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Attica Riot

Figure Gets 20 to Life

BUFFALO, May 8 (UPI)—A former inmate found guilty of murdering a guard during the 1971 Attica Prison rebellion today was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison.

A second former inmate was released on bail after being sentenced on lesser charges in the guard's death.

State Supreme Court Justice Gilbert H. King, who sentenced John B. Hill, 23, of Buffalo, said, however, "The court strongly recommends—for obvious reasons—that the defendant not be confined in Attica."

King later sentenced Charles J. Pernasilice, 22, of Camillus, to up to three years in prison for attempted second-degree assault. Pernasilice was found guilty last month by the same jury that convicted Hill.

The justice suspended execution of the sentence pending an appeal, and ordered Pernasilice's \$10,000 bail continued.

Both men were convicted last month in the death of guard William E. Quinn, the first of 43 persons to die during the Attica riot.

Pernasilice's attorney, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, had asked the justice to place the defendant on probation.

King originally sentenced Pernasilice to up to two years in prison, but had to call him back to the courtroom because he had sentenced the defendant to a lesser term than the law allowed.

King told Hill in imposing sentence that Quinn didn't die "in the immediate tumultuous circumstances" as the riot erupted Sept. 9, 1971, but "while he lay defenseless, unconscious, unresisting outside of the A-yard door, you took it upon yourself to make certain he would live no more."

Hill made a lengthy statement prior to his sentencing, concluding with an Oglala Sioux prayer. Both defendants claim American Indian heritage.