SFExaminer

San Quentin Warden Will Take Time Off

By Robert Patterson

Associate Warden James Park of San Quentin, whose bitterly passionate statement of recrimination over the recent "adjustment center" bloodbath struck a new note in bureaucratic candor, is moving off the firing line for a while.

Noting that he was suffering from "battle fatigue" after presiding over "a nine day stint of overlapping crises," correctional authorities said Park would take "a week or so off in order to recharge his batteries."

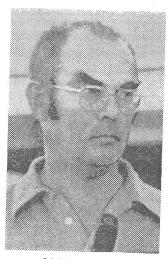
Park himself was a little more to the point.

Support Given

"I've got to get away for awhile in order to wash the fresh blood from my soul," he told friends. "I can do that much for sure. The stains will probably remain."

It had been rumored that Park was being shunted aside because of his salty remarks to the media about the guilty responsibility of "leftwing lawyers" at the time of the killings.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Correctional Commissioner Ray Procunier told The Examiner yester-



JAMES PARK
"Away for a while"

day. "I heartily support his statements to the press."

'Steam-Up Men'

Park himself reiterated his condemnation of the "steam-up men" from outside that he believes were involved.

"Jackson would be alive today if it were not for his white advisors. They know very well who they are. They had nothing to lose by setting him up to be knocked down. If he had escaped they would have had a hero to work with. Dead, he became a martyr.

"The sad thing about the matter is that on both sides of this terrible thing, bloody symbols have to be set up before there is reaction of an effective nature.

"Even after the San Rafael courthouse killings people didn't react sufficiently to the violent, criminal revolution that is being mounted against society.

"Now — with more bodies to make the point — the public seems to be getting the message. But it's such a tragic, expensive way in which to make the point.

'No Backing Down'

"One thing sure . . . insofar as I am concerned, there will be no backing down before aggression in the future. There will be complete and total protection of our guards and personnel and of the great majority of white, black, brown and yellow convicts who want no part of wanton, insensate assaults upon them and us.

"Meanwhile I am going to make my own recovery from this incredible piece of savagery, and mourn my personal loss of the good men—three officers and two inmates—who fell victim to it."