

Judge in Trial of Angela Davis Bars Statements by Lawyers

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SAN JOSE, Calif., April 12—A rule against discussing the trial of Angela Davis outside the courtroom was imposed on all persons involved today.

Judge Richard E. Arnason told newsmen that he was prohibiting "any statement" about the trial. He made the statement in response to questions after defense attorneys had confirmed that the order had been issued during an hour-long conference in the judge's chamber.

An order prohibiting the discussion of evidence was imposed last December, but attorneys for both sides had since been discussing the case with reporters.

Today's order was prompted by a news conference held at noon yesterday by the Angela Davis Defense Committee.

During that news conference the committee issued a statement that accused Prosecutor Albert Harris of conspiring with certain journalists "to railroad Angela Davis." The committee was referring to recent published reports saying that James Carr, a former San Quentin inmate who was shot and killed outside a home here last week, was slain because he had been taking money from the Davis defense fund.

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The reports said that Carr had been shot as he was leaving the home of his mother-in-law, Joan Hammer, a supporter and friend of Miss Davis, who is being tried on murder, kidnapping and conspiracy charges.

The defense committee accused the prosecutor of telling newsmen that he had intended to call Carr as a witness to connect him with Miss Davis.

"He [Mr. Harris] has seized on the Carr murder in a sometime, Angela Davis was guilty of something," a statement released by the committee said.

It continued: "At the very least, Harris' opportunism is inhuman: in the murder of another human being, he sees only an event fortuitous for this case."

After the reports linking Carr to the Davis case were published, Judge Arnason questioned the jurors in an effort to determine whether they had been influenced by the articles.

He told the jurors that the death of Carr was in no way related to the Davis trial. He then followed this morning by issuing the order that caused attorneys virtually to ignore reporters.

In the meantime, in the courtroom today the state called eight witnesses who offered testimony as to the validity of the physical evidence introduced thus far.

Keith C. Craig, the Marin County coroner, was on the stand when proceedings recessed today. He disclosed for the first time that Jonathan Jackson was alive when an escape van was opened outside the Marin County Civic Center after a shootout that led to the trial of Miss Davis.

Jonathan Jackson was one of three San Quentin convicts killed after they seized five hostages and attempted to escape from a courtroom. A judge was also slain.

Miss Davis, a black who is an avowed Communist, is accused of having helped to plan the seizure and of purchasing guns for it.