

Attica Prison Suits Are Filed

By United Press International
Suits were filed in federal courts in New York City and Buffalo Wednesday seeking prosecution of Governor Rockefeller and other state officials for their roles in September's riot at Attica state prison and asking for the abolition of a fact-finding committee named by the governor to investigate the rebellion.

The suit seeking to abolish the fact-finding committee was filed in U.S. District Court in Buffalo. The suit urging prosecution of public officials for their roles in the riot, which claimed 43 lives, was filed in New York City as a class action.

The New York City case was brought by nine inmates at the Attica Correctional Facility, the mother of a slain prisoner, an inmate at the state's Green Haven prison, and Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve, D-Buffalo.

It asked that the state be required to submit a plan for an independent and impartial investigation and prosecution of the governor and other state officials. The suit alleges that the governor and the officials "aided and abetted" in the

commission of crimes against inmates and guards. It seeks the removal of Attica prison officials, who, it says, are "unfit to administer" the facility.

According to the suit, "for many years" the defendants subjected inmates to "physical abuse, beating and teargassing by guards" as well as to "racial discrimination and inhuman insulation from family, friends and lawyers."

The governor and other officials have 20 days in which to file answering papers.

The Buffalo suit, brought in behalf of the Citizens Committee to Defend the Constitutional Rights of Prisoners in New York State (CICOM), alleges the special state commission on Attica would "cover up" the states' role in the prison violence and violate the rights of prospective inmate defendants.

The so-called McKay Commission, named after its chairman, Dean Robert B. McKay of the New York University Law School, was created by Rockefeller Nov. 15 to "conduct a full and impartial" probe of the revolt.

CICOM also alleged creation of the special commission vio-

lated the separation of the powers of government. The suit requested a three-judge federal panel hear the case.

Defendants named in the suit included Rockefeller, Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, Comptroller Arthur Levitt, Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges, Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea, top elected state judicial officials and members of the McKay Commission.

The plaintiffs were identified as Joseph Shuhda, George Mahshie, William C. Domanti, Sheikh Daoud Ahmed Faisal, the Rev. George Lawrence, the Rev. Louis Gigante, Leandra Barbieri (Ashraf), and John M. Lawrence.

Lawrence is the executive secretary of CICOM, which is based at 57 W. 10th St., New York City, and at 503 Washington Ave., Syracuse.