

An 'Insurrection'

New Outburst at Jail in Stockton Ends Peacefully

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Stockton

Inmates in San Joaquin county's maximum security jail were returned peacefully to their cells last night after a tense standoff with sheriff's deputies most of the afternoon.

About 250 inmates took part in what authorities termed an "insurrection" that began early yesterday and culminated in a virtual

stalemate between armed officers and prisoners.

At 7:30 p.m. Sheriff Michael Canlis, heading a force of 80 law officers, began moving the inmates back into their cells a few at a time. No trouble was reported.

All the prisoners were then locked up for the night and chains and padlocks were placed on each cell door. Canlis said they would remain locked up today until authorities could meet with inmate spokesmen to discuss their grievances.

GAS

Seven inmates were treated for inhaling tear gas that was fired into a three-tiered cell block earlier in the day to force them out into a concrete exercise yard.

Sheriff Canlis and two of his deputies suffered minor cuts from debris thrown by prisoners at the height of the incident.

Sheriff's officials said the disturbance, second in three days at the institution, began about 9 a.m. yesterday when ten inmates refused to go to

a court hearing as part of a continuing protest over slow court procedures and crowded jail conditions.

About 50 other inmates who were out of their cells on the second tier of the jail began a milling, shouting demonstration in support of the ten.

Canlis and Public Defender Robert Chargin attempted in vain to talk the ten prisoners into going to court and the remainder into returning to their cells.

The prisoners, however, were growing increasingly angry and began breaking up iron beds and window glass, according to authorities.

IRRITATION

About 11:30 a.m., Stockton Municipal Court Judge William Woodward, in a mood of irritation, ordered the sheriff to bring the ten inmates to court "no matter how—leg

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shower of glass and bed iron, deputies said. Canlis suffered a cut on his head from a glass fragment, but the other men were uninjured, deputies said.

In the meantime, deputies said, some inmates had succeeded in getting to the first and third tiers and forcing open some of the cells there. Some inmates had also reached ventilators in the ceiling and were trying to make a break for the roof, authorities said.

Canlis ordered the cell-block filled with bursts of

tear gas.

The inmates were forced into a walled concrete exercise yard ringed with armed deputies. For an hour, the demonstration seemed to be ebbing, then, authorities said, inmates began hurling loose debris at the deputies and some inmates tried to force their way back into the cell block.

The resulting standoff lasted for more than three hours while Canlis called for more help.

Shortly after 10 p.m., when all the inmates had been

locked up, Judge Cechini and the foreman of the county Grand Jury entered the cell-block to confer with the leaders of the disturbance.

Canlis said the situation inside the cellblock was "tense" and noted the problem is compounded by the fact there are more prisoners accused of serious crimes—including those accused of 20 murders—than the facility was built to handle.

Yesterday's trouble came after a riot late Sunday when about 75 inmates seized control of part of the jail for some seven hours in a protest over court procedures

and jail conditions.

The inmates said they want a Federal grand jury investigation of jail conditions, lower bails, more help from the public defender and a drug rehabilitation program. The inmates charged that the jail, considered a model institution when it was opened in 1955, is overcrowded and lacks proper ventilation or air conditioning.

The maximum security facility located at French Camp about seven miles from Stockton is separate from the county's larger minimum security jail farm facility nearby.