

# Angela Davis Trial--

## State Begins March 27

By Stephen Cook

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SAN JOSE — The substance of the state's case against Angela Davis—the subject of international speculation for 19 months—will be disclosed Monday, March 27.

Trial Judge Richard E. Arnason set that date, a week from Monday, for the prosecution to open its case against the beautiful black scholar accused of murder, kidnap and conspiracy.

Assistant Attorney General Albert W. Harris Jr., the special prosecutor, said he will spend at least half of that day outlining his case against the Communist and former UCLA professor in his opening argument.

The stage for this formal opening of the trial was set yesterday by the completion of the jury selection phase of the trial.

### Alternates Seated

In the final 30 minutes, five alternate jurors were seated and one of them—a 20 year old girl—was immediately called upon to replace one of the members of the primary panel of 12 jurors sworn in Tuesday.

The switch came when juror No. 8, a 39 year old mother of five and wife of a world champion horseshoe pitcher, was excused by Judge Arnason for undisclosed "personal reasons," with the consent of the defense and prosecution.

The new juror, a receptionist-secretary who will be 21 in May, is eligible for service under recent changes in laws relating to 18-20 year olds, and may be

the youngest juror ever to serve in a California murder trial.

### Another Younger

She will not be the youngest in the jury box, though. The last alternate seated was a 19 year old student at West Valley College who said he had switched his classes from day to night so that he could serve on the panel.

The other alternates seated yesterday were a retired engineer who came here from Denmark in 1924, a 27 year old divorcee and part time secretary, and a young mechanical designer for Ampex.

The inclusion of the 20 year old lowered the average age of the jurors who will judge Miss Davis from 40, to 39.

When questioned by the lawyers this week, the young juror listed her interests as tennis, painting and sewing.

### Family

Her father is a lithographer, her mother a bank teller and her older brother is a graduate student at the University of California in Berkeley, she said.

She received her closest questioning after she said, "I don't feel I could judge Miss Davis unemotionally. It's an awfully big decision to make and I don't think I could do it. I don't feel I could condemn her."

Questioned by Harris, she said that statement was too strong and that, though it would be difficult, she could convict Miss Davis if convinced of her guilt.

After court, Harris said:

"That's a fair jury and I don't think it favors one side or the other."

### Judge Redeemed

Selection of the panel in three weeks when original estimates were that it would take six "redeems" the decision of Judge Arnason that Santa Clara County was a reasonable site for the trial, Morris said.

The case was transferred here in December when the judge ruled it a "reasonable likelihood" that Miss Davis could not receive a fair trial at the Marin County Hall of Justice, scene of the events for which she is charged.

A judge and three others were killed Aug. 7, 1970, during an attempt to free several San Quentin inmates. Miss is accused of plotting the attempt and supplying the guns used.

Her attorney, Howard Moore Jr., was less enthusiastic than Harris, but said he was pleased with the jury, considering the circumstances.

"It's unlikely we could get a better jury in this county," he said.