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Inmates Roaming Cell Blocks in Massachusetts

WALPOLE, Mass., March 20 (AP) — More than 200 inmates of Walpole State Prison roamed free within three cell blocks of the prison today in the third straight day of unrest at the maximum security facility.

An official said the prisoners in the three blocks, while confined by doors outside the blocks, had roamed free after sabotaging equipment controlling the clocks of their individual cubicles.

Dominic Presti, president of the Walpole Prison Employees Union, said the prisoners had broken the equipment last night during a disturbance in which five guards and two prisoners were injured.

Mr. Presti conceded that the inmates had grounds for some of their complaints, particularly of inadequate medical care. But he dismissed charges of guard harassment and racial discrimination as groundless.

Indiana and Ohio Prisoners Also Protest Conditions— Work Stoppages Begun

He said such charges were "meant to split the rift between the guards and the administration."

Stoppage in Indiana

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., March 20 (UPI) — Warden P. G. Smith of the United States Penitentiary here said a "non-violent work stoppage" began today at the institution, with about half of the inmates involved.

The Warden said he had received a list of 28 "demands" from the striking prisoners who refused to go to work on their regular assignments. He said all inmates had been returned to their quarters and that all

inmate services and programs had been terminated until the dispute was settled.

Ohio Penitentiary Strike

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 20 (AP)—Warden Harold J. Cardwell of Ohio Penitentiary, said today that the entire prison population of 1,923 inmates was on strike because of five prisoner demands. There has been no violence.

Warden Cardwell told a news conference he had talked to groups of prisoners twice but had not scheduled more meetings because of their insistence that a troublemaker in a 1968 prison riot be included.

He identified the inmate as Howard John Tonte, a native of Delaware serving 10-60 years for his role in the riots.

"The real handgrip is their trying to tell me how to run a penitentiary," Mr. Cardwell said.