

# Quentin Beating Charges Denied

By Tom Hall

Allegations of brutal beatings by guards at San Quentin Prison and denial of medical attention for inmates have been branded as "completely false" by Associate Warden James Park.

The branding came in an affidavit of Park's filed yesterday with U.S. District Judge Spencer Williams, who was considering a request for a temporary restraining order to halt the suspension of visits by attorneys at the state prison.

Attorneys Philip Ryan and George Vaughn, representing five inmates, including Ruchell Magee, also wanted the court to allow private doctors into the prison on the claim medical attention was being denied by prison authorities for inmates.

## Requests Denied

Williams, noting everyone recognized there was an emergency at Quentin, denied both requests and said:

"I find it not unreasonable for the authorities to impose a temporary suspension on visits. If it persists for any length of time, it can be reconsidered.

"The question of the degree of medical care pretty much rests with the prison authorities but there is no serious evidence of beatings and the authorities assert medical attention is being given."

State Deputy Attorney General Charles R. B. Kirk also filed affidavits of Dr. John B. Krahl, a prison physician; and Jack V. La Velle and Arthur L. Simon, both medical technical assistants at the prison.

## No Complaints

Krahl, who made a tour Sunday at 10:15 a.m. of the approximately 26 men in the adjustment center, said he asked each man if he needed medical attention.

Thirteen or 14 needed attention for minor injuries, Krahl said.

He specifically said that the two remaining Soledad Brothers — John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo — who claimed they were beaten af-

ter the attempted Saturday escape, made no complaint to him or did they show evidence of being beaten.

Simon, who accompanied the doctor on the tour, agreed.

La Velle said he examined each of the 26 Saturday afternoon as they lay prone and nude in the grass outside the

center from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The medical assistant said he examined them from a distance of three feet and saw no bruises or abrasions or any evidence they had been beaten or were being threatened.

Park's affidavit conceded it had been necessary to use batons on a few in order to get them to obey orders but

that "no unnecessary force was used."

As to Clutchette's claims that one inmate's leg was broken and another one had his teeth knocked out, Kirk said no legs were broken and that the inmate who reportedly had his teeth knocked out "apparently lost his plates (False teeth)."