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State Hearing

Prison Officers' Security Plea

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The men who guard California's prison inmates will give the State Board of Corrections today their proposals to increase security in the 12-prison system in which nine staff members and 24 inmates have been killed in the past 21 months.

The California State Employees Association will ask for more than 440 new prison staffers, electronic warning devices for every prison worker and creation of a new maximum security prison, probably costing about \$50 million.

The California Correctional Officers Association may ask that the idea of deporting militant revolutionary inmates be studied, if the exiles voluntarily request it.

The board already has before it Department of Corrections recommendations for adding 403 new staffers and installing a wide range of tighter security measures.

MORALE

The board will resume prison security hearings just one day after guards complained to legislators that their morale is sagging and an NAACP spokesman claimed conditions in Folsom Prison are "racist," a charge denied by Folsom's warden.

A key legislative commit-

tee yesterday also turned down, at least temporarily, a bill proposing a penal system ombudsman to probe staff and inmate complaints.

"Even if this bill has merit, now is not the time to move with it," said Donald Grunsky (Rep-Watsonville), who added that guards in institutions such as Soledad, in his district, are unhappy over what he termed "media sympathy for inmates" to the exclusion of those who guard and counsel prisoners."

Meanwhile, James Williams, president of the Sacramento Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called a press conference to denounce "persistent racist conditions" at Folsom Prison just east of Sacramento.

He claimed only 13 of the 525 staff workers there are blacks. Warden Walter Craven replied there actually are 16 but conceded recruitment of blacks and other minority group members lags despite intensified efforts because such work is "not a popular occupation" in minority communities.

Correctional officers, legislators say, are disturbed when press reports on efforts to reform prison conditions seem to imply the correctional administration has done a poor job.

PROBLEMS

"I don't think all of the problems come from the administration of the prisons," observed Sen. George Deuk-

mejian (Rep-Long Beach) during the Senate Government Organization Committee hearing on the Murphy penal ombudsman bill. "I think some of the problems are caused by the inmates."

Whatever the outcome of the Corrections Board hearing today, the probable result will be expensive. Raymond Procunier, corrections chief, already has asked for \$3.2 million worth of increased staff in this fiscal year.