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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

3★ THE HARTFORD COURANT

Correction Union Criticizes Rell

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The union representing correctional employees told the governor Wednesday that her response to their concerns that

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upper management at the correction department unduly influenced internal investigations was inadequate.

In a letter to Gov. M. Jodi Rell's office, the presidents of the three American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees locals — Thomas Miles of Local 387, Jon Pepe of Local 391

and Luke Leone of Local 1565 — said they were disappointed that Rell did not call for a meeting.

The presidents also said they were concerned about Correction Commissioner Theresa Lantz's past employment with the National Institute of Corrections, which Rell chose to investigate the union claims.

According to the state Department of Correction website, Lantz worked for the National Institute of Corrections Academy in Colorado as a correctional program specialist from January 1988 through June 1989.

"We respectfully ask that you meet with us to address our serious concerns," the union presidents' letter said. "We are trou-

bled that our members' concerns are being viewed as an afterthought. ... While we respect the [National Institute of Corrections'] organizational mission, an audit is not what we requested."

Last week, the union presidents wrote to Rell and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, asking for intervention and an outside, independent investigation. Earlier this week, Rell asked the National Institute of Corrections, a part of the Bureau of Prisons in the U.S. Department of Justice, to probe the union allegations and conduct a "thorough assessment and audit" of the correction department's security division.