.

"Without him I'd be in quite bad shape," he said.

The prisoner put stitches in a wound the warden received in his back when he was

"stomped" during the Wednesday night melee at the start of the riot.

The stitches were put in so well doctors at Rahway Memorial Hospital left them in.

Vukceovich said he was pleased with the way authorities handled the insurrection.

"I'm very proud of our governor, and I see him in a different light," Vukceovich said. "The people of New Jersey should be very proud of our governor."

The warden said the weapons the prisoners had were "a couple of knives."