

Rocky's Role at Attica Criticized

New York

A congressman, two state legislators and the city corrections commissioner all said yesterday that Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller erred in refusing to go to Attica state prison at the request of rebellious convicts.

The prisoners' rebellion and last Monday's assault on the prison by state troopers and backup personnel left 30 prisoners and ten prison employees dead.

Representative Herman Badillo, (Dem-N.Y.), said he had urged Rockefeller by telephone to go to the prison, but the governor said he feared conditions in other prisons and the breakdown of law and order.

State Senator John Dunne (Rep-Garden City), called the governor's refusal to go to the prison a "crucial mistake."

But Dunne also criticized the "observers committee,"

of which both he and Badillo were members, for failing to decide whether it was to be mediator or advocate for the prisoners.

"The blood of Attica is partially on the heads of everybody," Dunne said.

State Assemblyman Arthur Eve (Dem-Buffalo) another member of the committee, said only Rockefeller could have made the prisoners believe the promise that the state would grant 28 of their 30 demands.

William Vanden Heuvel, chairman of the City Board of Corrections, also said that only Rockefeller could have assured the prisoners that the state meant what it said.

"I hate to say it, but I don't think the state meant it," Vandel Heuvel said.

Many of the demands required legislation and the prisoners knew that, he said.

"That's why the presence of Governor Rockefeller was so crucial. He could have

told them that 'these demands have my support and I'll fight for them in the legislature.'" *Associated Press*