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Angela's Trial

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Attorneys in the Angela Davis trial met privately with the judge yesterday in an effort to iron out a dispute over a lengthy diary-type letter which the prosecution wants to introduce in her trial.

The court was in recess to give chief prosecutor Albert W. Harris a chance to persuade Judge Richard E. Arnason that the diary is necessary as evidence in his case against the black militant former UCLA faculty member.

Earlier this week Arnason banned the 18-page document while admitting several other letters that Miss Davis wrote to convict George Jackson.

The judge said the long missive contained so much irrelevant material that it would prejudice chances of a fair trial to bring it up as evidence before the jury.

Harris then edited the letter, eliminating some of the material it contained, and again asked to introduce it. It is "a matter of critical importance" to the state's case, he said.

Harris contends that the diary-type letter, found in Jackson's San Quentin cell, contains references to a passionate "physical involvement" between Miss Davis and the prisoner, who died in an alleged escape attempt at San Quentin last August. The letter was found in his cell after his death.

The state's case rests heavily on proving that Miss Davis was so much in love with Jackson, 29, that she provided guns to his brother, Jonathan, and plotted the kidnaping of court officials in order to hold them for Jackson's release from prison.