

Angela at Soledad Trial

By Larry D. Hatfield and
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Angela Davis observed her second day of freedom on bail today by paying a visit to the courtroom where two former inmates at Soledad Prison are on trial for murdering a guard.

Accompanied by a party of about 10 persons — some of them apparently her own newly formed security pa-

trol — she was photographed and subjected to a skin-search, as are all spectators, including newsmen.

The 28-year-old former philosophy instructor, facing the start of her own trial for kidnaping, murder and conspiracy on Monday, was flanked by her mother, Mrs. Frank Davis, and her sister, Fania Jordan, as she entered the courtroom.

She wore an ankle-length

beige coat, an orange blouse and a black skirt, and took a seat toward the rear of the room as her entourage scattered to wherever there were vacancies. The courtroom accommodates only 40 spectators.

Superior Court Judge S. Lee Vavuris wasted no time in taking charge of the situation. He warned spectators

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Angela Davis and the Rev. Cecil Williams (left), her spiritual advisor, drew all eyes at Soledad trial here today

—Examiner photo by Gordon Stone

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that there would be no "power" salutes, and no disruptions of the trial.

Transgressors, he declared, would promptly draw citations for contempt, accompanied by five days in jail and \$500 fines.

Defense Attorney Floyd Silliman started to object, but Vavuris abruptly cut him off.

When the defendants entered, one of them, Fleeta Drumgo, started to raise his arm in a clenched-fist salute.

"All right," the judge snapped sharply, "Watch it, Mr. Drumgo."

Surreptitious

Drumgo brought his hand down, but as he and co-defendant John Clutchette got farther away from the bench he did venture a surreptitious half-salute.

Miss Davis said nothing and attempted no gestures.

Her interest in the trial is one of long standing. She herself is accused of supplying the guns used by Jonathan Jackson, 17, in an attempted courtroom escape attempt in Marin County in August, 1970, in which Jackson, a superior court judge and two convicts were slain.

Jackson's older brother, George, was originally one of the defendants in the Soledad case, and witnesses have testified it was he who hurled the body of guard John Mills from a third-floor cell tier.

George Jackson was killed last August in an escape attempt at San Quentin in which three guards and two prison trustees also died.

Security

Miss Davis' visit, therefore, was not unexpected.

Since her release in \$102,500 bail Wednesday evening, she has been living at an undisclosed address in Santa Clara County.

Doris Brin Walker, one of her attorneys, pleaded at a brief news conference yesterday that the press make no attempt to locate her.

A squad of local Free Angela Davis committeemen were assigned to security duties at the conference, scouting the audience before Miss Davis arrived. Franklin D. Alexander, co-chairman of the National Free Angela Davis Committee, was in the party that accompanied her today.

So, too, were her husband,

pro-football player Ben Davis, a linebacker for the Cleveland Browns, and Reggie.

There were no incidents during the morning, although the judge issued a stern admonition at one point when an exchange between attorneys brought laughter.

Miss Davis would not talk to reporters after the session, citing the conditions of her bail.

Miss Davis' appearance was the central point of interest in today's trial session, although Judge Vavuris set the stage for an intriguing duel of wits.

He ruled that Jay Warren

Powell, Tulare County public defender appearing as a defense witness, could not testify as to anything that was discussed between him and Manuel Green, a former Soledad inmate and key prosecution witness.

Thus it was left to defense attorneys to attempt to extricate the information they want to place before the jury by questioning Powell only about his conversations with the county's district attorney.

He said yesterday that Green testified for the prosecution because of a deal under which felony charges against him would be dropped. The jury was not

present, however.

Powell said Tulare District Attorney Robert Bereman agreed to drop the charges against Grerern after Powell, who represented Green, said he would advise him not to testify unless the charges were dropped.

He also said the deal "was made firm" after consultations among himself, Bereman and Monterey County District Attorney William Curtis, who is the prosecutor in the case.

Green, the defense contends, had made four statements about the murder of Mills without mentioning either John Clutchette or Drumgo.

He made a fifth statement implicating them, however, after he was jailed in Tulare County on charges of possession of stolen goods, possession of dangerous drugs and possession of a firearm by an ex-convict.

Powell said Green was aware that a deal was being negotiated when he made his new statement. He invoked lawyer-client privilege against revealing their conversations, however, when Drumgo's attorney, Richard Silver, asked if Green actually knew that the deal had been made when he testified last month.