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Jury Begins Deliberating Davis Case

By Sanford J. Ungar
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SAN JOSE, Calif., June 2—A Santa Clara County jury of five men and seven women began deliberating here today in the case of Angela Yvonne Davis, the 28-year-old former UCLA philosophy professor charged with murder, kidnaping and criminal conspiracy.

If the jury convicts Miss Davis on all three counts in the indictment against her, Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason will be required by California state law to send her to prison for life.

The state contends that she was a mastermind behind events leading up to the shooting death of Judge Harold J.

Haley on Aug. 7, 1970, at the Marin County Courthouse north of San Francisco.

It was on that day that Miss Davis fled from California. She was arrested in New York City more than two months later, wearing a disguise and using a fictitious name. Her hastily departure from the San Francisco Airport has become a central issue in the trial.

According to the prosecution, it is evidence of her involvement in an intricate plot to kidnap hostages for the release of the three Soledad Brothers from San Quentin state prison.

But the defense contends that it was a logical and innocent act, motivated by Miss Davis's "black militant" consciousness, and her fear for her life after a controversy involving her dismissal by UCLA. The university regents refused to reappoint Miss Davis, a member of the American Communist Party, on the grounds that her speeches outside the classroom were "false" and "extreme."

The jurors retired to deliberate at 11:05 a.m. PDT, after hearing 80 minutes of legal instructions from Judge Arnason.

Reading quickly in a firm, well-modulated voice, he warned them not to be motivated by either "pity" or "bias" and spelled out 11 different possible verdicts, including conviction on such lesser charges as involuntary manslaughter.

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The jury's competence and objectivity in deciding the case has been repeatedly questioned by the defense, which claims that the state has pursued Miss Davis for political reasons and, in effect, tried to frame her through unreliable circumstantial evidence.

Defense attorneys Howard Moore Jr. of Atlanta and Leo Branton of Los Angeles stressed during argument Thursday that there were 11 whites and one Chicano on the panel, but no blacks.

"You are a cross-section of Santa Clara County," Branton told the jury—"young and old, Jew and Gentile."

4 Hijackers Ask 'Custody' Of Miss Davis

From News Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO, June 2

—Four black men hijacked a Western Airlines jetliner with 98 persons aboard today and demanded \$500,000 in ransom and "custody" of Angela Davis, the airline said.

The plane was hijacked as it flew north from Los Angeles to Seattle, said Howard Clifford, Western Airlines public relations officer. The hijackers ordered the plane to refuel in Seattle and then return to San Francisco, he said.

The plane landed at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for 28 minutes to take on fuel, then headed south, he said. The plane was parked on a far runway and none of the 90 passengers or eight crew members were allowed to leave, Clifford said.

He said he understood the hijackers claimed to have a bomb but said he could not confirm information about the demands released by airport security officials.

The plane took on enough fuel for about five hours of flying time, Clifford said.

[Washington Post staff writer Sanford J. Ungar reported from San Jose, where Angela Davis is on trial on kidnaping, murder and conspiracy charges, that California Su-

perior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason summoned her to his chambers after learning that the five hijackers were demanding her "release" as part of the ransom for the jetliner.

[Judge Arnason met with Miss Davis and her lawyers as the jury of five men and seven women were completing their first day of deliberation on a verdict.

[She was accompanied to the judge's chambers by Santa Clara County sherriff's deputies and several FBI agents.

[A spokesman for Miss Davis said she knew nothing about the hijackers and their plans and had no intention of meeting them at any airport.

[Miss Davis heard of the hijackers' demands while she was meeting with her lawyers at a restaurant a few blocks from the courthouse.]

An airport security officer in Seattle, who asked not to be identified, said the hijackers demanded that Miss Davis be released to their custody when the plane reached San Francisco.

They also asked for \$500,000 in cash, he said.

The plane, Western's flight 701, originated in Phoenix and made an intermediate stop at San Diego before it landed in Los Angeles. It normally would have refueled in Seattle and returned non-stop to Phoenix.

Clifford said it was not known at exactly which point the hijackers presented them-