

See similar story, "The Question of Dealing with Rioting Convicts," same date, filed Attica.

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California's Ban on Bargaining With Cons

Sacramento

The California Department of Corrections said yesterday it would be "contrary" to long-standing rules for prison officials to negotiate with convicts who hold hostages.

The policy, in effect for 25 years, declares that "hostages shall not be recognized for bargaining purposes" and that "all inmates shall be informed of this rule." *

POLICY

A department spokesman stopped short of saying that a revolt and bargaining session such as occurred at Attica State Prison in New York couldn't occur in California institutions under the policy. The Attica convicts held 38 hostages.

But Phil Guthrie, department spokesman, said for California authorities to bargain while hostages were

The Champ Seed Spitter

Pardeeville, Wis.

A teacher from Chicago spat a watermelon seed 37 feet, 4 inches Sunday to win the seed-spitting trophy at Pardeeville's annual watermelon eating contest.

The winner, Frank Ganger of Deerfield, Ill., an industrial arts teacher, was the runner-up in 1970.

Associated Press

held "would be contrary to the way we've operated for the past 25 years."

He said that newly-hired guards are informed of the hostage rule when they first join the department. The rule

was reaffirmed as recently as last November.

Guthrie said that during the recent bloody incident at San Quentin in which three guards and three inmates were slain, an inmate shouted to officers, "we've got hostages."

"The captain said 'that doesn't make any difference,'" Guthrie reported.

At the time, state corrections director Raymond K. Procnier told newsmen, "What they (the prisoners) probably didn't know is that we don't dicker with anyone with hostages and it doesn't matter who it is."

QUENTIN

At San Quentin, officials said prisoners there had shown no reaction to the violence at Attica, and that no special precautions were being taken.

United Press