

Daniel Berrigan Says Prisoners In Danbury Will Continue Strike

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

The Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan, who was paroled two weeks ago from the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Conn., said yesterday the prisoners there would continue their work stoppage until they won better conditions.

Appearing at a news conference at the offices of the American Civil Liberties Union, 156 Fifth Avenue, the pacifist Roman Catholic priest who was jailed for burning draft records, said he believed the inmates' strike would remain peaceful and nonviolent.

"There is a powerful network of understanding and resistance among prisoners throughout the nation," he declared. "Prison officials are living off the fantasies of old James Cagney movies. They refuse to recognize that the prison scene of 20 years ago is changed beyond recognition." Negotiations have been going on in the medium-security Federal prison between prison officials and representatives of the 149 inmates who have refused to work since last Monday. Only a handful of prisoners have refused to join the stoppage.

A stumbling block to settlement has been insistence by the strikers that three inmates who have been in segregation be released before the other issues are resolved. However, the administration has refused this request, contending that they had been segregated for matters unrelated to the work stoppage.

The prisoners have been demanding higher wages for making gloves and electric cables in the prison factory, inmate participation in educational programs, establishment of a grievance committee to resolve



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The Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan at news conference.

differences and other improvements in their conditions.

John J. Norton, the warden of the Danbury prison, said yesterday that there had been no progress made in the effort to end the work stoppage.

In addition to Father Berrigan, Mrs. Denise S. Bank, wife of Arthur Banks, one of the three segregated prisoners, spoke at the news conference. She said she had found "complete solidarity" among the prisoners when she visited the institution last week.