Key Attica Figure Goes Back to Work

ROCHESTER, N.Y., April 7 (AP)—John F. Edland, the doctor who disproved reports that prison inmates slit the throats of hostages and castrated one during the 1971 Attica prison revolt, is back on the job after six months in a psychiatric hospital.

Describing himself as "an Attica casualty," Edland, 41, returned to his position as Monroe County medical examiner last week after six months as a patient at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Conn.

"I always considered myself 'establishment,' but the state turned against me. It began to affect me, and I couldn't shake it. Being a pathologist isn't a normal way of spending your life.

"I had always been able to separate the strain of work from my personal life. After Attica, it became more difficult."

Last September, police in suburban Brighton arrested Edland, 41, on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

After spending some time in Strong Memorial Hospital, he was transferred to the Hartford psychiatric clinic.

"In Hartford, I saw many patients who just didn't want to get well, but I had the deep desire to come back," he said.