

Stanford's Role in Moving Angela

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By Carolyn Anspacher
Stanford University's top administrators figured prominently in the decision to remove the Angela Davis murder-kidnap-conspiracy trial from Santa Clara county's Palo Alto facility to San Jose.

They feared, according to a story appearing yesterday in the Stanford Daily, that a Palo Alto trial would set off the sorts of protests and confrontations that erupted in New Haven in May of 1970 during the murder trial of Black Panther leader Bobby Seale.

When Miss Davis' trial was ordered moved from Marin

to Santa Clara county last November 2, and she was transferred from the county jail in San Rafael to the Palo Alto facility, it was assumed the trial would be held there.

However, it was announced on December 7 that San Jose would be the trial site on order of the then-presiding Superior Court Judge John Racanelli.

Stanford's Vice Provost Robert Rosenzweig acknowledged that the university administrators "did our best to do what we could to see the trial was held in San Jose."

President Richard Lyman said he had met with Santa Clara County Executive

Howard Campen because "some people did not know about the New Haven situation and we just wanted them to consider that piece of history."

At the time of the decision to move the trial to San Jose Santa Clara county Sheriff James Geary made no effort to mask his disapproval. He said he believed the University was "overly concerned," and added he thought Stanford would pose no more problem as a rallying point for activists than would San Jose State College.

At a series of New Haven rallies over the May Day weekend in 1970 scores were

injured and arrested as they battled 2400 National Guardsmen.

Judge Racanelli said he was "aware" of Stanford's opposition to having the trial in Palo Alto but said "more important factors" figured in the final decision. He said he and his fellow judge felt that the San Jose site lent itself "far more feasibly to a lengthy trial than any other facility in the county."

It is estimated that nearly three-quarters of a million dollars has been spent to secure the tiny courtroom in San Jose where Miss Davis is to go to trial.

At the present time the last of numerous pre-trial motions are being argued before Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason and may be submitted on Tuesday. Primary among the decisions Judge Arnason must rule on are defense motions for another change of venue; for broadening the county's voter registration lists to include increased numbers of blacks, Mexican-Americans and poor people, and disclosure by the prosecution of evidence gathered through "electronic surveillance."

The prosecution has asked disclosure of possible defense "alibi" witnesses.