

8/10/71 Berrigan Punished for Strike Activity

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The Rev. Philip Berrigan and five other prisoners were placed in solitary confinement at Danbury, Conn., federal penitentiary yesterday for distributing leaflets urging fellow prisoners to go on a work and hunger strike.

Twenty prisoners who refused to work also were placed in solitary confinement later in the day. Five other prisoners had been placed in solitary Friday for issuing the same call to prisoners.

The statement given to other prisoners called for a protest of the recent denial of parole to Fathers Philip and Daniel Berrigan, the secrecy of U.S. Parole Board activities and the rebuilding of tiger

cage prisons on Con Son Island in South Vietnam.

Mock Cells Destroyed

As the ranks of protesting prisoners inside Danbury was growing yesterday, about 100 supporters of the Berrigan brothers assembled at the prison gates and destroyed mock tiger cage prison cells similar to those found a year ago on the island.

At the protest, Richard Barnett, a political scientist at the Institute for Policy Studies, read a statement saying the denial of parole to the Berrigan brothers was a "deliberate use of the prison system to repress political dissent."

The statement was signed by 28 writers, scholars and persons recently indicted for activities that stem from opposition to the Vietnam war.

The signers include Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who was indicted in California on charges of unauthorized possession and theft of government documents in connection with publication of the Pentagon Papers; Anthony Russo, a friend of Ellsberg who has been cited for contempt of court in the same case; long-time peace advocate David Dellinger, and Noam Chomsky, author and professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Six of the eight persons charged with conspiring to kidnap presidential aide Henry Kissinger and to bomb Washington buildings also signed the statement. They are free on bail pending trial.

State Intentions

The signers of the statement, who called themselves the

"Committee on Prisons," said: "We now declare our intention to work in every way to free the Berrigans and all other political prisoners, and to alert the American people to the cruelty which is practiced in American prisons..."

A statement from Rep. William R. Anderson (D-Tenn.), in which he called for a "complete and comprehensive investigation of the procedures and practices of the U.S. Board of Parole," also was read.

Danbury Warden John J. Norton said administrative hearings would be held later this week for each of the men now in solitary confinement.

The five who were taken to the prison hospital have been fasting since Friday when they were removed from the general prison population. Hospitalization for fasting prisoners is normal procedure, according to Paul Wilkes, duty officer at the prison. He said they have refused solid food since Friday.

The five are Theodore Glick, who along with Philip Berrigan and six others were indicted in the kidnap-bomb case, and Eddie Bersh, John Bach, Tom Hosmer and David Malament.

Both Berrigans are imprisoned at Danbury for the destruction of Selective Service records in May 1968 in Catonsville, Md. The two of them and George Mische, imprisoned at Lewisburg, Pa., federal penitentiary, have been denied parole.