

MAY 19 1972

Page 18—S.F. Examiner
Fri., May 19, 1972 ☆☆☆

Angela Trial Note Ruled Out

Escape Letter Not Admissible

By Stephen Cook
Examiner News Staff

SAN JOSE — Escape plans made by Soledad Brother George Jackson after the October, 1970, arrest of Angela Davis cannot be used as evidence against her.

Superior Judge Richard E. Arnason made that ruling last week when Prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr. sought to bolster his case against Miss Davis by introducing an escape plan letter from George Jackson, found by authorities in January, 1971.

The letter, found in the pocket of trousers left at a Santa Cruz laundry by Betsy Hammer Carr of San Jose, outlined a scheme by which Jackson's sisters could smuggle guns and plastic explosives to him at San Quentin Prison.

It also contained the words, "I must save Angela," Harris told the judge during a chambers session argument over its admissibility last week.

Many Reasons

The judge, at the urging of the defense, held the document inadmissible on "numerous grounds."

Defense lawyers argued it was irrelevant, since it was written after the Aug. 7, 1970, Marin Civic Center kidnap and murder for which Miss Davis is charged.

Harris claims she planned the kidnap of Superior Judge Harold J. Haley, intending to hold him for the release of George Jackson, the prisoner she loved. Jackson's 17 year old brother, Jonathan, carried out the plot and was killed, along with the judge and two escaping convicts.

State of Mind

Harris contended the George Jackson letter was relevant evidence because it showed his continuing state of mind drove him to attempt escape at any risk, even if he had to involve members of his own family.

Judge Arnason yesterday recessed the trial until 9 a.m. Monday, at the defense's request, to allow them to prepare their case.