

Attica Panel Talking to 3,000 on Revolt

By FRED FERRETTI

The chairman of the state's Special Commission on Attica said yesterday that his staff had begun interviewing 3,000 people on a "crash basis" about the uprising at the Attica Correctional Facility in September.

Robert B. McKay, dean of the New York University Law School, the chairman, said the interviews with inmates, correction officers, hostages, state policemen, members of the observers' committee and state prison officials could well be completed by late winter. Public hearings into the rebellion, which led to the loss of 43 lives, could begin in February, Dean McKay said.

Meanwhile, an Attica magistrate said yesterday that he would hear testimony on Monday inside the prison from two inmates who claimed they were abused and threatened by prison officials for agreeing to be interviewed by newsmen last month.

The inmates, Richard Clark and Steven Barney, spoke with reporters inside Attica during the week of Nov. 15. Following the interviews they were subjected to abuse and harassment, they said through their attorneys. Clark was reported to have been docked one month's "good time" by a correctional officers' tribunal. "Good time" is time that can be deducted from a prison term. It is earned by good behavior.

The commission's investigation is one of a series of inquiries into the Attica tragedy. The criminal aspects of the

rebellion are being investigated by a Wyoming County grand jury and Special Deputy Attorney General Robert Fischer.

A committee to look after prisoners' rights, headed by Harry D. Goldman, presiding judge of the Fourth Department of the State Appellate Division, has already made its report. A Congressional investigation headed by Representa-

tive Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida, has held hearings on Attica.

The McKay commission, whose nine members were recommended by Chief Judge Stanley Fuld of the State Court of Appeals and the presiding judges of the Appellate Divisions, were appointed Nov. 15 by an executive order signed by Governor Rockefeller.