

Some Inmates of Rahway State Prison Facing Charges Stemming From Riot

By RICHARD J. H. JOHNSTON
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TRENTON, Nov. 29—Inmates of Rahway state prison face criminal prosecution and institutional disciplinary punishment if they are found to have committed crimes or infractions of prison rules in last week's rebellion, Gov. William T. Cahill said here this morning.

At a news conference here, Governor Cahill twice said:

"There never was any agreement that there would be no retribution—if 'retribution' is to be interpreted to mean disciplinary proceedings and, in the event of crime, punishment after indictment and trial."

To secure the release last Thursday night of the prison superintendent, U. Samuel Vukcevic, and five of his guards who were held hostage by the prisoners for about 24 hours, Mr. Cahill said two "basic" agreements were reached between the inmates and the authorities.

Prisoners Get Assurance

"No brutality was to be permitted and no corporal punishment of prisoners" will be countenanced, the Governor said.

He added that the prisoners also had been given assurance that a "just and fair adjustment" of grievances would be sought.

He said that the State Attorney General, George F. Kugler Jr., had full authority and responsibility to conduct investigations of possible crimes in connection with the uprising and to act within the area of his responsibilities.

To implement the promise of an early hearing of prisoners' grievances, the Governor noted

that Lloyd B. Westcott, president of the State Board of Control of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, had, at the Governor's behest, appointed a five-man committee that will meet with five inmate representatives from the Rahway institution as soon as they have been chosen by the prisoners in an election.

The Rahway inmates will elect 15 representatives from among the prison's 1,143-man population. The 15 will then elect from among their number five men who will meet with the state representatives to form a committee of 10, which will discuss inmate grievances.

The Governor said that he had ordered the same procedure of prisoner selection of representatives instituted at the State Prison here, including at least one man identified by prison officials as a "leader" in the rebellion. The announcement from the Governor's office carried an addendum that stated:

"Men who were moved out of the institution in the last two days may be considered as representatives in the housing units of their previous residence.

The Governor said that visitors would not be permitted at the Rahway Prison this week for reasons of security, but visitations might resume Sunday.

He said estimates indicated that repair of damage at the prison would probably exceed \$350,000.

Mr. Cahill said prisoner mail service had been restored, and he expressed the hope that the Rahway rebellion might "impress both the taxpayers and the Legislature" that "it is es-

sential, if we are going to do things in prison reform that need to be done, we must spend money."

He added that the state needed two and possibly three new prisons, at a cost of \$25-million each; and that action of the Legislature and a referendum might lead to that goal.

Troopers Withdrawn

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WOODBIDGE, N. J., Nov. 29

—State troopers removed their barricades from the road in front of Rahway state prison today and withdrew from the area, but visitors were still refused admittance to the institution.

The state troopers had blocked approaches to Woodbridge Road yesterday after Dr. Maurice G. Kott, acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies, had banned visitors as a security measure.

Guards at the entrance of the maximum-security prison told visitors and newsmen today that no one would be admitted "until further notice."

Representatives of the office of the State Public Defender, however, visited for the fourth consecutive day, offering legal advice to about 100 of the 500 inmates involved in the 24-hour rebellion that ended Thursday night.

One of the lawyers said that the inmates wanted to know if they had to answer questions raised by members of the State Police Criminal Investigation Division, which is investigating the uprising. A police team has been questioning guards since Saturday, but no prisoner has been asked for information so far, the lawyer said.



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RAHWAY PRISON RIOT DISCUSSED: Gov. William T. Cahill, third from left, at news conference in his office yesterday in the Capitol in Trenton. Others, identifiable from the left: Col. David B. Kelly, the Superintendent of State Police; Attorney General George F. Kugler Jr. and Albert Wagner, the director of correction and parole.