

Clinton Prison Bars Inspection by Dunne

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DANNEMORA, N. Y., Sept. 23—State Senator John R. Dunne, chairman of the Senate Committee on Crime and Correction, who is on a fact-finding tour of prisons, was barred today from the Clinton Correctional Facility here.

The prison superintendent, describing the institution as "very tense," expressed concern for security and said he feared the taking of hostages by inmates.

Among other developments yesterday in the aftermath of the rebellion at the Attica State

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Clinton Prison Bans Dunne Inspection

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Correctional Facility were these:

¶Another inmate of Attica, wounded by gunfire during the police assault on the prison 10 days ago, died in a Buffalo hospital of his wounds, bringing the total number of dead to 41.

¶In Albany, more than 1,000 people, mostly white, rallied to protest the deaths at Attica and to call for the resignation of Governor Rockefeller.

¶In New York, two parallel efforts to draw up a prisoners' "bill of rights" were announced.

¶Several purported leaders of the Attica uprising issued a statement declaring their intention to "clog the wheels" of "the vicious political machine that exists in all New York State prisons."

No Access to Prisoners

At the Clinton Correction Facility here, Senator Dunne, a Republican of Garden City, L. I., was denied permission by State Correction Commissioner Russell G. Oswald to interview the 146 prisoners sent to Clinton from Attica following the rebellion.

The prison superintendent, J. Edwin LaVallee, denied Senator Dunne access to any prisoners at all and would not permit him past the prison's Administration Building.

Clinton was the next-to-last stop on Senator Dunne's four-day fact-finding tour of the state's eight major penal institutions, and it marked the first time that he had received anything but complete cooperation from superintendents, guards and inmates.

As he left the prison this afternoon, the Senator appeared angry. He said he was "surprised and disappointed that I've been prevented from continuing my inspection of our state prisons, which was intended to enable me to present a firsthand report to the full

Senate committee when we meet in New York tomorrow."

"I shall have to discuss this incident, as well as other matters, with the committee and shall have to withhold any further comment until that time," he said.

His disappointments continued at his last stop late today when he was informed by the superintendent of the Great Meadow Correction Facility in Comstock, N. Y.—Joseph Conboy—that he could meet with 462 former Attica inmates there only if he received prior permission from Deputy Attorney General Robert E. Fischer. Mr. Fischer has been appointed by Governor Rockefeller to investigate the Attica prison rebellion.

Mr. Conboy said, however, that Senator Dunne was free to tour other areas of the prison.

Senator Dunne refused to call Mr. Fischer. He said he would enter the prison and abide by Commissioner Oswald's order not to speak to prisoners transferred from Attica.

A Schenectady County Assemblyman, Clark Wemple, Republican-Conservative, was permitted to interview Attica inmates at Great Meadow today because, Mr. Conboy said, "he got permission from Bob Fischer."

Delay by Dunne Asked

Tonight Senator Dunne said that he had spoken by telephone with Senator Earl W. Brydges, Republican of Niagara Falls and the majority leader of the Senate, who told him "he was getting a lot of heat" from other legislators over Senator Dunne's prison tour.

Sources in Albany said late tonight that Mr. Brydges had relayed to Mr. Dunne the "official feeling" of Governor Rockefeller that Senator Dunne should delay his committee's inquiry into Attica until the findings of the Fuld Committee were in.

Last week the Governor asked Chief Judge Stanley H. Fuld and the four presiding justices of the Appellate Division to select a committee to investigate the events at Attica. The justices are still deliberating on their selections.

When Senator Dunne arrived at Clinton this morning after a 150-mile drive from Watertown, he was informed by Superintendent LaVallee that he would not be permitted inside the institution. As Senator Dunne spoke with the superintendent in his office overlooking the terraced prison yard, the phone rang.

"It was Commissioner Oswald," said Senator Dunne. "He told me he didn't want anybody — that means anybody — talking to Attica prisoners. I told him that I had undertaken my tour of the prisons always with the understanding that I would abide by the wishes of the superintendents. Therefore I said I would go along with his wishes."

The Senator said Mr. Oswald had indicated that the State Correction Department had been somewhat disturbed by newspaper accounts of interviews obtained with inmates transferred from Attica to the Green Haven Correctional Facility several days ago.

Superintendent Cites Orders

Mr. LaVallee also said that orders had come from Mr. Fischer, "transmitted through the Correction Department, that nobody was to go near the Attica prisoners." He was asked when the order had been received, and he said "the day before yesterday or the day before that."

Mr. LaVallee said that he was denying access to the prison not only to Senator Dunne but also to newsmen who had been accompanying the Senator, because "it would be at your own peril, and I'm against it."