

Reagan Denounces Angela Fund Plea

Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday that it is "utterly ridiculous" for Angela Davis to expect she can "hire a battery of lawyers" to defend her against murder-kidnap-conspiracy charges and then "send the bill to the taxpayers."

At his Sacramento press conference, Reagan, with considerable asperity, said that if Miss Davis "wants to throw herself on the mercy of the court for a public defender, that's her right and she can do it."

Miss Davis is awaiting trial in San Jose on charges rising from the bloody Marin Civic Center shooting in 1970 in which four people died. She has filed petitions saying she is broke and asks Santa Clara county to defray all costs of her defense, including attorney fees.

DELAYS

Reagan cited the long delays in bringing Miss Davis to trial and said: "I think this whole thing . . . is just part of the reason why people have a growing disgust with the clogging of the courts.

"The accused has the right to an immediate trial. Well, I think society has the right to an immediate trial and I think a great many people, including myself, are getting impatient with this whole dragged-out process.

"Now, every accused who does not have the means to provide legal defense is provided by the court with a legal defender — public defender, and she has the same right as any other citizen, but no one has ever been given the right to choose their own lawyers and build a defense and send the bill to the taxpayers."

(In Marin county, where the county is paying attorney fees for the defense of Ruchell Magee, a participant in the Marin Civic center shooting and initially a co-defendant with Miss Davis, the cost has been \$80,000. Ernest Graves, Magee's attorney has been paid \$65,000 to date, said Michael Mitchell, county auditor-controller.

and \$15,000 has been divided among three other attorneys.)

In San Jose, Howard Moore, Jr., chief of Miss Davis' defense corps, estimated that it will take more than \$500,000 to pay her legal costs.

He said the lawyers involved in the case are receiving fees far below those normally charged and all are working virtually full time on the Davis case.

PRESS

Moore was one of the participants in the morning press conference called to refute charges that some of the money raised for the Angela Davis Defense Fund had been diverted to the Communist Party.

Miss Davis is a member of the Communist Party, and last week, during a visit to the Bay Area by Gus Hall, the party's presidential candidate, it was disclosed the organization had been a major contributor to the Davis defense fund. Hall declined, however to discuss how much money the party had given.

Franklin Alexander, a trustee of the Angela Davis Legal Defense Fund and a Communist Party functionary, catalogued as "libelous lies and distortions" reports that funds contributed for the Davis defense had gone into Communist Party activities.