

# State Limit on Angela Jail Cost

By Jim Brewer

While Marin county claims it cost more than a half million dollars to provide security while Angela Davis was in jail there, the State of California will only pay one-third of the claim, The Chronicle learned yesterday.

County Counsel Douglas J. Maloney said the State Department of Finance has agreed to pay the county only \$168,887 of the county's \$537,867 cost during the 12-month period ending December, 1971.

Maloney said he will urge the Board of Supervisors to sue for the \$398,980 difference.

## COST

Maloney said expenses went so high because of "continuing security" at the Marin Civic Center, which, he said, was not due to "trial costs, but due to the shootout and bombing."

A Marin judge and three other persons died in an abortive kidnap - escape attempt at the Marin courthouse on Aug. 7, 1970.

A bomb blast destroyed a Marin courtroom two months later.

The state's intentions on reimbursement were spelled out by Finance Director Verne Orr in a memo last month to Controller Houston Flournoy. A copy was received by Marin county Auditor - Controller Michael Mitchell.

Marin County officials and officials in Sacramento have long been at odds over financial responsibility for the shootout and its resulting trial expenses.

## CASES

The State is responsible for trial costs resulting from San Quentin cases, but it was disputed whether the escape attempt was a San Quentin responsibility.

A bill by Assemblyman William T. Bagley (Rep -

Marin) was signed into law last September requiring the state to reimburse Marin for "the courtroom security reasonably required to protect the court and its participants and other direct trial costs."

Bagley told the Chronicle yesterday he is "not surprised at all" that the county again is at odds with the state.

He said the language of the bill was written "as specifically as possible and still have the bill signed."

"It's up to the court to decide what reasonable security costs are," Bagley said.

But he added the state should be as "generous as possible" because "if San Quentin had not been there (in Marin county) there wouldn't have been an attempted escape."

## EXPENSES

Maloney agreed. "The taxpayers of Marin should not have to bear expenses that are a state responsibility. These costs have nothing

to do with the internal affairs of the county. They stem from San Quentin convicts being tried in our courts," he said.

Stiff building and courtroom security measures were imposed at the Marin Civic Center after the shootout and bombing, particularly during 1971 when Angela Davis and San Quentin convict Ruchell Magee were undergoing pre-trial hearings on charges stemming from the August killings.

Miss Davis was later transferred to Santa Clara county for trial where she was acquitted of murder, kidnap and conspiracy charges.

Magee is awaiting trial on the same charges after being granted a change of venue to San Francisco.