

Attica Figures Bid For Parole Denied Despite Clemency

By WOLFGANG SAXON

Governor Carey's clemency proclamation on Dec. 30 to "firmly and finally close the book" on the 1971 Attica prison uprising ran into a snag yesterday with the disclosure that the State Board of Parole had denied parole at this time to John Hill, now serving a 20-year-to-life term in the fatal beating of a prison guard, William Quinn.

The Governor's action had made Mr.

Hill, a 24-year-old American Indian, eligible for parole now rather than in 1994 as decreed in his original sentence. But the board notified the prisoner's counsel yesterday that it had denied immediate release and would not consider the matter again until two years from now.

The decision against Mr. Hill, made Monday after he was interviewed last week by a three-member parole panel, prompted an angry statement from Mr. Hill's defense attorneys, Margaret Ratner and Elizabeth Fink, and William M. Kunstler, who is serving as a volunteer staff attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights of New York.

They said they would now seek to obtain Mr. Hill's freedom through court action, possibly next Monday in State Supreme Court in Westchester County,

where their client is being held at the Ossining Correctional Facility.

The statement referred to "the obvious danger to Mr. Hill's safety" and denounced the denial of parole as "an indecent and inhumane act." The denial, it said, violated his right to equal protection under the law since it singled him out from the seven other former inmates affected by Mr. Carey's clemency action.

The attorney's statement said the denial of parole was an "abject capitulation" by Governor Carey to the "strident objections received" to his "courageous act in commuting Mr. Hill's sentence." The "objections" referred to the criticisms raised by the family of Mr. Quinn, by the slain guard and by law enforcement officers and political figures.