

Rocky to Probe Killing of Hostages

Examiner News Services

ATTICA (N.Y.) — Gov. Nelson Rockefeller today ordered the investigation into the Attica prison rebellion broadened to determine how nine hostages were shot when a cellblock was stormed by state police, national guardsmen and sheriffs deputies.

In a brief meeting with reporters at his New York City office, the Governor was asked directly if he had information that state police bullets killed the nine hostages.

"In the heat of a situation, tragedies develop," Rockefeller responded somberly, shaking his head.

Gerald Houlihan, the Correction Service Department public relations man, said the conference was cancelled because reporters were being "too pushy."

Houlihan also denied requests by reporters for inter-

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WITH OSWALD?
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Inquiry Widened At Attica

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views with state police officials, state police sharpshooters, and recaptured prisoners.

'Nothing Coming Out'

"There is no use in you guys sticking around here," Houlihan said. "Nothing is coming out of here until the investigation is over."

The governor said he would fly to the capitol in Albany tomorrow, to confer with legislative leaders on the Attica situation.

Inside the gray prison walls state correctional commissioner Russell Oswald postponed a scheduled news conference "until everything cools down." An aide said that may be as late as next Monday.

Rockefeller named Robert Fischer, head of the organized crime task force who is better known as New York's "super cop," to head an investigation focusing on alleged criminal acts committed during the five day uprising.



"NO THROATS CUT... OR ANY MUTILATION"
Dr. John F. Edland, county medical examiner

The aide revealed that "some" of the leaders of the rebellion had survived and "we're going through the process of sifting them out."

He added that he did not have the names of the leaders and that he did not know for certain how many, if any, were killed.

The death toll from the insurrection climbed to 42 today when a wounded inmate died in a Buffalo hospital. Ten of the dead were prison workers held hostage by the convicts and 32 were prisoners.

First to Die

The first to die, William Quinn, 26, a guard, was buried following a Roman Catholic mass just a few doors away from the home in Attica where he lived with his wife and two young daughters.

About 400 uniformed correction officers from throughout the state formed an honor guard for the somber ceremonies in the flag draped farming community of 2800.

Quinn died of head injuries suffered when he was beaten the first day of the rebellion. In Batavia, a few miles away, services were also held for Richard Lewis, another of the hostages who was shot to death.

Oswald did not attend the funerals because, as an aide put it, "There might have been resentment."

Slashings Disputed

Houlihan, met briefly with newsmen and at first denied that any official statement said that hostages had their throats slit by the convicts.

"Maybe it's an impression," Houlihan said. "I'm sure it was not to be given as a factual act."

When reporters reminded Houlihan he had announced the throat slashing Monday when the riot was put down, he replied:

"Yes, that's right, but I said 'several,' not seven."

"Where did you get the information?" a reporter asked. "There is a credibility gap here."

Other Prisons

"I understand that," he replied. "I understood that several, not seven, had their throats slashed. I also told you one had a gas grenade held against his chest (by a



"HOSTAGES COULD HAVE BEEN SHIELDS"
New York Corrections Commissioner Russell Oswald

convict) but this was wrong, too."

However, Hollis Chase, president of the guards' union at Attica, stuck by the original version of the slayings and declared:

"We've got people, our fellow guards, who carried off the bodies of these hostages. Their hands and feet were bound, their throats were slit from ear to ear."

In an apparent effort for further clarification, the state police called to Attica a well-known pathologist, Dr. Henry Siegel, medical examiner of Westchester County, who has more than 30 years' experience in the field and formerly was executive deputy chief medical examiner in the prestigious New York City office.

At other state prisons across the state, the situation was tense, but no trouble was reported as heightened security measures, including keeping prisoners locked in their cells, remained in effect.

At Great Meadow correctional facility at Comstock, guards voted to call for Oswald's resignation.

An Attica correctional services department spokesman

said all the inmates had been accounted for. After the rebellion, eight were originally missing. Three were found dead and five alive in the maze of tunnels beneath the 54-acre prison.

Officials said upward of 1000 prisoners — nearly half the pre-riot population — would have to be transferred from Attica to other prisons because the uprisings had badly damaged two major cellblocks.

Oswald said 1241 prisoners were jammed into cells designed to hold a maximum of 481 inmates. More than 150 have already been transferred.

The commissioner at a news conference late last night confirmed the findings of a medical examiner in nearby Rochester that all but one of the hostages had died of gunshot wounds.

At that time he did not specify who shot the hostages, but noted they had been dressed in prison garb and used as shields by the rebel inmates.

He released a list of weapons found in the prison after the rebellious inmates were routed.