

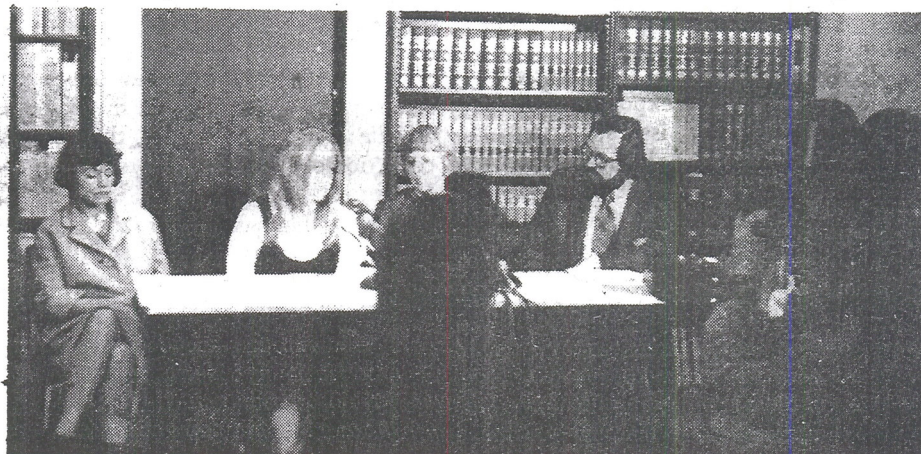
Soledad Brothers Trial Security Called "Illegal" and "Degrading"

The ACLU-NC has petitioned the California Court of Appeal to void the Security Order of Judge S. Lee Vavuris in the "Soledad Brothers" Trial of Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette.

Acting on this order, the Sheriff and Police Departments have required all those attending the trial to submit to a long list of security procedures, including being photographed with their identifying seat number. As Paul Halvonik points out, "Requiring everyone, without cause, to submit to mug shots as a price for attendance works an impermissible chilling effect on the right to public trial, guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution."

Degrading Skin Searches

In addition, women must submit to a further indignity — removal of all clothing for search, including panties, brassieres and sanitary napkins, in an area not even protected from view of other women waiting to be stripped or male courtroom guards. Since the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution prohibits either searches or arrests without "probable cause", the



CHAPMAN FINE MCFADDIN
The case against the Soledad Brothers conference by ACLU-NC Legal
 Trial Security procedures was made to Director Paul Halvonik and the three
 an extremely well-attended news petitioners.

ACLU-NC feels this procedure is clearly a violation of civil liberties. Halvonik states, "Surely things have not gotten to the point where the exercise of the constitutional right to attend a public trial is a 'suspect' activity, empowering the state to conduct degrading skin searches."

The three women the ACLU-NC is representing in this case tell of the harassments they have experienced in attending the trial.

Suzan Fine, a twenty-eight-year old San Franciscan, was experiencing menstrual cramps. Her sanitary napkin was removed and a hot-water bottle taken from her. The guards refused to return the bottle during a mid-morning recess unless she promised

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to leave the building. When it was returned, at the end of the day the tote bag containing it had been slashed.

"The men don't have to go through skin searches women do," Miss Fine said. They just get pat searches of their clothing."

Agnes McFaddin, fifty-four, explained that, after the matron asked her to remove both her pantyhose and her panties, she was so embarrassed she wasn't sure she would be able to return to the trial another day.

Sixty-three-year-old Marie Chapman complained at having her photograph taken, "Why are you taking our photographs? Am I the criminal?" The policeman taking the photo replied, "You're right. You are the criminal."

Halvonik explains, "There are few people who will attend a trial when they are forced into a strip-search and when they accumulate what amounts to a criminal record, replete with photographs and identifying numbers. This "Security Order" must be rescinded so the people of San Francisco can exercise their right to attend a public trial free of unwarranted surveillance and illegal searches and seizures."