

### Rikers Island Dramatized

The Department of Correction's participation in the Rikers Island plane crash (Feb. 1, 1957) was vividly portrayed on the television program of the Armstrong Circle Theatre (N. B. C.) Tuesday May 14, 1957.

The crash focused attention on our Department and afforded the public an intimate glimpse into the complexities of life within a prison: the decisions that must be made by correctional personnel during critical situations and the thinking and motivations of the incarcerated population. The drama was a forceful presentation of a phase of governmental administration not too well known by the general public. Like the black sheep they know it's there but, refuse to acknowledge its presence.

The rehabilitation program in effect at Rikers Island was also effectively portrayed and the Department of Correction received long overdue recognition for its effective work in the training and education of the inmates in our care.

### Inmate Recognition

The Department recognized the rescue efforts of 57 inmates. On the recommendation of Commissioner Anna M. Kross the inmates who took part in the rescue work during the Rikers Island plane crash received reductions in sentences, to be served, up to six months. Of the 46 serving penitentiary indefinite terms 30 were released and 16 received a reduction of six months by the New York City Parole Board. Governor Averell Harriman also granted commutation of sentence to 11 men serving definite sentences: two received a six months reduction; one workhouse and eight penitentiary definites became eligible for immediate release.

### Pratt Institute Exhibit

An architectural exhibit has been prepared by three senior students of the Pratt Institute of Architecture in conjunction with the New York City Department of Correction.

In cooperating with a recognized School of Architecture for this project, the Department of Correction established a unique working relationship. The students of Pratt developed the project on the theme of "Prison Analysis and Design" and received thesis credit for their work. Their work consisted of a series of dramatic, well illustrated and documented charts which depicted the design of various types of prison architecture. In addition to these exhibits, the students built a scale model of their suggested layout of the proposed adolescent Remand Shelter which is included in the ten-year Capital Budget Program of the New York City Department of Correction. In reviewing the project, Commissioner Kross stated, "We must build buildings to fit our treatment programs and not fit our programs to poorly planned buildings. It is a truism that architectural planning should be a frank expression of the purpose for which it is to be used."



*Presentation of Department of Correction Medal of Honor to Ass't. Deputy Warden James C. Harrison by Mayor Robert F. Wagner and Commissioner Anna M. Kross.*

### Departmental Awards

On May 15, 1957, Mayor Robert F. Wagner presented the department's highest award, the Medal of Honor, to Ass't. Deputy Warden James C. Harrison in recognition of extraordinary performance of duty at the time of the plane crash on Rikers Island Feb. 1, 1957.

Additional Department Meritorious Awards were presented by the Mayor to 43 other employees, (Chaplains, C. O's, civilians, doctors, nurses, etc.,) who participated in the rescue work.

Our custodial force personnel distinguished themselves in several instances, in addition to the Rikers Island crash. Correction Officers Stanley Wishin, Shield No. 916, and Charles Alesi, Shield No. 942, assigned to the Transportation Division, disarmed a berserk civilian who was attempting to assault another man with a knife. Departmental Commendation Awards for prompt action in an emergency situation were presented to them.

Departmental Commendation Award was made to Correction Officer Alice Brown, Shield No. 20, assigned to Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward, for her alertness in effecting the arrest of a drug addict who was illegally transferring drugs to a female prisoner.

While off-duty Correction Officer John Gilhooley, Shield No. 907, assigned to Kings County Hospital Prison Ward, apprehended a pick-pocket in the act of committing a theft. He also received the Departmental Commendation Award.