

Angela Steps In --Wins a Big Point

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By Carolyn Anspacher

Angela Davis emerged more fully yesterday as participating co-counsel in her murder-kidnap-conspiracy trial in San Jose, and in the space of 83 minutes won a spectacular victory.

She succeeded, where her own highly skilled attorneys had failed, in disqualifying a prospective alternate juror for prejudice.

In what amounted to a debate with Robert Doran, 38, a Pacific Telephone Co. senior engineer, she drew from him the admission that while he might lean over backward to be fair to her as a black woman, he seriously doubted he could give credence to any member of the Communist party who

might testify as a defense witness.

For much of Monday afternoon, Defense Attorney Leo Branton Jr. had hammered away at the articulate Doran who managed to sidestep any overt suggestion of bias against Miss Davis because she is black, or because she is a Communist Party member.

He admitted hostility to communism, per se, as anti-religion (he is a devout Presbyterian) and as dedicated to world dominance. At the day's end, when Branton challenged Doran for prejudice, Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason took the matter under advisement, and when court resumed yesterday morning he denied the challenge.

Miss Davis, accused of having masterminded the August, 1970, Marin County Courthouse shooting in which four persons, including a superior court judge were killed, rose to do intellectual battle with Doran.

QUESTIONS

Blue-suited, mini-skirted, she began softly, inquiring about Doran's family, his outside interests, then, she put aside apparent girlish interest in her adversary and assumed the role of quiz master. The 28-year-old Miss Davis is a former philosophy instructor at UCLA and she spared Doran none of the hard questions.

Do you know the Kremer report? she asked. And, de-

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fine the problem of the blacks and why is there discrimination? She asked him to discuss the genesis of racial hatred and to expatiate on the overall civil rights movement and the organizations involved.

She went into the semantics of the word "pig" (a 19th Century English expletive, she said, used to describe police), and of "black power," and the clenched fist salute (a salute, she said, that came into being during the Spanish Civil War.).

RECESS

The colloquy was interrupted by the luncheon recess, and Miss Davis went after Doran again. Doran, at one point suggested Miss Davis might be called a "black racist," because she had inferred he might be described as a "white racist."

"I've never been called a black racist before," she said, apparently surprised.

Then she lit into Doran about his disapproval of the Presbyterian Church's \$10,000 gift to the Angela Davis Defense Fund.

"I was surprised," said Doran. "But I had a hunch the situation would change. I felt the blacks themselves would not want to see the church involved with the Communist Party. I thought they wouldn't want the church involved in controversy. I felt they — the black churchmen — would replace the money to calm the storm, and they did."

THEORIES

This interchange led to an involved discussion of the theories of communism. "Can you separate the Communist Party from me?" Miss Davis asked.

"I think so," Doran said. "But there is just a chance that aside from the Communist angle, there is just a chance I might tend to look on you more as a black than

a Communist.

"I might be more prejudiced against the people (of the State of California) than against you. I might just say the black people should have better opportunity and more leeway.

"I might be biased in your favor as a black, but I don't agree with your communism at all. I don't believe the plight of the blacks in the

United States merits Communist leadership. I think it can be resolved within the United States system."

It was here that Miss Davis delivered the coup de grace.

"If I should testify in my own behalf, would you think I was telling the truth or reciting the party line?"

"I'd have to treat you like anybody else," he said.

"Any Communist?" she asked. "There is the possibility I may call some Communist Party members to testify in my behalf. If this occurs, would you be inclined to think everything they say would be untrue?"

"There is that possibility," he acknowledged.

REQUEST

So softly, she could barely be heard, Miss Davis spoke to Judge Arnason and asked that Doran be removed from the panel.

"I recognize the possibility that the defense may call Communist Party members," Arnason said. "If so, would you look upon their testimony in a different light than others?"

"I might tend to," Doran conceded.

He was immediately excused. Miss Davis returned to the counsel table, smiling broadly. She had saved a precious peremptory challenge for the defense.

Selection of the four alternate jurors to serve the eight women and four men sworn in as jurors Tuesday, dragged through the rest of the day.