

Soledad Trial

Security Suit

By Harold V. Streeter

Hall of Justice security rules for the Soledad Brothers trial will be challenged next week in a suit by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California.

Charles Marson, staff council for ACLU, said a group of volunteer lawyers is helping draw up the suit and that it likely will be brought in federal court. The sheriff, chief of police, and the City and County of San Francisco will be listed as defendants.

Tight Security

The security for the murder trial of two Soledad Prison convicts, now held at San Quentin on charges of killing a Soledad guard, includes:

Keeping the third floor courtroom area under heavy guard, obtaining cards on the first floor by spectators, searching and photographing of all cardholders before admittance and a bullet-proof glass, metal and wooden barrier separating spectators and newsmen from the trial participants.

"We think the security measures exceed all reasonable demands," Marson said.

Public Trial

"They seem calculated to reduce if not eliminate spectators at the trial. They are a plain and unforgivable violation of both the defendants' constitutional right to a public trial and the spectators' constitutional right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure.

"Women are being stripped naked, compelled to spread their legs and submit to examination of their vagina. This is being done to all female spectators regardless of whether there is reason to

believe they are suspicious or dangerous.

"Somewhat similar examinations are being made of males.

"Complaints have been pouring into our offices this week."

Motions Denied

Wednesday the trial judge, Superior Court's S. Lee Vavuris, denied all defense motions for changing the security measures.

Floyd Silliman, attorney for defendant John Clutchette, and Richard Silver, attorney for defendant Fleeta Drumgo, charged that the security measures amounted to "intimidation" and would mislead the jurors into immediately concluding the two convicts were dangerous.

Judge Vavuris said he might consider some easing of restrictions, particularly as to entry and exit for defense messengers, if the rules in any way impaired a fair trial.