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Angela Davis Rally Backed By Fauntroy

Del. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.) yesterday endorsed a free Angela Davis rally scheduled tonight at the old Frederick Douglass Home in Anacostia.

Fauntroy said Miss Davis, who has been indicted for murder, kidnap and conspiracy charges, is a "political prisoner" and that her current incarceration was the result of her being an avowed Communist.

It was Fauntroy's first statement on Miss Davis' case. He said that he had not commented before because it was against his policy to comment on "pending court matters," but "I cannot remain silent in the face of apparent violations of the rights of Miss Davis."

Fauntroy cited the denial of Miss Davis' motions for release on bail, unnecessary restrictive conditions imposed on her, as well as the unsanitary conditions of the prison facilities where she is held as examples of her alleged unequal treatment under the law.

Miss Davis was charged, and is now being held in jail, in connection with the killings that took place in an attempted escape from a San Rafael, Calif., courtroom last year.

In addition to the Davis case, Fauntroy said that the "tragedy at Attica" state prison in New York arose from an effort for the "salvation of the system," rather than the "salvation of the hostages" who were being held by rebelling inmates.

"I am fearful that our country is moving at a fast pace, toward a more repressive and police-oriented society," he said, and added that he would urge the congressional black caucus to hold its own hearings on Attica and the Davis case.