

New Quentin Mystery: Con Spirited From Cell

By Larry D. Hatfield

A new element of mystery has been injected into the aftermath of the Aug. 21 San Quentin violence with the disappearance of one of the con-

victs involved. The Examiner learned today.

Prison officials reluctantly confirmed yesterday that convict Allan Mancino, one of the 27 inmates in the max-

imum security Adjustment Center where the violence occurred, has been "removed" from the prison hospital and the prison itself.

They admitted he was taken from the prison "before

Saturday" but refused to say why or how he was taken or where he is now.

Reliable sources told The Examiner, however, that Mancino was spirited away in an unmarked prison car and now is believed to be under heavy guard at Vacaville.

The source said it appeared Mancino was under pressure to be a state's witness against several other convicts in the Adjustment Center.

"The word is that he was moved from San Quentin to protect his life," the source said. "When official comment is made it probably will be that Mancino, as a material witness, was in danger of

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being murdered to silence him."

Prison officials flatly refused to discuss Mancino or his removal. They even refused, when asked, to supply his age, his hometown, what he was convicted of, or why he was in the Adjustment Center.

This morning, however, after early editions of The Examiner were published, prison officials relented and released further information on Mancino's background.

They said the 25 year old

convict was sentenced in 1965 to six months to life for robbery in Los Angeles County. While he was at Soledad, in 1968, he received an additional one to 20 year sentence for assault to commit sodomy.

Joseph O'Brien, spokesman for the prison, said he was in Q's Adjustment Center because he was "a problem case and gets involved in assaultive situations and disobeying the rules. He has a lot of hostility toward other inmates and he's always involved. If something is going on, he's in the fringes of it."

May Talk to D.A.

O'Brien, who said Mancino's case "may be" discussed with Marin District Attorney Bruce Bales, added a cryptic comment on Mancino's present condition: "I can only comment that his condition is good from a medical standpoint."

He refused further comment.

Mancino, a white, is known to have had close ties with at least some of the black political militants in the Adjustment Center, including, the source said, George Jackson.

He was wounded in the aftermath of the abortive escape attempt involving Jackson Aug. 21 but details of the wounding — and, in fact, Mancino's role in the violence — were hazy.

Prison officials first said he was shot in the leg with a

shotgun when he "acted like he was getting up" when the Adjustment Center residents were being forced to lie nude and face down outside the center while a shakedown for weapons was underway.

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The prison later said he was wounded by ricocheting cement pieces sent flying by a warning shot.

Dr. Carlton Goodlett, a black leader and physician who visited the prison Friday with other black leaders, said he was not allowed to see Mancino but he had seen his medical chart. His wounds, the chart revealed, would be consistent either with ricocheting cement or shotgun pellets, Goodlett said.

Some radical lawyers have claimed since the violence that Mancino's "leg was shot off," a version denied by Goodlett and by a panel of three Marin doctors' who reportedly saw Mancino in the hospital last week. The doctors' identities were withheld.

Monday, a team of black legislators and four members of the Marin County Grand Jury were in the prison but did not visit the prison hospital where Mancino had been before his removal.