
Words Fail Judge --So He Quotes

Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason, the Contra Costa county jurist who presided over the Angela Davis trial, said he was without adequate words to express his thanks to the jury that had just returned a verdict acquitting the 28-year-old black militant.

Instead, he read a quotation from G. K. Chesterton's "The Twelve Men," written by the British author after jury service. It said:

"Our civilization has decided, and very justly decided, that determining the guilt or innocence of men is

a thing too important to be trusted to trained men.

"If it wishes for light upon that awful matter, it asks men who know no more law than I know, but who can feel the things I felt in a jury box.

"When it wants a library catalogued, or the solar system discovered, or any trifle of that kind, it uses up its specialists. But when it wishes anything done that is really serious, it collects 12 of the ordinary men standing about. The same thing was done, if I remember right, by the founder of Christianity."

SF Chron

6-5-72