



Associated Press

Lester Jackson, left, leaves the San Jose Superior Courtroom with his lawyer, Jack Tenner, after refusing to testify for the state in the Angela Davis trial.

Soledad Brother's Father Fined \$100 for Refusing to Be a Witness

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Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 30—The father of the late "Soledad Brother" George Jackson was held in contempt of court and fined \$100 today after he refused to testify for the state in the murder, conspiracy and kidnaping trial of Angela Davis.

Lester Jackson Jr., a postman from Pasadena, told the court, "I had only two sons. I just don't want to take part in this proceeding for the preservation of my mental health."

The younger Jackson son,

Jonathan, was killed during a courtroom shootout Aug. 7, 1970, at the Marin County Court-house.

The state attorney general's office alleges that he and Miss Davis were part of a conspiracy to kidnap hostages that day to obtain freedom for George Jackson, John Cluchette and Fleeta Drumgo, who had been charged with the murder of a prison guard at Soledad State Prison and came to be known as the Soledad Brothers.

George Jackson was killed

last summer while allegedly trying to escape from San Quentin Prison.

The elder Jackson was asked if he had driven his wife and son Jonathan to Los Angeles airport Aug. 1, 1970.

Judge Richard Arnason, who could have jailed Jackson for the rest of the trial, said, "I understand full well the trauma you have been through." But he said he was fining Jackson because he had no "lawful excuse" for refusing to testify.