

Dunne Gets Convict Side Of Police Attack at Attica

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STORMVILLE, N. Y., Sept. 20—Inmates of Attica who were transferred to cells in the Green Haven Correctional Facility here gave their version today of what happened in the yard of Attica's Cellblock D before, during and after the police assault seven days ago.

In interviews with State Senator John R. Dunne and two reporters, the prisoners charged that invading state troopers had beaten and killed prisoners. They also spoke of rescues of guards by inmates and told of being caught in the panic of the initial uprising and of then becoming part of the loosely organized prisoners'

government in the captured cellblock.

The men have been confined to third-tier cells in cellblock A here since their transfer last Wednesday and Thursday. Senator Dunne was a member of the observers' committee that sought to end the rebellion at Attica and is chairman of the Senate Committee on Crime and Correction.

No Official Comment

It was the first time that reporters were allowed to interview Attica prisoners following the assault. State officials have declined—on the ground that a legal inquiry is under way—to confirm or deny the prisoners' versions of the events, which were given to lawyers and state and Federal committees over the weekend.

In other developments today stemming from the inmate rebellion and the police assault in which 30 prisoners and 10 hostages were killed:

¶All three inmates whose throats were slashed a day or two before the police retook the prison were officially identified. According to undertakers and medical personnel who saw their bodies, all were white.

¶In Rochester, Elliott James Barkley, one of the slain leaders of the revolt received a funeral at which he was hailed as "a martyr to end man's inhumanity to man." And in the Bronx, Santiago Santos, a 29-year-old prisoner who had told his family he was writing a book, "Return to God," was

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mourned in a funeral service.

¶In Attica, differing versions of the mood and conditions of the prisoners came from their lawyers and from members of the Governor's committee to safeguard inmates' rights. One of the lawyers portrayed the inmates' conditions as intolerable and said they were willing to engage in another revolt, while the committee members said the prisoner rights were being protected and conditions improving.

Personal Interviewing

Senator Dunne did most of the interviewing personally, going from cell to cell and talking to guards and other prison officials as well, including Green Haven's superintendent, John L. Zelker.

Mr. Dunne also visited the Ossining Correctional Facility today in the first day of a statewide swing around the correctional system's major prisons.

What he turns up—such as today's allegations—will be reported, he said, to his committee, scheduled to meet on Friday. He has said that he will hold public hearings and that he intends to use his subpoena power to have correction officials, guards and inmates appear before the committee.

The prisoners who spoke showed some effects of the Attica siege. Some had clothing that was torn and filthy. Others complained of not being treated for injuries suffered in the assault. Shoes, cracked with moisture and caked with mud, lay about the cells.

The men, who have been kept in their cells since they were bused in from Attica, are eating, but they have not had exercise, access to radios or newspapers or any other reading matter.

Shooting Scene Reported

Robert Nartowicz, 37 years old, said he had been in Attica's D cellblock in the aftermath of the police assault, when state troopers were rounding up the rebellious inmates. He reported:

"A guy I saw around the yard, he's walking toward the wall. There's a trooper on the wall. The guy's got his hands on his head, like the helicopter said, and he's walking at the trooper. He's surrendering. The trooper shoots him in the chest with a shotgun."

Nartowicz said the wall he referred to was the low one separating the sections of the Attica yard. Troopers had climbed the wall with ladders

Had he seen anyone else shot?

"I sat next to one that was dying," Nartowicz said. "He said he was shot in the back. The whole thing—you don't expect it, you know, lots of guns going off all over the place."

Interviewed in Quick Walk

Nartowicz and the other prisoners, interviewed as Senator Dunne and reporters walked quickly along the corridors, would not say why they were in prison nor what the length of their sentences were.

Another Attica convict, a tall black man who declined to give his name, said that there had been indiscriminate beating of prisoners in the D yard with wooden clubs and with the butts of rifles and shoguns. "The doctor has looked at me," he said. "He took X-rays. He says there's nothing broken, but I can't bend my arm."

Another black inmate said he had been bewildered by the Attica takeover and by its aftermath.

"I can't tell you much," he said. "I been locked in here since we moved away from that show. We're not allowed out. I was in A block about ready to go to my Dale Carnegie course. It was interrupted. I never got there."

The convicts were part of 220 Attica inmates sent in six buses to Green Haven. According to Superintendent Zelker, 120 more are expected to be transferred, and "t will fill us up."

Green haven has a population of 2,132 inmates, and with the influx of Attica refugees, it has had to reopen an abandoned cellblock that formerly housed a narcotics program.

The program was dropped because of state budget cuts. To staff the reopened block, guards have been brought in from other prisons.

Prisoner Fears Rebels

Another inmate, a white man, who kept wringing his hands nervously and who asked that he be spoken to off to the side of his cell, away from his next-door neighbor, said that he had been in the laundry when the Attica revolt began.

"They busted in," he said of the rebel convicts. "I was able to get four officers and a civilian out in the elevator. I think they seen me. I told the guards, and they kept me in segregation. Then they brought me here."

"I'm staying in my cell until I get out in 14 days. They already measured me for my suit."

yards and in other buildings, that they had no intention of joining in the rebellion. Still others said that the uprising had to happen, "because they treated us like dogs, not like humans."

A man on his cot leaned up on an elbow. His other arm, the right one, was heavily bandaged around the bicep. He had been struck with a rifle butt, he said, but "I'm O.K."

He asked for word about the welfare of some of the main figures in the Attica revolt. He wanted to know how "Herbie" was. "Herbie is believed to be Herbert Blyden, one of the inmate leaders."

'We Just Know'

"How about Jerry the Jew?" the convict asked. "You haven't heard? Big Black Frank Smith? Don't you know nothing? How about Champ?"

He was told that "Champ" was reportedly alive. "Beautiful!" he said.

"L.D.? I know he's dead," he continued. "How do we know. We just know. We know."

"L.D." was Elliott James Barkley, whose funeral was held in Rochester.

Another prisoner said he had found himself in Attica's D yard when the revolt broke and that, because of his height and build, he was appointed to the prisoner's "security force"—the group armed with captured guards' clubs who escorted visitors and observers into and out of the yard.

Most of the transferred inmates said that the food they were getting at Green Haven was adequate but that they wanted "earphones and books." Each cell has two jacks on which prisoners can listen to the radio and to the sound from television programs.

There are not enough earphones to go around, according to Superintendent Zelker, but he said more had been ordered.

The former Attica prisoners said they had nothing to read, and they kept asking for magazines.

One Seeks Lost Papers

One prisoner, Charles McLain, asked Senator Dunne if the Senator would assist him in recovering a mass of legal research he had done, aimed at obtaining review of his imprisonment.