

the nation

Prison uprising leaves guard dead

Black inmates save white hostages

United Press International
DALLAS, Ga. — Prison authorities Monday said a group of black inmates provoked two white guards in a violent riot that left two white inmates and a guard dead at the Georgia State Prison.

Investigators also said the bloody outbreak may have been inspired by a similar riot at an Illinois prison, where guards had been killed and three inmates injured a day earlier.

The administration feels that it was the riot at the Illinois prison, where a guard was killed and two inmates were injured, that did stem out of the outbreak at the Georgia State Prison, said State Corrections Commissioner Sara Passmore. "It was somewhat similar. There were no demands by the inmates."

Investigators were also trying to determine the cause of the riot — the fourth at the

sprawling prison since March — was racially motivated. All three victims were white and authorities said the inmates who took the hostages were black. Corrections officials said the three earlier incidents were "racially motivated."

Passmore said authorities suspected a link to the Illinois prison violence because "sometimes when we have incidents in our institutions, it spreads to others; it's like wildfire, I guess."

She said the two guards rescued when the prison riot squad charged into barricaded dormitories may owe their lives to a group of black inmates who wanted to help make peace.

Passmore said Evans and Warden Joe Hopper went over initial investigation reports early Monday and found that some black inmates locked the two uninjured sur-

vivors — one black, one white — in a part of the dormitory just before the riot squad charged.

"Their lives being saved was actually credited to a group of black inmates," she said. "They closed themselves in one of the dormitories. When the riot squad came in, they were unharmed."

The uprising began about 4:10 p.m. as inmates were being taken to dinner. Officials said several black inmates grabbed four guards as hostages and set fire to bedding materials in two dormitory buildings.

An hour later, a prison-riot squad broke through barricades that the inmates had set up. They found one white guard, identified as Dan Harrison, stabbed to death. Another guard, Preston Foskey, 32, was hospitalized in serious condition with as many as 10 stab wounds.

The other two guards were not injured. The riot squad also found the bodies of two inmates, who were not immediately identified pending notification of their families.

Prison authorities confiscated numerous homemade knives which were found hidden in inmate belongings following the disturbance.

Passmore said the two buildings in which the violence occurred contain four dormitories each. Six of the dormitories house black inmates and the other two white inmates.

U.S. District Judge Anthony Alaimo issued an order earlier this month requiring the state to segregate living quarters for 60 days in an effort to cool racial tensions. Alaimo also ordered the state to reduce the 2,895-man population of the prison by 600 men.

Personal ties cause judge to decline Passman case

United Press International
NEWPORT, La. — A federal judge has declined to hear the bribery-tax case of former Rep. Otto Passman because of family ties to an accounting company that Passman owns.

Judge Tom Stagg said he excused himself from the case because his brother-in-law, John Savage, is senior partner in a law firm in the company that dealt with Passman.

Stagg learned Friday that he was excused from the trial of Passman, who is accused of conspiring to pay \$213,000 in bribes from

South Korean businessman Tongsun Park, accepting \$98,000 of the money and evading taxes on the amount.

Stagg said Saturday that he did not expect to remove himself from the case because the tie was so remote. But Sunday he said he had reconsidered and would present the issue to the senior judge of the circuit for consideration. Monday his law clerk said he had decided to eliminate himself from the case.

"It would appear that if John Savage is a witness, it might be better that I excuse myself," he said. "I don't think anybody can fail to be aware that judges want to avoid im-

propriety or any appearances of impropriety."

Savage is married to the sister of Stagg's wife. He is senior partner of Savage, Moore, Miles and Johnston, which reportedly handled Passman's accounting. But Stagg refused comment on the matter, saying it would be unethical to discuss clients' affairs.

Senior Judge Nauman Scott of the Western District of Louisiana originally was expected to preside over the trial, but he removed himself because his son also was involved in accounting for Passman.

No date has been set yet for the trial.

Democratic party heads criticize support from national committee

United Press International
DALLAS, N.M. — Democratic leaders in the West are critical of financial and technical support from the national committee and members of midwestern losses unless congressional improve.

Democratic National Chairman White Sunday told western leaders that the party is more than \$1 million in debt and will need to stop talking about registration and do something about it.

"Every state in the West but Hawaii voted for Gerald Ford in 1976 and state chairmen and national committee members said the national party must do more to

Bert Coffey, the California state chairman, said operations must be upgraded soon.

"We don't need anybody from the DNC to hold our hands," he said Sunday at the conference organized by the Democratic National Committee. "We don't need some guy with a \$1,000 fee to tell us where the poor people live. We know. We need to stop talking about registration and do something about it."

"Every state in the West but Hawaii voted for Gerald Ford in 1976 and state chairmen and national committee members said the national party must do more to

John Castellano, party chairman in the 1st Congressional District in Colorado, said the national committee can supply literature on issues and help target groups who will support Democrats. The party cannot plead poverty and default on its constituency, he said.

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