

Miss Davis Denies Allegation

DAVIS, From A1

to act in passion. This is an example of male chauvinism."

In her hour-and-twenty-minute statement, Miss Davis offered a point-by-point refutation of Harris's allegations:

- To charges that she furnished guns to Jonathan Jackson for use at the courthouse raid: "While I did purchase guns, I did nothing to furnish Jonathan or anyone with the guns, I purchased." They were bought, instead, she said, to protect her and her friends against potential violence from extremists who bombarded her with threats from the time she became famous when the California Board of Regents sought to fire her while a professor at UCLA.

- To charges that she also purchased hundreds of rounds of ammunition for criminal purposes, Miss Davis said she has developed a hobby of sport shooting over the years, and the ammunition "is attributable to the fact I was engaged in this hobby."

- To charges that her airplane flight from San Francisco to Los Angeles on Aug. 7—the

date of the courthouse shoot-out—was evidence of her involvement, she admitted taking the flight, but said, "This reveals the absurdity of the prosecution's case, attempting to transmute normal everyday conduct to evidence of guilt."

- To charges that she became a fugitive right after the Marin County incident, Miss Davis said she dropped out of sight only later, when she realized she was the object of a wide search. Evidence would show, she said, "I had reason to fear police violence if I produced myself."

Miss Davis then began a long description of her political activities since 1970, emphasizing that they involved not only George Jackson, but also John Cluchette and Fleeta Drumgo; the Soledad brothers, Huey Newton, Erika Huggins, Bobby Seale, and other "political prisoners."

She said the evidence would demonstrate that these activities were meticulously within a legal framework and designed to attract as broad-based a body of support as possible.

She declared also that evidence about her friendship with Jonathan Jackson "would make it readily apparent how he may have acquired weapons bearing my name as well as other property."

The charges against Miss Davis state that she provided the guns with which young Jackson raided the Marin County courtroom in the effort to free three of the prisoners.

Of her alleged fixation on George Jackson, Miss Davis said, "Long before I knew George Jackson, I began to lay the basis of the movement to defend the Soledad brothers. I developed a deep affection for George Jackson and a great compassion for Fleeta Drumgo and John Cluchette, as well as a love for all my brothers oppressed behind prison walls."

"These three men were being persecuted not for any crime, but because of their militant political stance. We knew our most effective approach had to be by informing people about this case. We sought out those kinds of activities . . . to involve greater numbers of people, and that they would be freed in that way."

"We were correct. For on Monday morning, as you heard that I was not interested in freeing the Soledad brothers, the ultimate proof of our efforts was sustained, when 12 men and women entered a courtroom and returned a verdict of not guilty."

Miss Davis was referring to the acquittal Monday in San Francisco of Drumgo and Cluchette of charges that they and George Jackson killed a white guard in Soledad prison in January, 1970. Jackson never stood trial; he

was killed in a prison break attempt at San Quentin last August.

"Had George Jackson not been struck down," said Miss Davis, her voice breaking slightly, "He too would have been freed from an unjust prosecution."

Miss Davis noted that Harris had told the jury the prosecution would stay away from her political activities in proving its case. She said the evidence would show that "the nature of my efforts to free George Jackson and the Soledad brothers is bound up with an extension of all my other political experience."

She went on to detail how, as co-chairman of the Los Angeles chapter of the Soledad Defense Committee, she organized rallies, church groups, benefits, and befriended the families of all three Soledad brothers.

She said the evidence would show that "every single activity was totally within the realm of legality."

"What relevance do crimes of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy have with these efforts?" she asked. "Far from being evidence of my guilt, they are on the contrary evidence of my innocence."

She charged that the prosecution's evidence itself would show that its case is "entirely without substance, based on conjecture, guesswork and speculation . . . a labyrinthian network of false assumptions."

As one such "false assumption," Miss Davis challenged the prosecution to show beyond reasonable doubt that she had had foreknowledge of the plans for the Marin County raid or that she took steps to deliberately promote that plan. "He will not be able to prove these things because they are not true."

Nixon Considering Visit in Teheran

times, and the most recent a state visit in October, 1969.

The White House flatly de-published report that while on a vacation in Mexico, met with . . . Ziegler said . . . ly no sub-

'Passion' Motive in Plot Is Derided by Miss Davis

By Leroy F. Aarons
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SAN JOSE, Calif., March 29—Angela Davis today termed "utterly fantastic, utterly absurd" allegations by prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr. that her passion for Soledad brother George Jackson drove her to join a murder-kidnaping plot to free him.

Miss Davis, acting as her own attorney, gave the defense's only opening statement. She spoke in a flat, even tone, facing the eight-woman, four-man jury from a rostrum. Only occasionally did her voice rise with emotion, when she spoke of the acquittal of the Soledad brothers and about Jonathan Jackson.

Her aim clearly was to counter Harris's four-hour statement Monday, in which the prosecutor spoke of a

woman driven by uncontrollable passion for a single man to participate in the planning of the attempted breakout at the Marin County courthouse on Aug. 7, 1970.

Harris said her only goal in that endeavor, which cost four lives, was to ransom the freedom of George Jackson.

"He (Harris) has transformed the character of this case," said Miss Davis. "He would have you believe that lurking behind my stony appearance are sinister emotions and passions that know no bounds. This is utterly fantastic, utterly absurd. Yet is it understandable that Mr. Harris would try to take advantage of the fact that I am a woman. Women are supposed

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