

## Guards Get Their Say

But, Governor's promise in this year's race for governor could benefit New Yorkers, in general, and particularly state law enforcement, his candidacy will provide a different perspective on issues of public policy — prison voter choice.

The month ahead will be nothing, Governor will prove to be more than a mere figurehead, a speaker who helps other still. Clinton into the White House, or Michael Bloomberg, who would up with the apple at New York City mayor.

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### Guards get their say

■ At last, the state will hear accounts of Attica riot from guards or their families.

In 1971, when the only riot of the 1970s, riot at the Attica Correctional Facility, guards were also killed or injured.

However, the families of the slain prison workers who have been overwhelmed. The guards' names, names of their relatives, names, shared in an all-millennium settlement in 1990.

Now, at least, the guards who were held hostage for families of those who were that will have their say. The state has finally agreed to hold hearings, two in Rochester next week, to accept their testimony on the bloodshed prison riot in U.S. history.

To his credit, U.S. District Judge Michael T. Spoto, who presided over the trial of the guards, said the right of the guards to speak out.

Both inmates and hostages deserve justice, Governor told a Law Day luncheon this week.

That, both groups suffered. Of the 43 people killed during the riot or the running of the prison, 12 were Attica employees, and in 1971 they were killed by state police bullets.

Following hearings to strategize as well as the fact in the 30-year-old case is a good step. However, the state will most determine if the 12 inmates who gave up their right to sue by accepting death benefits were wronged. If so, that wrong must be put right.

As Tolson said, justice is due both sides.

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Editorial appearing in the May 3, 2002 issue of the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle regarding upcoming hearings on the Attica riot and its effect on facility guards and their families.

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