

2 Attica Inmates Tell U.S. Panel Brutality and Harassing Persist

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

Two present inmates of Attica prison who were allowed to testify before a Congressional committee here yesterday said that harassment and brutality against alleged participants in last fall's rebellion were still going on.

"The only change is we've been getting two spoons of sugar at each meal," said Frank Lott, one of the inmates, speaking of the aftermath of the September revolt. "Everything else is worse."

Lott, who is serving a 55-year-to-life sentence for murder, read two affidavits from Attica prisoners about incidents earlier this month. One told of an inmate being beaten and having communications from his lawyer confiscated by guards; the other told of a beating administered to a prisoner.

The hearings, at the United States Customs Courthouse in Foley Square, were conducted by the House Select Committee on Crime, headed by Rep. Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida. The committee has been looking into the revolt, which resulted in the death of 33 inmates and 10 guards, and has already published a 486-page volume of testimony.

3 Prisoners Testify

Three Attica prisoners — Lott, Gary Haynes and Harlan Eaton — were brought under guard to testify. Richard X. Clark, one of the leaders of the revolt who was since released on parole, appeared with his lawyer, Gerald B. Lefcourt. Haynes and Eaton were represented by Herman Schwartz of the University of Buffalo and Lott by Wilfred R. O'Connor and William E. Hellerstein of the Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Pepper explained in opening the three-hour hearing that the committee's purpose was not so much to find out what happened in the Attica upris-

ing as to formulate recommendations for prison reform.

Clark indicated impatience with the hearing, one of a half-dozen examining the Attica revolt. "We had people come up and talk and talk about reform and rehabilitation and that's all it is is, talk," he said. "We've still got brothers being beaten up there."

He used his own case as an example of how a prison term marks a man's life no matter how much he may have reformed. He said that since his release three weeks ago he had been unable to get a job because of his record. "They taught me basket-weaving at Attica," he said. "Ain't no jobs for basket-weavers around."

'Dignity' Is Sought

The beginning of rehabilitation is to allow inmates "to retain our dignity" in prison, Clark said. "The state seems to forget that 98 per cent of the people in jail go back to the community eventually."

Lott said that in his years in prison he had personally seen three homosexual acts between prisoners and guards, and that traffic in narcotics between inmates and guards at Attica was common. In Cell Block B, he said, 22 of the 504 inmates were receiving drugs through correction officers before the revolt.

Haynes, serving up to six years for forgery, said he had been beaten and burned with cigarettes after the revolt. He said racism was pervasive among the guards.

"If a white inmate like me becomes friendly with a black, the officers says its homosexuality," he said. "At Attica, we're all brothers. We're all being oppressed."

Eaton, who was convicted of statutory rape, said he could not complain about ill treatment by the guards. "Maybe it's because I'm older and I'm white, I don't know," he remarked.