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Soledad Case Trial Opens in California

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 3 (UPI) — The trial of the two surviving "Soledad brothers" accused of killing a prison guard opened today under some of the tightest security ever seen in an American courtroom.

As jury selection began, John Clutchette, 26, and Fleeta Drumgo, 28, were allowed to appear in civilian clothes rather than prison denim for the first time.

But other security precautions were unprecedented. A bullet-proof glass screen separated the spectators from the judge, defendants and lawyers. The jury panel was sworn in on the sixth floor of the San Francisco Hall of Justice, three floors above the jury room, and only those ven-

iremen actually being questioned were allowed in the courtroom.

The others watched the proceedings over closed-circuit television.

Another closed-circuit television camera was trained on the spectators, a procedure protested by the defense as "a blatant violation of the constitutional rights of the spectators and of the defendants."

The courtroom was being guarded by 19 sheriff's deputies as well as members of the police department's tactical squad.

Spectators were admitted only when carrying identification cards and then only after being searched.