

Miss Davis, Balking Over 'Balance' Plan, Is Off Cavett Show

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The scheduled appearance of Angela Davis on the Dick Cavett television show this week will not take place because of a dispute over whether a "balancing" guest should appear on the same program.

The host of the late-night show on the American Broadcasting Company network told his audience Tuesday night that Miss Davis, who was recently acquitted of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy charges in California, had declined to appear under circumstances proposed by the network.

The network wanted a conservative on the program the same evening, either to appear with Miss Davis or apart from her.

According to a spokesman for Mr. Cavett, the network proposed two possible conservatives, William F. Buckley Jr. and William Rusher, both associated with The National Review, a conservative journal.

Mr. Buckley was said to be out of the country, but Mr. Rusher was reported available. However, Miss Davis then objected, according to the Cavett spokesman, on the ground that she did not wish to be a part of a "restrictive arrangement" that might set a precedent for talk shows.

Mr. Cavett said on his show Monday night that he felt A.B.C. was "excessive in its demands."

Harvey Jacobs, director of audience and industry relations for the network, said Tuesday night that A.B.C.'s concern was that a balanced presentation be made whenever a "hot issue" was discussed, and that Miss Davis, an avowed Communist, could be expected to express controversial opinions as she has in the past.

Mr. Jacobs said that other possible guests besides Mr. Buckley and Mr. Rusher had been suggested. Mr. Cavett, confronted by Miss Davis's reported objection to appearing opposite a conservative spokesman, canceled the show.