Inmate Tells Hearing of Life at Attica

By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN Special to The New York Times

ROCHESTER, April 14 - A 50-year-old black inmate who conceded that his life in the Attica prison was far better than that of the average convict there told the McKay Commission here today of prison routines that even in the absence of overt brutality "harass" and "dehumanize" inmates.

"You don't have to put a hand on me to degrade me," said the inmate, Edward Youn who has been in the Attica Correctional Facility since 1960, serving a 30-to-60-year sen-tence for the killing of his father-in-law.

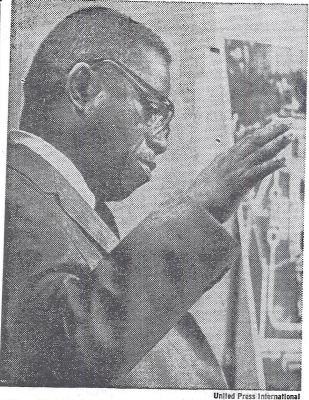
The commission, headed by Robert B. McKay, dean of the New York University Law School, was appointed to investigate the circumstances of last September's rebellion at Attica. Thus far it has explored prison life through testimony of inmates and members of the custodial staff. When it re-sumes its hearings in New York City on Monday, it will focus more directly on avents load more directly on events leading up to the five days of turmoil, which ended with the deaths of 43 inmates and other tions. Packages have to weigh the guards," he said. "I like

as a World War II veteran re-last month he was told he could ing, hunting and fishing. But ceiving \$40 a month in usable no longer receive a emonate ity payments he was in a fa-vored position. Then, too, he said, his youth in upstate Jamestown, where he lived in a white neighborhood as theson, chorts on a wisit "Three of a chance." white neighborhood as theson, brought him six pairs of under-ofa" loving" minister father, shorts on a visit. "Three of a chance." gave him advantages that most give those up for security reading update gave him advantages that most give those up for security rea- a guard—one of the three or Puerto Ricans do not have.

Restrictions of Prison

tion in childhood. Young said he now held "one of the best. The underlying assumption of jobs in the prison," power-this rule is that men could es-house clerk. He is trusted by cape disguised as guards. "Can you imagine," he said, "year in and year out you're an adult and you can't think, you can't express an opinion. the administration and has a As to racial prejudice, he administration and has a pass that lets hime move freely said that when he first came expects you to act the same, through the prison. He is also to the prison "it was worse to line up every day the same. trusted by the inmates and was elected in March to serve on Attica's new inmates liaison the were separate white and have gotten a letter telling him committee.

Young noted the many ways convicts.



Edward Young of Jamestown at the Rochester hearing

Young explained today that no more than 15 pounds. And the same things they do-bowl-

He told of his two daughters in college and of never having experienced racial discrimina-mitted blue clothing, since this adults.

But having explained all this haircuts for whites and blacks been in jail for three years."

Once, he said, he had heard sons," he said, drawing laugh- four he regards as "outright ter from the commission and a racists" use the term "nigger." handful of spectators watching But worse than racism, Mr.

you can't express an opinion.

black sport teams and different his wife's pregnant and he's Young noted the many ways prison bureaucracy restricted his life and that of his fellow said, noting that now blacks which also included statements convicts can hold almost any job in the by correction officers and the Prisoners, he said, are not al-lowed to receive cigars or cigarettes from their families, even though these theings are not forbidden at other institu-"I get along with most of be provided by the Legislature.