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Miss Davis 'Surprised' By Killings

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 23 (UPI)—Angela Davis was surprised when she heard the news of the Martin County Courthouse shootings, a defense witness testified today at her murder trial.

Mrs. Ellen Broms, a Los Angeles social worker, said Miss Davis and a mutual friend, Franklin Alexander, visited her the night of the Aug. 7, 1970, courthouse escape attempt that resulted in charges of murder, kidnaping and consiracy against Miss Davis. Four persons died in the shooting.

Mrs. Broms, testifying on the second day of the defense's case, said the group at her house first heard about the shooting on a television news program.

"She (Miss Davis) became very upset and said, 'I can't beleive it—he was so young'," Mrs. Broms testified. The reference apparently was to 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson, who the prosecution alleges plotted the escape attempt with Miss Davis and who was among those killed.

Mrs. Broms said Miss Davis and Franklin spent the night at her house, and the next morning read of the shooting in a newspaper.

She quoted Miss Davis as saying: "My God, there's something about a shotgun and I just bought one in San Francisco for the defense of the Soledad House and I gave it to Jonathan. I wonder if it's the same one?"

The Soledad House" was headquarters in San Francisco for defense of the Soliedad Brothers, three convicts at California's Soledad Prison charged with the murder of a guard. Jackson's older brother, George, was one of them.

Earlier, a former roommate of Miss Davis testified that several guns found at the scene of the courthouse shootings were taken from Miss Davis' apartment by Jackson without her permission.

She said the guns, purchased by the defendant for use in target practice, were similar to two carbines and a Browning automatic pistol which were placed in evidence at the trial. Miss Mitchell said the guns wer kept in a gun rack in a hall closet and were found to be missing after a visit by young Jackson.

Indigents' Lawyer Fees Investigated

By B. O. Colen
Washington Post Foreign Service

The U.S. attorney's office is nvestigating payments made o lawyers defending indigents n criminal cases in D.C. Supe- ior Court, The Washington 'ost learned yesterday.

The investigation comes less han a week after the House oted to eliminate such pay- ients, allowed under the 1970 'riminal Justice Act program, or cases in Superior Court nd the D.C. Court of Appeals.

971 Payments

Attorneys were paid ;1,091,481 during fiscal 1971 to epresent 13,051 defendants in he two courts. During the irst half of the current fiscal /ear, 29 per cent of all ap- ointment made under the Criminal Justice Act were nade in the District.

Rep. John J. Rooney (D- J.Y.), chairman of the Appro- riations Subcomittee that oted to cut the District out of he program, said the action ame "because of a list we ave of so many lawyers who ade utterly fantastic mounts of the taxpayers' oney."

The list to which Rooney re- rred shows that 57 attorneys ch made more than $10,000 1971. One made $51,000; other $47,000; four earned ore than $30,000; eight more an $20,000 and 43 made less an $20,000.

There have as yet been no egations that any of the at- neys on the list did not