

'Shocked Beyond Belief'

A Bitter Reaction By the Marin DA

By Elsie Milne

Marin county District Attorney Bruce Bales, who disqualified himself as Angela Davis' prosecutor, said yesterday he was "shocked beyond belief" at her acquittal.

In a bitter reaction, Bales said, "I think the jury fell for the very emotional pitch offered by the defense.

"She didn't even take the stand to deny her guilt.

"Despite what has happened, I still maintain she was as responsible for the death of Judge (Harold) Haley and the crippling of my assistant, Gary Thomas, as Jonathan Jackson.

"Undoubtedly, more so, because of her age, experience and intelligence."

Governor Ronald Reagan, a spokesman at the capitol said, was not available for comment on the verdict.

In San Rafael, John Buresh, attorney for Mrs. Haley, the judge's widow, said:

"Mrs. Haley does not want to discuss the verdict because she believes nothing will be accomplished by anything she might say.

"She has had a real tough ordeal. Hardly a day has gone by but what she has been confronted with the death of her husband.

"Every time she turned around, or turned on the television or read the newspapers, she was constantly reminded of the tragedy.

"I can definitely say her reaction to the decision is one of considerable relief. I want to make it clear that

Mrs. Haley has no feeling, one way or the other, about the decision.

"She knows it was put in the hands of the prosecution and the court and the jury, and everything the law requires has been done, and that's it — it's finished."

At San Quentin Prison, officer of the day Irving Ritter said there had been "absolutely no reaction" from the prison population to the verdict.

"We haven't heard as much as one word from the prisoners," Ritter said.

John Calteaux, attorney for Maria Graham, a juror who was wounded in the Civic Center shooting, said his client would have no comment on the Davis verdict. As for himself, he said calmly, "This is just about what I expected to happen."

Gary Thomas, the crippled assistant district attorney, also had no comment to make, his wife said.

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