

Prisons Are Where It's At--Berrigan

New York

The Reverend Daniel Berrigan, the anti-war priest released last week from federal prison, said yesterday he believed that the focus of protest in America was moving from college campuses to prisons where it would become far more bloody.

"I have an obscure feeling that the center of gravity of action and change is shifting to the prison scene," Berrigan said, pointing to the revolt last September in Attica State Prison in which 43 persons died.

"It's not going to be fun because it's not going to involve the privileged sons of the middle class and the fairly careful treatment of them," Berrigan said in a television interview.

DANBURY

Berrigan said the federal prison at Danbury, Conn. where he served 18 months of a three-year sentence for the destruction of draft records at Catonsville, Md., in 1968, was not "typical" of the prison scene. Danbury is nicknamed a "country club" prison.

The Jesuit priest said Attica was a better example because there prisoners could be "very clear about the necessity of survival and resistance" and because of the "bloody" price tag Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller placed on ending the revolt.

TOLL

Thirty-two prisoners and 11 hostages were shot to death when state police stormed the facility in western New York to regain control.

Berrigan said the "underground" at Danbury reported that "four federal prisons are on serious strikes at present" but that he had seen only one brief reference to a

strike at the Lewisburg, Pa., prison in a newspaper.

"I had a kind of suffocated feeling that unless there were violence involved the press was not interested in us," Berrigan said.

Berrigan appeared on the NBC television program, "Meet The Press."

United Press