



## WORKS

resulted in the Attica Rebellion fifteen months later. The following facts represent irrefutable evidence that, had the provisions of the Federal Court mandates been complied with, and had other legitimate grievances brought to your attention by us prior to September 1971 been redressed, not one person would have died or been injured on September 9–13, 1971.

The first three of the 28 Attica Reform Demands dealt solely with procedures to be adopted after the anticipated agreement between the State officials and rebelling prisoners, and the return of prisoners to their cells.

These three demands seek the provision of food, water and shelter (necessities of life which even animals in the zoo receive as a matter of course), 8 *Sostre v. McGinnis*, 334 F.2d 906 (2d Cir., 1964) ; *Sostre v. Rockefeller*, 312 F. Supp. 863 (S.D.N.Y., 1969), aff. in part and rev. in part, *Sostre v. McGinnis*, 442 F.2d 178 (2d Cir., 1970); *Sostre v. Otis*, 330 F. Supp. 941 (S.D.N.Y., 1971). 247, an Observers Committee to monitor this operation, complete administrative and legal amnesty for the rebels.

Reform Demand No. 4 sought “the application of the New York State Minimum Wage Law Standards to all work done by inmates. Every effort will be made to make the records of payment available to inmates.” This grievance (and many others) was brought to the attention of your prison officials on at least four occasions. Each time it was rebuffed and repressed—usually with force.

The first time it was presented was in July 1970 when slaves in the Attica Metal Shop presented their demand for a minimum wage. You responded out of your usual “gorilla” ‘bag by throwing into solitary confinement the representatives presenting the grievance. Having no outlet for this legitimate grievance, and having it compounded by your additional injustice of punishing our representatives, we responded with a work strike in the Metal Shop. Warden Mancusi and Commissioner Oswald reacted by confining to solitary confinement all the leaders. In July and August 1970 the strike leaders were transferred to Auburn and other prison camps throughout the state.

Seeking to pacify with crumbs the spreading prisoner discontent with the five to thirty cents per day slave wage of New York State prisons, you then raised prison wages to twenty-five cents for the lowest job category, and up to one dollar per day for the highest. But you immediately raised the already outrageously high commissary prices — e.g., we are forced to pay 400 for a two-pound box of sugar while outside you pay 59/ for a fivepound bag — and cancelled out the few pennies raise in our slave wages. The second time this grievance was brought

