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Bitterness Over Attica Clemency

Attica, N. Y.

Representatives of prison guards and policemen bitterly criticized yesterday Governor Hugh L. Carey's clemency for all persons involved in the September, 1971, Attica prison rebellion which resulted in 43 deaths.

The hardest words came from the president of the union that represents guards at the Attica correctional facility.

Ronald E. Wert, president of council 82, AFL-CIO, said the clemency gives inmates "an open license to do or cause any harm without retributions anywhere."

Wert was particularly angered over Carey's clemency grant in the case of John B. Hill of Buffalo. Hill was convicted of murder in the death of Attica guard William Quinn and was serving a 20-year-to-life sentence.

"If he wants to play God," Wert said of Carey, "I'd like to see him bring back Billy Quinn." Quinn was beaten by rioting inmates on the first day of the uprising.

Al Sgaglione, president of the Police Conference of New York, which represents 206 local police unions, declared, "What the governor has done is said to the criminal element 'you have a friend in the executive mansion.'"

Patrick Carroll, president of the Police Benevolent Association of the New York state police, said Carey's announcement "reinforces the belief in his lack of support for law and order and police officers in general."

Carey announced Thursday he had granted clemency in the cases of eight men who were inmates at the time of the riot and that no disciplinary action will be taken against 20 guards and state policemen who had been named by a special prosecutor.

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