

# The Merced

★ SAN JOSE, CALIF., WEDNESDAY MORNING

## SANTA CRUZ JAIL

### *Prisoners* 30 Protest

# 'Inhuman Conditions'

SANTA CRUZ — About 30 picketers paraded in front of the Santa Cruz County Jail here Tuesday, protesting what they termed "inhuman conditions inside."

One demonstrator asked why Santa Cruz County Supervisors are spending taxpayers' money for a parking lot for sheriff's autos, while not carrying out recommendations contained in a "confidential" report of the State Department of Corrections. That study apparently spells out overcrowding and other deficiencies in the jail.

The demonstrators also issued a list of demands, including visiting rights for children of prisoners, establishment of a work-furlough program for prisoners, and better food and more exercising time for prisoners.

Because of a lack of space, prisoners are allowed to use an exercising facility on the roof of the jail only about every 10 days.

The picketers, mostly young people, said they are members of the Prisoners' Rights Committee.

A spokesman for the group said they plan to picket the sheriff's office from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily for several weeks. The jail is located on

the top floor of the sheriff's law enforcement building.

Among the demonstrators was Ray Martinez, Aptos, who claimed he was mistreated and discriminated against by deputies at the sheriff's rehabilitation center in the South County area.

County Supervisor Henry Mello last week criticized fellow supervisors for going ahead with plans to join with City of Santa Cruz for a parking lot, instead of using the money to improve jail conditions.

"We care more about sheriff's cars than we do about people," said Mello.

Mello is attempting to set up a tour of the jail by fellow supervisors.

Mello contends that the jail is short of space now. He notes that it will take at least five years before a new jail could be built. By that time, he said, the jail would be swamped.

## Gilroy Query Into Officer's

GILROY — A public hearing before the Gilroy Person-

BE  
Rut  
repr  
a co  
Cal  
Jun  
Cru  
wei  
mea  
25-3