

'Sick' Crank Calls Molest Widows of Attica Guards

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By ERIC PACE SEP 29 1971

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ATTICA, N. Y., Sept. 28—Attica townspeople reported today that widows and other relatives of guards held hostage during the prison revolt here were being harassed by anonymous phone callers and unidentified youths who have thrown stones at their houses. "There must be some sick people around," said Attica's Mayor, Richard Mille, at a recent Town Committee meeting after news of the harassment began coming in. Ten of the more than 30 hostages were killed during the four-day revolt. Nine of them when it was crushed by state forces on Sept. 13.

Some townspeople reported that a crank caller had phoned one hostage's widow and snarled, "How is your husband?"

No comment was forthcoming from any of the women involved, but it was reported that another caller had threatened harm to a widow's children.

Neither the callers nor the stone throwers have been identified or apprehended.

Clash Is Feared

Word-of-mouth reports of such incidents have heightened the anxiety of guards and other townspeople. They expect violence if protest demonstrations are planned at various prisons around the country.

"The people here are arming themselves," one villager said today. "They are getting more shotgun shells."

State police prowl cars cruised the leaf-strewn lanes today, on the lookout for troublemakers, and there were these other developments stemming from the revolt:

¶A spokesman for State Deputy Attorney General Robert Fischer said he did not know whether the state would move to quash subpoenas served late yesterday by civil liberties lawyers on Mr. Fischer and on Deputy Correction Commissioner Walter Dunbar and the Attica Prison warden, Vincent R. Mancusi. If the state does not contest the subpoenas, the officials are expected to appear in Federal District Court in Buffalo on Thursday to testify about conditions in the prison.

fund for children of the hostages who were killed. And in Canandaigua the Finger Lakes Racetrack management said it would donate Friday's gate receipts to a fund to aid families of slain hostages and prisoners.

¶Five former New York City detectives have joined Mr. Fischer's staff to help with an investigation of the prison uprising, to Mr. Fischer announced. He said they had resigned from the New York police force and would remain permanently with Mr. Fischer.

Security Precautions Due

No incidents were reported here today, either in the village or the prison, but sources close to the Prison administration said special security precautions were being taken for tomorrow, which will be the first visiting day at the prison since the rebellion.

Attica clergymen warned of possible troublemakers in a joint announcement made over the weekend. It said in part: "The tragedy which is Attica has become the tragedy of the world, and we find that all manner of people, for their own vested interests, want to have a part in the tragedy.

"Projected possible marches, demonstrations and investigations from various sources and motivations are a concern to us."

Earlier Mayor Miller warned at the town meeting that there were unspecified "hotheads" among Attica's population of 2,000 who might clash with demonstrators.

Attica Inquiry Delayed

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

Selection of a citizens' committee to conduct "a full and impartial investigation of all the facts" in the Attica prison uprising is proving elusive.

Nearly two weeks have elapsed since Governor Rockefeller and the legislative leaders of both parties called—on Sept. 16—on five of the state's leading judges to appoint the committee. The committee was asked to "proceed as expeditiously as possible" in making its report.

Since then the five judges have met numerous times, but no committee has been picked.

The judges, including Chief Judge Stanley H. Fuld of the Court of Appeals, the state's highest tribunal, are reluctant to comment about the delay. But judicial sources said yesterday that the task of selecting the committee, which is expected to consist of nine

¶Attica schoolteachers have pledged \$2,000 to an education

members, was complex and that "a large number" of potential members reached by the jurists had refused to serve, either because it would involve a commitment of too much time or because they had personal views about the Attica uprising.

"They're really trying to get a representative, objective impartial group," one source said, "and it's awfully difficult."

In addition to Judge Fuld, the selections for the committee are being made by the four presiding justices of the four departments of the State's Appellate Division. They are Harold A. Stevens, First Department; Samuel Rabin, Second Department; J. Clarence Herlihy, Third Department, and Harry D. Goldman, Fourth Department.

Group's Powers Unclear

The delay in selecting the committee has also produced reports of pressure from the Governor's office for the selection of certain individuals. These reports have been denied by the judges.

Even after the committee is picked and the names announce—perhaps by this weekend, according to sources close to the situation—there remains a question of the precise powers the committee will have.

The judges take the position that their task is solely to select the names of the committee members and that they have no authority over the group's powers. That, they say, must be decided by the Governor and the legislative leaders.

When the idea for the committee was announced, Governor Rockefeller said that the committee would have subpoena powers but that it would not have sway over a state investigation into the criminal aspects of the Attica uprising, in which 42 persons died.

The criminal investigation is being headed by Deputy Attorney General Robert E. Fischer, a Rockefeller appointee.

The Governor has said he is sure Mr. Fischer will "cooperate" with the citizens' committee, "but they are two separate assignments."

On Monday, Mr. Rockefeller and the legislative leaders announced that \$200,000 was being set aside from state emergency funds to cover the cost of the various investigations.

In the next few days another committee to examine the Attica uprising is expected to be announced—this one to study prison reform and make suggestions to the 1972 Legislature.