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Reagan Says Dissidents Recruit Cons

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Revolutionaries unsuccessful in recruiting students to their cause have turned to the Nation's prisoners to bolster their ranks, Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday.

But society cannot afford to negotiate with rebellious inmates even when they capture hostages, he said.

"There can be no compromise with those who hold so little regard for human life that they would maim or kill unarmed captives," he said.

"If civilization is to survive, we can never buy peace through appeasement. It is a price we cannot pay."

He added, "It is an outrageous distortion of values that some now question the necessity and even the morality of those who had the courage to act decisively" in the Attica Prison uprising.

The 60-year-old Republican governor told the convention of the California Real Estate Association that revolutionaries failed to gain the allegiance of the young because "the decency of our youth caused them to turn against terrorism."

So now, he said, criminals have become the "target of agitation and propaganda. Criminals who have been judged guilty of one misdeed seek to mitigate the enormity of their crimes by becoming advocates of a political cause."

Their cause is not aimed at redressing legitimate grievances but "a brutal call to terrorism, violence and even murder," the governor said.

"And incredibly enough, they have discovered they have sympathizers on the outside. This too, is a part of the bitter harvest of permissiveness."

Associated Press