

Stockton Jail Still Tense After Riots

Stockton

Inmates in the maximum security area of the San Joaquin county jail remained locked up yesterday after a day of rioting at the prison Tuesday.

Some 64 of the 250 prisoners in the three-tiered wing of the jail, located a few miles south of here in French Camp, were taken to court for scheduled appearances yesterday.

A few went "reluctantly," according to Sheriff Michael N. Canlis. Tuesday's riot was touched off when ten of 11 inmates balked at going to court, smashed the electric lockup system, and released their fellow prisoners — apparently a planned effort, according to Canlis.

The situation was still "tense," the sheriff said, and the prisoners were under "tight control."

John Cechini, presiding superior court judge, and Howard McKinley, county grand jury foreman, met with three spokesmen for the prisoners late Tuesday — after all of the inmates had been returned to their cells, a process that lasted from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Inmates had complained about delays in going to trial and bail being set too high — as well as standard prison complaints about poor food, overcrowding and poor ventilation. *Our Correspondent*