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CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS: Arriving at Attica prison yesterday afternoon, from left: Representatives William J. Keating of Ohio and Sam Steiger of Arizona,

both Republicans; Charles B. Rangel of Manhattan, Claude Pepper of Florida, with glasses, and Frank J. Brasco of Brooklyn, Democrats. Mr. Pepper is head of the panel.

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House Committee Confers With Rockefeller on Attica

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

Representative Charles B. Rangel yesterday called for a special Federal grand jury to investigate the Attica prison uprising and to see whether the information Governor Rockefeller had relied on in sanctioning an assault by troopers on the facility contained "distortions of truth or outright lies."

The Manhattan Democrat's comments came as he stood behind the Governor's podium in the press room of Mr. Rockefeller's office at 22 West 55th Street.

Mr. Rangel and four other members of the House of Representatives' Select Committee on Crime had just met with Mr. Rockefeller for an hour and a half to listen to the Governor's account of the uprising in which 30 inmates and 10 hostages lost their lives.

According to the committee chairman, Representative Claude D. Pepper, a Florida Democrat, the need for a far larger Federal role in state prison systems was also discussed.

Won't Prejudge Facts

Mr. Pepper declined to discuss the appropriateness of the Governor's role in the uprising because "we came here to learn. We don't think it's ap-

propriate to prejudge the facts."

After the assault on the prison, Mr. Rangel was one of the harsher of the Governor's critics, saying that he was one of the harsher of the Governor's critics, saying that he was more interested in a "law and order image" than the lives of prisoners and hostages.

Asked whether he still clung to that assertion, Mr. Rangel said a discussion of his personal beliefs were not germane to his role as a committee member.

Nevertheless he said the entire Attica uprising was the fit subject of a Federal Grand jury investigation.

Rockefeller Is Absent

The meeting with the Governor disclosed nothing new to him, the Congressman said.

"We don't know all the facts the Governor relied on," he added or whether "there were distortions of truth or outright lies." A Federal inquiry is needed, Mr. Rangel said, "because Constitutional rights are involved. Attica is a Federal problem."

The committee members said that they had received a promise from the Governor that their inquiries at Attica—including interviews with inmates—would be without impediments.

After their news conference, which the Governor did not attend, the Congressmen were flown in the Governor's private plane to Buffalo whence they proceeded to Attica.

The Governor spent the day in his office, discussing the Attica situation with aides as well as handling routine business.

Gubernatorial aides reported that as of 11 A.M. yesterday Mr. Rockefeller had received 320 telegrams and 536 letters in support of his actions in the Attica tragedy.

There were 244 telegrams and 357 letters critical of his handling of the situation, aides said.

Some time after 2 P.M. an interfaith delegation of clergymen held a prayer vigil outside the Governor's office where they knelt on the concrete and prayed "for this depraved state."

Led by the Rev. Timothy Mitchell, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Flushing, Queens, the group demanded that it be given access to the prison to interview inmates and called for strong representation of the clergy on a citizens committee, yet to be formed, to investigate all aspects of the uprising.

Then they tried to gain access to the building in hope of seeing the Governor. At first,

a guard tried to admit only Mr. Mitchell but after protests such as "It's sealed like Attica," the group of about 10 was admitted and met privately with Mr. Rockefeller for almost two hours.

Conference Interrupted

The Governor interrupted a conference with Republican legislative leaders to sit down with the clergymen.

Afterwards, Mr. Rockefeller said "they had some very constructive ideas about the relation of ministers and the community to the tragedy at Attica."

The Governor said he had told the ministers to make recommendations to the five judges—including Chief Judge Stanley H. Fuld of the Court of Appeals—who were called on by the Governor and the legislative leaders of both parties in Albany Thursday night to pick an impartial investigating committee.

At the Albany news conference following a bipartisan meeting, the state officials were asked about the effect of cuts in prison reform mounds made by the Legislature.

There was general agreement that comment on the subject was not appropriate at this time because "at the moment we want the facts."