

1 spect to education levels?

24

2 A Yes, I have.

3 In 1966, 82 per cent of the population of
4 new commitments were non-high school graduates.

5 In 1970, that figure decreased to 74 per
6 cent.

7 In 1966, 9.3 per cent of the population were
8 high school graduates and in 1970, that figure has
9 increased to 14.7 per cent.

10 In 1970, four per cent of the new commitments
11 have gone beyond high school.

12 Q Is there any explanation for this increase
13 in the level of education of new admittees to the New
14 York penal institutions?

15 A We have concluded, subject to further study,
16 that the increase in the number of high school graduates
17 and persons who have gone beyond high school is, in all
18 probability, attributed to the drug culture. By that,
19 we mean there has been a large number of inmates who
20 have come into the system as high school students or
21 college students who have been arrested on drug charges.

22 Q You have also prepared a study of drug users
23 among the admittees to the New York penal institutions;
24 am I correct?

25 A Yes, we have.

1 Q You had some difficulty in pre- 25

2 paring that. Would you state what the difficulties
3 are.

4 A The difficulty with the information we
5 gathered is that the institutions ascertained this
6 information only through an oral examination. They
7 simply asked the inmate, are you an addict, have you
8 been an addict.

9 If the inmate responds yes, he becomes a
10 statistic. If he doesn't respond, there is no medical
11 examination to determine otherwise.

12 Q The result is that these figures on drug
13 users would probably be conservative figures; am I
14 correct?

15 A Exactly.

16 In 1966, 27.8 per cent of the population of
17 new commitments were drug users and in 1970, that
18 population is, again, qualified, 37.7 per cent of the
19 new commitments.

20 Q Have you also prepared a study of the types
21 of offenses for which inmates have been admitted to
22 New York adult penal institutions over this five-year
23 period?

24 A Yes, we have.

25 Q Would you put that chart on next and Mr.

1 Addison, would you give a description to 26

2 the public of our findings based on a study of these
3 statistics.

4 A In 1966, 33.7 per cent of the new commitments
5 to the correctional institutions for adult males were
6 convicted of violent crimes.

7 In 1970 that figure increased to 52.3 per
8 cent. For a 19 per cent increase.

9 We have categorized violent crimes as follows:

10 Homicide, robbery, burglary, felonious
11 assault and rape.

12 Q What was the increase of these--in these
13 violent crimes, which category increased the most?

14 A Robbery. There has been slightly more than
15 a 14 per cent increase in the number of robberies from
16 1966 to 1970.

17 Q You say the number of robberies. What we
18 are talking about is the number of inmates who have
19 been admitted for robbery during that period.

20 That's gone up 14 per cent?

21 A Exactly.

22 Q What about murder convictions leading to
23 commitments, that's been about five per cent, I believe.

24 A Yes, it has been.

25 Q Does this statistic on commitments have any

1 relationship to the statistics you previously 27
2 have been describing about increase in drug use and
3 increase in educational level?

4 A I would like to preface my answer by saying
5 first that one of the factors which our statistics
6 cannot reflect is the level of plea bargaining within
7 the court system.

8 Therefore, while we have statistics which
9 demonstrate that the level of armed robberies increased
10 by 14 per cent and the level of murders has increased
11 by five per cent, we don't know to what extent the plea
12 bargaining would mitigate these statistics.

13 As for your question, preliminary studies
14 have demonstrated to us that a large number of these
15 offenses of violent crimes are drug-related. You have
16 a large number of inmates who have been convicted for
17 robbery in pursuit of a purchase for a drug habit.

18 Q Have you also made a study of the county of
19 commitment of the inmates entering the prison system
20 over these last five years and what the changes have
21 been in where the inmates have been coming from?

22 A Yes, we have.

23 What we have attempted to do is to look at
24 New York State in terms of its counties and then to
25 look at the urban areas and we have decided that the

2 of course, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse.

3 Between 1966 and 1970, 73 per cent of the new
4 commitments were from urban areas.

5 Q What part of that was from New York City?

6 A Sixty-one per cent of the new commitments
7 during the last five years were from New York City.

8 Q Was the trend upward in terms of commitments
9 from urban areas?

0 A Yes, there has been.

1 Q So that if we were to summarize these statis-
2 tics which were prepared under your supervision, it
3 would appear that over the last five years there has
4 been an increase in the number of persons being admitted
5 to the adult prison from the ghettos?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q There has been a decrease in the age of
8 offenders being admitted to these institutions?

9 A That's correct.

0 Q There has been an increase in the educational
level although most admittees still do not have a high
school diploma?

A That's correct.

Q There has been an increase in drug use among
the admittees?

1 A Yes, there has.

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2 Q There has been an increase in commitments
3 representing violent crimes?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And there has been an increase in the percentage
6 of inmates from urban areas who have been admitted?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Have you prepared comparative statistics for
9 Attica and the inmate population of Attica as of
10 September 9, 1971?

11 A Yes, we have.

12 Q Can you state what should be obvious as to
13 why the Commission chose September 9th for the purpose
14 of making this study of the Attica inmate population?

15 A Well, September 9th was the day of the
16 "rebellion."

17 In addition, after September 13th, a number
18 of inmates were transferred to other maximum security
19 institutions throughout New York.

20 Approximately 400 of those men went to Green-
21 haven, located 50 miles from New York.

22 Approximately 300 were transferred to Com-
23 stock and approximately 250 transferred to Clinton.

24 Q Would you begin your discussion with the racial
25 breakdown at Attica on September 9, 1971.

1 A On September 9, 1971, 36.6 per 30

2 cent of the inmate population at Attica was black.

3 Q Was white.

4 A Excuse me, was white.

5 Q That's the first bar that's shown there?

6 A Yes.

7 54.2 per cent of the population was black.

8 Q That's the second bar?

9 A Yes.

10 And 8.7 per cent of the population was
11 Puerto Rican.

12 Q So the total black and Puerto Rican inmate
13 population at Attica on September 9th was approximately--

14 A Approximately 68 per cent.

15 Q No, 63 per cent.

16 A Approximately 63 per cent of the population.

17 Q Have you also prepared a study of the average
18 ages of inmates at Attica on September 9th?

19 A Yes, we have.

20 Q Would you put that chart on.

21 Just describe, Mr. Addison, what the four
22 bars or four lines that appear on that graph are before
23 you give the figures. There are five. The top line
24 is what?

25 A Men under 30.

1 Q The second line from the top? 31

2 A Men between the age of 30 and 39.

3 The third line represents the number of men
4 between the age of 40 and 49.

5 The fourth line, men between the ages of 50
6 and 59.

7 And finally, men 60 and over.

8 Q What does the chart show?

9 A On September 9th, approximately 39 per cent
10 of the inmate population at Attica was under 30.

11 Q That was the largest grouping?

12 A Yes.

13 Thirty-three per cent of the inmate population
14 was between the ages of 30 and 39.

15 Approximately 17 per cent were between the
16 ages of 40 and 49.

17 Approximately seven per cent between the ages
18 of 50 and 59.

19 And two per cent over 60.

20 Q Have you also made a profile of the level of
21 education of the Attica inmates on September 9th?

22 A Yes, we have.

23 Q Before you get to that, Mr. Adison, how does--
24 how did the percentage of black and Puerto Rican inmates
25 at Attica on September 9th compare with the percentage

1 of black and Puerto Rican inmates in all
2 adult institutions as of that date? Was it greater
3 or lesser?

4 A Attica reflects the trend throughout the
5 State institutions. There is a greater percentage of
6 men under the age of 30 coming into the system.

7 Q What about black and Puerto Rican inmates,
8 does Attica have a greater percentage, a lesser per-
9 centage or roughly the same?

10 A Attica does not reflect the higher percentage
11 at Greenhaven or Comstock because Attica admits a lot
12 of white inmates from the northern areas of New York
13 State.

14 Q So that the percentage at Attica of black
15 and Puerto Rican inmates is slightly lower than it is
16 for the system as a whole?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q Can we put on the chart of level of education.
19 You said that, I believe, that Attica reflects
20 the trend in level of education which you previously
21 described; am I correct?

22 A Yes, I have.

23 Q What percentage of the inmates at Attica had
24 gone beyond eighth grade?

25 A Approximately 63 per cent of the inmates at

1 Attica have gone beyond grade school.

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2 Approximately 15 per cent were high school
3 graduates and four per cent went beyond high school.

4 Q Have you made a profile of drug use among the
5 inmates at Attica on September 9th? I'm referring, of
6 course, to people who were drug users at the time that
7 they were admitted.

8 A Yes, we have.

9 Q What does that show, Mr. Adison?

10 A Well, this chart shows that 28 per cent of
11 the total population in Attica, meaning 28 per cent of
12 2243 men were drug users. And, again, this figure is
13 ascertained when the inmate comes to Attica. He is
14 simply asked, are you a drug user. So, again, we believe
15 it is low.

16 Q That would be approximately 700 inmates who
17 were drug users, according to their own admission at
18 the time they were admitted to Attica?

19 A Exactly.

20 Q Have you made a study, Mr. Adison, of the
21 breakdown of drug use among the black, white and Puerto
22 Rican inmates at Attica?

23 A We have made a breakdown or we made a study
24 of the drug use among black inmates and Puerto Rican
25 inmates.

1 Q Would you describe your finding. 34

2 What percentage of the total Puerto Rican inmates at
3 Attica on September 9th admitted at the time of their
4 admission to the institution that they were drug users?

5 A Approximately 45 per cent of the total Puerto
6 Rican population at Attica admitted to their drug use
7 and approximately 34 per cent of the black population
8 at Attica admitted to drug use.

9 Q You said that the total figure for the popula-
10 tion was 28 per cent, 28 per cent of the persons there
11 had admitted to drug use and as I understand it, 45 per
12 cent of all of the Puerto Ricans in Attica admitted to
13 drug use and 34 per cent of all of the black inmates
14 at Attica admitted to drug use?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Did you make a study of the dates of admission
17 into Attica of the persons who were there on September
18 9th to determine how long the inmates at Attica had
19 been at that institution?

20 A Yes, we did.

21 Q Could you put on that chart.

22 I think I misspoke, Mr. Adison, that this
23 shows the date that the inmates were admitted to prison
24 on the term that they were serving and if they had been
25 sent first to another prison and then transferred to

1 Attica, this would appear as the date of
2 admission on this chart which you prepared; am I
3 correct?

4 A Yes, it does.

5 Q Would you describe the findings on this
6 subject.

7 A Of the 2400--2243 inmates at Attica on September
8 9th, 17.8 per cent entered the prison before 1966.

9 19.1 per cent entered between 1966 and 1968.

10 63.1 per cent entered between 1969 and 1971.

11 Q So they had been there in the system for only
12 a short duration on that particular sentence that they
13 were serving?

14 A The point illustrated by our chart is that
15 approximately 82 per cent entered the system after
16 1965.

17 Q And this is consistent with this trend which
18 you previously described of rather rapid turnover in
19 the prison institutions?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q So there is described a very high degree
22 of recidivism, people getting out of the prison and
23 then coming back on another sentence; am I correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Have you made a study of the crimes for which

1 the Attica inmates of September 9, 1971

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2 were committed to prison?

3 A Yes, we have.

4 Again, we have classified criminals in terms
5 of violent crimes and non-violent crimes.

6 Q Mr. Adison, I think it may be difficult
7 because this chart has so much on it for people to read
8 it. Do you have the statistics so that you can read
9 them off?

10 A Yes, I do.

11 Q Would you do that and--do your statistics
12 follow from top to bottom on the chart?

13 A Yes, they do.

14 Q It's in focus now.

15 Homicide was--the number of inmates in Attica
16 who have been committed there for homicide is what
17 per cent?

18 A 23. 2 per cent.

19 Q And for robbery?

20 A 23.7 per cent.

21 Q The next line shows assault.

22 A 7.2 per cent.

23 Q The next line shows--

24 A Rape and other offenses.

25 Q And other sex offenses?

1 A Yes. 7.9 per cent.

2 Q The next line?

3 A Dangerous weapons, 2.6 per cent.

4 Q After that?

5 A Burglary, 13.7 per cent.

6 Q Dangerous drugs?

7 A 8.7 per cent.

8 Q Larceny?

9 A 6.1 per cent.

10 Other felonies, 5.9 per cent.

11 Q And there were even some people in there for
12 what this prison system statistic listed as misdemeanor;
13 is that correct?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q What figure do you show there?

16 A 1.8 per cent.

17 And youthful offenders, 1.2 per cent.

18 Q Have you made a study, can you tell us what
19 percentage of the inmates at Attica were there for
20 what would be classified as violent crimes, crimes of
21 violence?

22 A 62.6 per cent of the inmate population were
23 there for violent crimes.

24 Q And you have previously given a description
25 of what you categorized as violent crimes; am I correct?

1 A Yes, I have.

2 Q And that includes armed robbery, sex offenses,
3 murder, homicide--

4 A Assault, dangerous drugs.

5 Q It does include drugs; am I correct?

6 A Dangerous weapons.

7 Q That figure of 62 per cent at Attica for these
8 crimes which are classified as violent crimes compares
9 with 52 per cent in the system as a whole; am I correct?

10 A That's correct. So Attica had a higher per-
11 centage of homicides in violent crimes that the State-
12 wide figure.

13 Q Did you make a study of the county of commit-
14 ment of the Attica population on September 9, 1971?

15 A Yes, we did.

16 Q And this would be an indication of where
17 people were from?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q What does that show?

20 A Forty-three per cent of the inmates at Attica
21 were from New York City and its five counties.

22 14/3 per cent were from Erie County, which
23 includes Buffalo.

24 13.1 per cent were from Monroe County, which
25 includes Rochester.

2 Onondaga County, which includes Syracuse.

3 Q Mr. Adison, did you have occasion in your
4 duties for this Commission to take a bus from New York
5 City to Attica?

6 A Yes, I have. Only because I missed a flight.
7 And I would not otherwise be going there unless I
8 were going to visit someone.

9 Q Would you describe the timetables and your
10 experience.

11 A Well, if you miss a flight in New York City--

12 Q Or if you cannot afford a flight?

13 A Or if you cannot afford a flight from New
14 York City, and if you would like to be at the institu-
15 tion by 9:00 o'clock or 10:00 o'clock in the morning,
16 you must leave New York City at approximately 1:00 a.m.
17 in the morning.

18 And by Greyhound or Trailway bus you would
19 ride to Batavia, New York, which is located approxi-
20 mately eight to 12 miles from Attica.

21 Q When would you arrive at Batavia, roughly,
22 do you recall?

23 A You would arrive at Batavia approximately
24 10:30 in the morning.

25 Q And then how would you go from Batavia to

1 Attica?

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2 A You would have to hire a cab to drive you
3 to Attica for ten to \$15.

4 Q When you returned after visiting, you would
5 have to hire a cab?

6 A After visiting you would have to hire a cab
7 for ten or \$15 to go back to Batavia and then to start
8 your trek back to New York City.

9 Q And it would take the same time, obviously,
10 after waiting for the bus?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Have you made a study of the percentage of
13 persons in the Attica inmate population on September
14 9th who had prior convictions?

15 A Yes, we have.

16 75.7 per cent of the inmate population at
17 Attica had prior convictions. That includes 69.7
18 per cent with prior institutional commitments, six
19 per cent without commitment. Prior convictions with-
20 out commitment.

21 Q Does that conclude your analysis of the Attica
22 inmate population as of September 9, 1971?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And I am correct to sum it up that approxi-
25 mately 63 per cent of the population was black or

1 Puerto Rican?

41

2 A That's correct.

3 Q That of the Puerto Rican population, approxi-
4 mately 45 per cent, by their own admission, had been
5 drug users as of the date of admission?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q And approximately 34 per cent of the black
8 population were drug users; is that correct also?

9 A Yes, it is.

10 Q And most of the inmates were from urban
11 areas, including 43 per cent from New York City?

12 A That's true.

13 Q I think you said 82 per cent had been in
14 for less than five years.

15 A That's correct.

16 Q And the largest single grouping of inmates
17 percentagewise were inmates who were under the age of
18 30?

19 A That's true.

20 Q And while most of these inmates did not
21 have high school diplomas, approximately 63 per cent
22 had entered high school; am I correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q And approximately two-thirds of all of the
25 inmates at Attica on September 9th had been through the

1 system once before and were recidivists;

42

2 am I correct?

3 A That's true.

4 Q And approximately 62 per cent were committed
5 for crimes of violence?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Has the Commission, Mr. Adison, also made an
8 analysis of statistics relating to correction officers
9 at Attica?

10 A Yes, we have.

11 Q In the article that I read at the beginning
12 of the hearings, the word "guard" appeared several times.
13 The guards at prisons.

14 Would you state for the record the terminology
15 that's now in use at Attica 40 years after it was con-
16 structed.

17 A It depends on who is saying it. Officers
18 call each other officers. Inmates refer to officers
19 as hacks and probably a number of other things.

20 Q But the official designation of a guard is
21 now a correction officer; is that correct?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q The official designation of the Attica prison,
24 Attica penitentiary is now the Attica Correctional
25 Facility?

1 A That's correct.

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2 Q And the warden is now called the superin-
3 tendent?

4 A That's true.

5 Q And his chief assistant, what was he called
6 before?

7 A He was called the principal keeper.

8 Q And what's his new title?

9 A A deputy superintendent.

10 Q What does everybody in the prison call him?

11 A They call him the PK.

12 Q Principal keeper?

13 A Principal keeper.

14 Q I think it's useful to have those titles
15 out because they are going to be used over and over
16 in these hearings.

17 Now, what has the Commission survey of the
18 correction officers at Attica shown, Mr. Adison?

19 A We have looked at the correction officers
20 at Attica. We looked at the numbers, the ages, the
21 races, origin and length of service. We have also
22 looked at the manpower levels and the functions.

23 As of September 9th, or on or before
24 September 9th--

25 Q In that immediate period around September 9th?

1 A Yes. There were 38 on-staff 44

2 officers at Attica and 18 supervisors, which include
3 deputy superintendents, captains, lieutenants and
4 sergeants for a total of 398 men.

5 Q By way of contrast, do you recall what the
6 figure was of inmates at Attica during that period?

7 A There were 2243 inmates at Attica during
8 that period.

9 Q What about the racial breakdown of the 398
10 correction officers and supervisors at Attica?

11 A Of the 398 correction officers at Attica on
12 September 9th, 397 were white. There was one Puerto
13 Rican.

14 Q And black?

15 A There were no black officers at Attica on
16 September 9th.

17 Q What about ages of correction officers at
18 Attica?

19 A Forty-one per cent of the officers were
20 over 40.

21 Q What about the place of origin of correction
22 officers?

23 A Thirteen per cent of the officers at Attica
24 were from urban areas. One per cent from New York.
25 Ten per cent from Buffalo. And one and a half per

1 cent from Rochester.

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2 Eighty per cent of the officers at Attica
3 were from other New York State areas. And seven
4 per cent were from other parts of the United States,
5 Puerto Rico or foreign countries.

6 Q The percentage from urban areas you said
7 was roughly 13 per cent?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Urban being considered major cities such
10 as--the same classification that you have used for
11 inmates, New York, Buffalo, Rochester?

12 A And Syracuse.

13 Q What about length of service at Attica?

14 A Thirty-eight per cent of the officers at
15 Attica began serving there before 1960 and approxi-
16 mately 62 per cent of the officers arrived at Attica
17 after 1960 and 17 per cent arrived between 1970 and
18 1971.

19 Q Mr. Addison, have you written down the
20 statistics on correction officers at Attica further
21 according to function as that function is shown on
22 the various operating statements at Attica?

23 A Yes. we have.

24 The average number of officers per day at
25 Attica was 227 men.

1 Q The rest of the officers would

46

2 be on their day off so that there would be 227 who
3 would work the three shifts at Attica?

4 A That's correct.

5 There were never more than 155 officers on
6 duty at one time. 155 officers were on duty during
7 the peak inmate mobility period, which is between
8 10:00 and 3:00 p.m.

9 We have a chart which reflects this.

10 Q This is a bar graph. Would you point out--
11 you said that at the peak--

12 A At the peak period at the institution was
13 between the hours of 10:00 and 3:00 p.m. There are
14 155 officers on duty, of 227 men.

15 Q And how do you define peak?

16 A Peak is defined as the period of highest
17 inmate mobility.

18 Q When they are out of their cells?

19 A When they are out of their cells.

20 Q You then prepared the breakdown in terms
21 of the functions that were performed by correction
22 officers during that period?

23 A Yes, we have.

24 Q And what does that show?

25 A This chart shows that two and a half per cent

1 of the officers at Attica were assigned 47
2 to administrative duties. This would include office.
3 work, identification officers, a head clerk, a deputy
4 superintendent and a steward.

5 15.3 per cent of the officers were assigned
6 security posts at towers or gun posts on the wall.

7 Only 3.4 per cent of the officers were
8 assigned to institutional services which includes
9 the arsenal, construction work, fire and safety areas
10 and the shop patrol.

11 7.7 per cent of the officers were assigned
12 to inmate services--

13 Q What did that include?

14 A That includes a correspondence room, the hos-
15 pital, the law library, school, commissary, recreation
16 and Roswell Park.

17 Q On the TV screen I see it has the figure of
18 71 per cent.

19 What does that reflect?

20 A Seventy-one per cent of the officers at
21 Attica are assigned to supervise inmates. These
22 include officers at the gate and locked doors. Those
23 assigned to various cell blocks and assigned to work
24 shops and work gangs.

25 Q Mr. Addison, I am correct that you have

1 prepared the same types of profiles of inmate 48
2 population who were in D-yard as you did for Attica
3 population as a whole on September 9th; am I correct?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q And that will be shown later in the hearings.

6 I thank you.

7 (The witness was excused.)

8 MR. LIMAN: Mr. Jackson, will you please
9 rise.

10 W I L L I A M J A C K S O N, called as a
11 witness, being first duly sworn by Mr. McKay,
12 was examined and testified as follows:

13 EXAMINATION BY MR. LIMAN:

14 Q Would you state your name.

15 A William Jackson.

16 Q Mr. Jackson, you were an inmate at Attica?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q From when to when?

19 A From November 13, 1969 to March 20, 1972.

20 Q How old are you?

21 A I am 25 now, sir.

22 Q And how old were you when you were admitted
23 to Attica?

24 A Twenty-two.

25 Q What were you convicted of?