

## Angela Case

# Doubt Cast on Jailbreak Story

By Rick Carroll

The undersheriff of Santa Clara county said yesterday a story by a former county jail inmate that he was offered \$1000 by Angela Davis supporters to stage a jailbreak

during her trial "sounds like a fairy tale."

"We've been unable to come up with any evidence to indicate there was any conspiracy or plot involved in this escape," said Tom Rosa.

The attempted breakout by three Santa Clara county jail inmates last March 28 only 100 yards from the courthouse where Miss Davis was being tried for murder and conspiracy was witnessed by eight of her jurors, and some have indicated it might have influenced their decision.

The tale that the attempt was staged in connection with the trial erupted over the weekend when a Los Angeles attorney disclosed he has been engaged to seek immunity for the unidentified inmate — who claims he was cheated out of the money.

The attorney, Victor I. Reichman, discussed the case here yesterday with representatives of the state attorney general's office, the Santa Clara county district attorney's office and a representative of the Santa Clara county sheriff's department.

After the meeting — at the attorney general's office — Reichman declined to identify the inmate, but did disclose that he was retained by author Charles Aschman of Long Beach, who is writing a book about the Angela Davis case — and who supposedly uncovered the former inmate's jailbreak tale.

The attorney general's office said no facts of the case were discussed, only legal points.

In addition, a representative noted, the attorney general's office has no jurisdiction in the matter.

Attorney General Evelle Younger, said his office would "just listen," and if there is any substance to the case it will be referred to the Santa Clara county district attorney's office.

Asked if perhaps the story was an attempt to fire up the Angela Davis publicity mill again, and he answered sardonically:

"I might say that I'd be perfectly happy if I never used the name Miss Davis again."