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## New Convicts Are Rebels, 3 Testify in Attica Inquiry

By MICHAEL T. KUAFMAN

ROCHESTER, April 13—Two correction officers from the Attica prison and a former convict told the McKay Commission today of the emergence within the last five years of a new kind of inmate. The former convict said that, as an old-timer, he had found it easier to relate to guards than to the new breed of prisoner.

"The younger men don't conform—they are more apt to challenge authority," said Sgt. James Cochrane, 36 years old, who has worked in the prison for the last 13½ years.

"These people, by nature, see fit to break the rules regulating society outside—so, of course, they're going to break regulations on the inside in a more restrictive society," Sergeant Cochrane told the commission, which was in the second day of its three-week public hearings on the events surrounding the prisoner uprising at Attica last September.

The second correction officer to take the witness stand echoed his colleague's assessment and further criticized the prison administration for not recognizing and dealing with this change in attitude. This officer, Harold Goewey, 43, said he had requested and received a transfer from duty in the disciplinary section of the prison because of the rain of abuse that had increased there.

Mr. Goewey said that after 12 years in the section, he was taunted nightly and debris was thrown at him by inmates.

"I would write reports on these incidents, but nothing seemed to change," he said.

In addition, the officer said, five years ago guards were forbidden to use gas to quell disruptive inmates in the section and were now virtually powerless to enforce discipline.

He also said the administration had failed to heed officer's warnings of increased tension before the September uprising, which led to the deaths of 32 prisoners and 11 guards and civilian employees.

"We asked for a warning system and riot training, but we never received these things," the officer testified.

Mr. Goewey, like Sergeant Cochrane, said he had never seen or heard of officers abusing or brutalizing inmates. He added that he would like to see the adoption of realistic rules for inmates that could be enforced, instead of the current guidelines, which he characterized as arbitrary.

The inmate witness was Walter Swift, 48, a convicted murderer who received clemency from Governor Rockefeller and had his sentence reduced because of his work as a nurse during the uprising at Attica.

He said that his "bitterness towards society started to leave after I began to acclimatize myself toward prison life." That process, he said, took about eight years.

"My cardinal rule was to do your time in the best way possible, and the new guys don't always see that," Mr. Swift said.

He also said that while working as a nurse in the Attica prison hospital, he had never seen inmate patients disfigured by signs of brutality.

In years past, he added, when an inmate committed an infraction, he could count on being punished and would accept that punishment. The inmates of previous days, he also recalled, often called guards "sir" or—"if they knew the guards well"—called them by their last names.

As he left the hearing, Mr. Swift told a reporter: "The old system was my system."

Mr. Swift's remarks were followed by the testimony of a 22-year-old Puerto Rican inmate, Luis Martinez, who is serving his fourth year at Attica on a 10-year manslaughter sentence.

Martinez, an elected member of the prisoner's liaison committee, told the commission of being beaten by guards in an elevator.

In an impassioned statement that brought him near tears,

Martinez said that conditions at the prison today — food, clothing, and inmate-guard relations — had not improved since the September riot.

He added that the authorities had so far ignored the three suggestions put forth by the committee: to allow inmates to turn off their own lights at night, to allow men to sit, rather than stand, while being counted three times a day, and to permit longer evening recreation time.