

PRISON RIOT TIED TO STREET GANGS

Illinois Warden Says Rival
Inmate Factions Fought

Special to The New York Times

PONTIAC, Ill., Oct. 3—Officials of the Illinois Department of Corrections began an investigation today to identify the leaders of a riot yesterday at the Pontiac Branch of the Illinois State Penitentiary.

Warden John J. Petrilli said two inmates were shot last night by guards and seven others were injured. Five guards were injured in the four-hour disturbance, he said.

All 993 inmates at this maximum security penitentiary, 100 miles southwest of Chicago, were locked in their cells while the guards conducted a cell-by-cell search today for weapons and contraband materials, Mr. Petrilli said.

The warden said the disturbance broke out about 4 P.M. yesterday when two inmates began fighting in the recreation yard. A "full-scale" fight then erupted between inmates allied with two rival Chicago street gangs, the Disciples and the Black P. Stone Nation, he said.

75% of Inmates Black

He said that 75 per cent of the inmates were black and that the average age was 19 years. Only seven of the prison's 300 guards and administrators are black, officials said. Mr. Petrilli said most of the inmates were from the Chicago area and were serving short-term sentences for burglary and armed robbery.

Mr. Petrilli said the two inmates were shot in the leg by tower guards when they broke into a commissary and began looting.

The warden said that several mattresses had been set afire but that the fires had quickly been extinguished by prison guards. One gallery of the North Cellhouse was flooded when inmates blocked a drain, and several windows were broken, he said. Corrections officials said no damage estimate had been made.

Peter B. Bensinger, director of the State Department of Corrections, said the leaders of the riot might be prosecuted. He said other discipline could include deprivation of privileges, segregation or isolation.

Vermont Concessions Granted

WINDSOR, Vt., Oct. 3 (AP)—State Prison inmates who have refused to work since last Wednesday to enforce a list of demands won some small concessions over the weekend.

The 140 prisoners involved in the work stoppage have been kept locked in their cells.

John J. Welch, the bargaining agent for the prisoners, said prison officials had agreed to grant commissary privileges to the prisoners and to allow them to have hot water in their cells.

Protest in New Bedford

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Oct. (AP)—About 100 of the 111 inmates of the Bristol County House of Correction staged a demonstration today to further their demands for improved conditions. Sheriff Edward K. Dabrowski met with a committee of eight of the prisoners and said he would take the demands under advisement.