

Ire Over Reagan vs. Davis TV

By Stephen Cook

SAN JOSE — Pretrial hearings in the Angela Davis case wound up this afternoon with a heated courtroom row over statements made about the case by Governor Reagan and Attorney General Evelle Younger.

Defense Attorney Doris Brinn Walker asked that Judge Richard Arnason instruct prosecutor Albert Harris Jr. to serve the Governor and Younger (Harris's boss) personally with copies of the court-imposed gag rule in the case.

Harris reacted angrily.

The request was apparently triggered by Younger's criticism yesterday of Monday night's hour-long interview of Miss Davis by her spiritual adviser, Rev. A. Cecil Williams of the Glide Memorial Church.

'Bad Taste'

Younger had said the show was in bad taste because it was on the eve of her kidnap-conspiracy trial and asked how Miss Davis would have liked it if KPIX had run a show about Judge Harold Haley's "family, dreams, and aspirations."

Miss Davis is accused of supplying guns used in the attempt to escape from the Marin County Hall of Justice which left Judge Haley and three others dead on August 7, 1970.

The comment by Younger and earlier ones by Reagan are sufficient for them to be hauled into court on contempt charges, Mrs. Walker said.

Prosecutor Harris responded with an angry indictment of Miss Davis for her participation in the Monday night interview, which he termed "sickening and maudlin."

'Punch Lines'

The show consisted "of a conversation where punch lines were handed back and forth between Miss Davis and Rev. Williams," he said, "and there was no pretense of an objective conversation or interview."

"There was a cheerleader on one side and Angela Davis on the other."

"Mr. Younger was making fair comment on what I found to be a performance in terribly bad taste. A really irresponsible act."

Judge Arnason declined to serve the paper.

White Jury

The defense has also expressed the fear that Miss Davis might go to trial before an all-white jury.

As a remedy, they suggested that Superior Judge Richard Arnason add to the panel of 50 to 100 prospective jurors a group of names from the state list of licensed drivers in Santa Clara County.

The idea was advanced by attorney Margaret Burnham as a means of avoiding what the defense claims is a built-in "deselection" of minorities when jury lists are drawn from the roster of registered voters.

It came during what appeared to be the final day of pre-trial hearings that have extended over many months, when both sides were summing up their final arguments on various motions before the court.