

Prison's Neighbors Calm In Wake of 24-Hour Riot

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WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP, N. J., Nov. 26—"We talked in here last night about the riot," said Charles Muchanic as he drank a beer and watched a basketball game on the color television set in Brennan's, a bar on Route 1 where guards at the nearby Rahway state prison often stop after work.

"We thought some of the demands were stupid and others were all right," he said, "but nobody ran home and locked their doors. That hasn't happened even when there have been prison breaks."

The mood in Brennan's where many inmates also stop shortly after their release, seemed characteristic of this community today as it went about its business as usual, with few people, if any, showing concern over yesterday's prison disturbance.

Officials on Holiday

At the Woodbridge Municipal Building, where the city fathers meet, a small sign hung on the main entrance. "Closed due to a holiday," it said. Across the parking lot, in the building that serves as a police headquarters and courthouse, a young couple seeking some information were told by the lieutenant in charge to come back on Monday when the record section was open.

"Why should any of the officials be in—it's a holiday," said a city police officer as he left the station to go home. The Mayor could not be reached at home.

A group of 30 young men, mostly black, demonstrated for a few hours today at a roadblock within sight of the prison building. Their literature, which said, "Support all prison revolts," identified them as members of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of 58 West 28th Street, in Manhattan.

"You won't find any of the town people there, though," said Mr. Muchanic, who lives in Woodbridge and is a warehouse superintendent for the Cooper Tire Company in New Brunswick, N.J.

Mr. Muchanic has delivered tires to the prison and, like regulars at Brennan's, has played softball against prison teams composed of trusties and inmates. "I know they don't work seven days a week in there," he

said of the prison, "but that laundry is the hottest place I've ever been in."

Robert Brennan, the bar's young owner and a softball player, said: "I've had prisoners get out and come here and tell me things aren't that bad. But according to an ex-prisoner in here yesterday, the one gripe he mentioned was that they only have one doctor."

Mr. Brennan said that at a softball game several years ago some of the prisoners began shouting black-power slogans, "and one guy said he wouldn't go back in there" to play the inmates again.

"But," Mr. Brennan said, "we did and there was no problem."

Around Woodbridge today the highways were full of holiday travelers, the shopping center was crowded throughout the day and the bars began to fill up earlier than usual.

At Brennan's, the owner spoke of the trouble at the prison and said, "I wouldn't be afraid of going back in there right now."

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AS PRISON RIOT WAS ENDING: Policemen at the Rahway state prison in Woodbridge, N. J., on Thursday night

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