

**CRIME****Soledad Brother Jackson Said, 'They Plan To Kill Me,' In His Book**

The death of George Jackson, 29, one of three Blacks known as the Soledad Brothers, leaves many questions unanswered, the most crucial being: What happened in the 15 seconds or so that he was in the Adjustment Center before he came running out, only to be gunned down by 50 or more armed prison guards?

And with this question, there is said to be other improbabilities that remain also in the fatal aborted escape attempt of Jackson from San Quentin Prison and 26 others, one of that number being Ruchelle Magee, accused with Angela Davis of conspiracy, murder and kidnaping in the August, 1970, shooting death of a white Marin County judge and three other persons. Jackson's 17-year-old brother, Jonathan, was killed in the hail of bullets that law enforcement officers unleashed in their attempt to stop the escape attempt of four Black convicts.

The questions that remain are considered crucial and virtually everyone, from the California Dept. of Corrections to D'Army Bailey and Ira Simmons, two Blacks recently elected to the Berkeley City Council, wants answers.

The questions: How did he get the gun, if indeed there was a gun? Who gave him the gun? Who



*Observers doubt that Jackson could have hidden gun in his Afro.*

killed the guards and inmates? All of those who could have seen what happened, Jackson, white inmates Ronald L. Kane and John Lynn and white guards Jere Graham, Paul Krasnes and Frank De Leon were killed.

Describing to JET the sequence of events which climaxed in Jackson's death and five others, Associate Warden James Parks, a 17-year veteran of California prisons, said: "We won't comment on who gave him the gun . . . But, when Jackson was being taken back to the Adjustment Center by officer De Leon, another officer spotted something in his hair. The chain of events is that Jackson, when the other officer spotted the gun in his hair, grabbed the gun, loaded it, and shot De Leon.

"I won't comment on who killed the others. I think that the discovery of the gun precipitated a premature action on his part as he said: 'We got to go now.'" Parks added that while prisoners are searched as a matter of routine immediately before and after visiting a party, Jackson was about to be searched before his entrance into the Adjustment Center. Police believe that Jackson visited with Stephen Mitchell Bingham, a Berkeley attorney.

A reputable gun dealer in Chicago, Ambercrombie and Finch, said it would be "virtually impossible for anyone to hide a gun in his hair. The average weight of a 9mm gun is 36 ounces and is about six and one-half inches long, so a person would have to have at least 15 inches of hair to hide it, and a head more than six and one-half inches long. It was pointed out that George Jackson had the average natural size of four inches and about a six-inch head.

Lester Jackson, the 50-year-old

postal employe father of the slain Jackson, said, "Only the immediate family and George's lawyer, John Thorne, could see him. When someone visited him, there were always between five and ten guards with him everywhere he went, even to the showers. Whenever someone went to visit him, there was always a screen between him and the visitor and you could not put a toothpick through it, much less a gun."

His mother, Georgia, 51, alleged tearfully, "The state has been claiming lies on George for ten years. They wanted to kill him. They wanted him dead—so he's dead. It's as simple as that. They killed him in his cell and dragged his body to where they wanted it found."

And Jackson, writing in his book, *Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters Of George Jackson*, himself said: "They are planning to kill me. I don't know when or how, but they are planning to kill me."

*Mrs. Jackson and her lawyer, John Thorne, (r) urge probe at courthouse. Mrs. Doris Maxwell (l) mother of John Clutchette, joins her.*

