

ATTICA

Rockefeller Questioned 5 Hours In State Inquiry Into Attica Riot

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Vice President Rockefeller was questioned for five hours yesterday by a special state deputy attorney general about his role in the 1971 uprising at Attica State Correctional Facility.

The Vice President said he had answered "fully and frankly" all questions put to him by Deputy Attorney General Bernard S. Meyer, a former State Supreme Court justice appointed last April 17 by Governor Carey to clear up the suspicions that have lingered over the Attica rebellion.

Mr. Meyer was named to head the investigation after a key member of the Attica special prosecutor's office charged the chief prosecutor with covering up possible crimes by law-enforcement officials who put down the rebellion at the prison in September, 1971.

Mr. Meyer, who was accompanied by three assistants, emerged from the session at 6:15 and said, "I will not comment on the area of questioning. I will not be specific."

Mr. Meyer said the Vice President's deposition would be contained in a report to be made to Carey in September.

"He answered every question that was asked and his answers were satisfactory," Mr. Meyer said.

Waves and Smiles

The questioning took place at the Vice President's former Manhattan office at 22 West 55th Street, which is owned by the Rockefeller family and which he used while he was Governor. When he emerged, he waved to onlookers and reporters who had waited since 10:30 for some word of the meeting.

"Hi, everybody," the Vice President said, smiling. "Nice to see you."

He then shook hands with people in the crowd, which was held back by wooden police barriers, and said the deputy attorney general had asked "a whole series of questions, which I answered fully and frankly."

He said his answers had been "frank and straightforward, simple and open."

The Vice President, wearing a blue suit with white pencil stripes, said "there was no

mention of a cover-up "during the questioning.

"They seemed perfectly satisfied" he said. "They asked a lot in five hours but pretty much on the same subject."

Malcolm H. Bell, who was chief assistant to Anthony G. Simonetti, the special Attica prosecutor, had charged that the inquiry into possible crimes by state troopers and correction officers when they stormed the prison and afterward "lacked integrity" and was being "aborted" by Mr. Simonetti.

Mr. Simonetti denied this and Governor Carey and Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz announced the appointment of Mr. Meyer "to evaluate the conduct" of the state's three-year investigation and prosecution of crimes stemming from the prison riot.

Mr. Meyer's three assistants yesterday were Eve Preminger, Edward M. Shaw and Irwin Rochman. Sitting in with Mr. Rockefeller were William E. Jackson and Samuel Gillespie, of the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy, his personal attorneys.