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Angela's Abridged Love Diary

The 18-page love diary written by Angela Davis to Soledad Brother George Jackson has now been pared down to 2½ pages and this new version may be accepted as admissible evidence if offered when the black militant's murder - kidnap - conspiracy trial resumes in San Jose on Monday.

The diary, begun by Miss Davis in her Marin County jail cell on July 8, 1971, and found in Jackson's San Quentin cell after his death August 21, 1971, reportedly is the heart of the state's case against the former UCLA philosophy instructor.

Assistant Attorney General Albert Harris Jr. believes the diary contains the motive for August 7, 1970, Marin Civic Center escape attempt in which four persons lost their lives. It was for love of Jackson, Harris has argued, that Miss Davis plotted and armed the abortive escape attempt, expecting to exchange five hostages, including Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, for Jackson's freedom.

PASSION

In segments of the diary so far on the record (but not read to the seven woman, five-man jury), Miss Davis bespoke her passion for Jackson and her willingness to tear down bars to free him.

During chamber arguments about the document, Harris declared if the diary were ruled inadmissible, and withheld from the jury, "we might as well all pack up and go home."

Harris himself edited the 18-page document down to seven pages last week after Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason held the diary contained much material that was irrelevant and possibly prejudicial. But even this version was unacceptable to Judge Arnason, who himself edited the diary still further.

COPIES

Attorneys for both prosecution and defense were given copies of the 2½-page version at Thursday's lengthy conference in Judge Arnason's chambers. Harris refused to say yesterday if he intends to offer this final version to the jury.

The prosecution's case against Miss Davis is expected to close early next week. In dismissing the jury Thursday morning, Judge Arnason said Harris still has "two or three more witnesses" to call.

The trial so far has occupied ten weeks, three given over to jury selection, and seven devoted to testimony given by 93 prosecution witnesses, several through deposition and entered by stipulation of the defense. At the onset of the trial Harris said he intended to call 104 witnesses.

Attorneys for Miss Davis so far have declined to discuss any phase of the defense case.