



Dead Prisoner's Case Still Brewing

New York, N.Y.—On Saturday, February 28th, at 2 p.m., members of the Gay Liberation Front of New York and STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) and Jewish Gay Liberation gathered in front of the Men's House of Detention at 125 White Street to picket in protest of the exoneration of 4 prison guards, Roland Jones, Samuel Benjamin, Steven Linongelli and John Shank of charges of mistreatment of prisoner Raymond Lavan Moore, a black

gay reported as a suicide on November 3, 1970.

A report by the civilian Board of Corrections headed by William vanden Heuvel (see GAY 42) had described the conditions and treatment given the prisoner as "intolerable" and reviewed physical evidence at the autopsy, including two skull fractures, which indicated possible mistreatment. There had been a subsequent Grand Jury hearing at which the guards were exonerated but Mr. vanden Heuvel had stated that the Grand Jury report was "neither complete nor useful in a public understanding of what has happened" and a correction officer Arthur Blake who subsequently left his job, testified on January 10th that he had witnessed a beating of the prisoner.

On February 17th, U.S. Attorney Whitney North Seymour announced that in response to a combined request by Rep. Edward Koch, Bella Abzug, Benjamin S. Rosenthal of Queens and John G. Down of Newburgh (the home town of Lavan Moore), he had asked the F.B.I. for a further investigation.

The pickets, about 50, with ten representatives from the Black and Third World, carried a banner with the maxim of Ho Chi Minh and a picture of a dragon swallowing bombers.

The group marched for 1½ hours chanting.

There was no response from the windows of the Men's House of Detention. The streets around were deserted since it was Saturday and this was the financial district.

They then marched to the Women's House of Detention in the Village and picketed for 20 minutes. Several inmates shouted approval and responses from their windows.

