

Thursday, August 26, 1971

'Martyrdom' for A Brutal Killer

FRANK DeLEON, one of the San Quentin correctional officers whose throat was sawed open with a dull razor blade in last Saturday's gush of primitive convict violence at the prison, was buried Tuesday. Afterward his widow said poignantly, "Every article we've picked up glorifies George Jackson as a political prisoner but nobody seems to care about the officers."

We care.

We care so much we are gripped by a cold fury as we watch the calculated campaign of leftist lawyers, preachers and others to martyrize this bloody killer.

George Jackson was an intelligent man. As a writer he may even have been a gifted man. But when he was cornered in his prison break-out scheme at San Quentin Saturday afternoon, he led other convicts into one of the most cruel, savage and beastly series of murders in prison annals.

Yet the leftists and the bleeding hearts have the consummate gall to cry repeatedly, in print and on the air, that this creature was "a beautiful person" shot down cold-bloodedly in a plot hatched by the prison administration. In a big lie perversion of facts they seek to make choir boys of criminals and criminals of prison officers. They demand protection for the savage or savages who wielded that dull razor blade on the jugulars of five men now dead.

LET US REMEMBER who died in that bloody episode at San Quentin, and how they died.

Let us remember that only one escaping convict died. That was George Jackson, shot from a prison tower as he raced for a prison wall with five lifeless bodies behind him.

Let us remember that three prison correctional officers died at the hands of the convicts — died horribly with blood gushing from their throats.

Let us remember that two other convicts were killed by their fellow convicts in the same way simply because they wanted no part of the escape plot.

Does that roster of the dead sound like a plot of prison administrators to kill George Jackson? Is such frenzied murder the stuff of which martyrs are made? Yes, but only in the twisted minds of the people who are trying to destroy the system of justice of this society.

They have gone too far.