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San Quentin
Hunger
Strike Ends

A six-day hunger strike by 22 convicts at San Quentin prison's maximum security adjustment center came to an apparent end yesterday when all 22 accepted breakfast and lunch.

Officer Lee DeBord said the last two holdouts broke their fast by eating a breakfast served on paper plates and a cold lunch consisting of a sandwich and a beverage.

Having meals served on metal plates, and hot rather than cold food served at lunch-time, were among demands made by the inmates to Warden Louis Nelson when the strike began Monday.

"I guess they just got hungry," said DeBord, in commenting on why the fast had ended. "We haven't dealt with them in any way, shape or form and at this time, I don't know if there ever will be any such meeting."

The first break in the strike occurred Saturday morning when 15 of the 22 prisoners accepted breakfast. Another five joined them for the evening meal, leaving only two holdouts.

DeBord declined to identify the two who had held out the longest, but added that Soledad Brothers John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, along with Ruchell Magee, were among those to take food Saturday.

Magee is charged along with Angela Davis in connection with the Marin county courthouse shootout.

The strike was touched off by the dinner served inmates of the center last Sunday — a meal of ice cream, topped with a pork chop, gravy, potatoes and bread — all of which was served on a paper

plate, the prisoners claimed.

Among their eight demands, the convicts wanted "hot food on metal trays"; exercise privileges; access to the prison chapel; more lenient visiting rights; "adequate and humane" medical care; commissary privileges; literature on "black and brown culture"; and a conference with John Apostle, head of the prison's inmate care and treatment division.