

# ROCKEFELLER ASKS NEW JUSTICE CODE

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He Calls Attica a Symptom  
of System's 'Illness' but  
Doesn't Outline Plan  
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ALBANY, Sept. 24—Governor Rockefeller said today that "radical reforms" in the state's system of criminal justice could no longer be delayed, and he estimated it would cost \$200-million to replace the state's prisons with new facilities.

But in neither his speech at the dedication of the New York State Bar Association's new center here nor in a later brief interview did the Governor detail what specific reforms he had in mind, or what amounts he would seek.

Although he has told newsmen in the last few days that he would not further discuss the Attica prison uprising until pending investigations were completed, the Governor's opening remarks to lawyers at the ceremony were:

"For all of us, the tragedy at Attica is another symptom of the deep-seated illness of our society."

Mr. Rockefeller's address, billed earlier in the day by some aides as an important speech containing portents of a prison reform plan, was rather general.

Attica, where 31 inmates and 10 hostages were killed during the revolt by prisoners, was "a warning that we can no longer hesitate to diagnose and heal the truly fundamental prob-

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lems," the Governor said.

The failures of the criminal justice system, he went on, "stem as much from the failures of our society and government, in terms of the individual, as from the actions of those small groups which would exploit legitimate grievances not because they want to correct them but because they try to use them for the overthrow of our society."

Mr. Rockefeller said: "We can no longer delay in making radical reforms in our whole system of criminal justice, from the problem of protecting the rights and dignity of innocent citizens on the streets and in

their homes to protecting alike the rights and dignity of both prison inmates and correction officers."

The prevention of future Atticas requires "not only substantial sums of money but also fundamental changes in the attitudes and human relations in our institutions and in each of us as individuals," Mr. Rockefeller said.

## Prison Reform Discussed

Afterwards, the Governor was asked about prison reform in the state and replied that he had met with aides today, including Correction Commissioner Russell G. Oswald.

He had no details to report on a state reform plan, Mr. Rockefeller said, repeating re-

marks that "radical reforms" were needed.

He said he had told Representative Claude Pepper of Florida, the Democrat who heads the House Select Committee on Crime, that it would cost at least \$200-million to replace the state's prisons.

"I wanted him to get a little perspective of the magnitude" of the problem, the Governor said.

But rebuilding of the prisons is a long-term project, newsmen said and when would he start a reform program for the prisons?

"Yesterday," he replied, "it's overdue."

Again he was asked for particulars and, a trifle peeved, he replied "You're not going to get anything specific."

He also declined to comment when asked whether he favored a proposal by a state correction official to isolate prisoners with radical political views, such as those who advocate the violent overthrow of the existing system.

After the dedication ceremony, Mr. Rockefeller left on his plane for Pocantica Hills estate.