

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 conspiracy 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 believe 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 Soledad 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 were 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 investigating payments made to lawyers defending indigents in criminal cases in D.C. Superior Court. The Washington Post learned yesterday.

The investigation comes less than a week after the House voted to eliminate such payments, allowed under the 1970 Criminal Justice Act program, for cases in Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals.

1971 Payments

Attorneys were paid \$1,091,481 during fiscal 1971 to represent 13,051 defendants in the two courts. During the first half of the current fiscal year, 29 per cent of all appointments made under the Criminal Justice Act were made in the District.

Rep. John J. Rooney (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that voted to cut the District out of the program, said the action came "because of a list we have of so many lawyers who made utterly fantastic amounts of the taxpayers' money."

The list to which Rooney referred shows that 57 attorneys each made more than \$10,000 in 1971. One made \$51,000; other \$47,000; four earned more than \$30,000; eight more in \$20,000 and 43 made less in \$20,000.

There have as yet been no allegations that any of the attorneys on the list did not