

# Lawyer's Lost Notes

Lawyer Margaret Burnham, who lost six pages of vital defense notes during the Angela Davis case four years ago, gave conflicting statements about the court-sealed papers yesterday.

"I recall the incident very distinctly," Miss Burnham told the United Press International bureau in Boston where she now practices. "There was never any talk about a conspiracy. I know about the notes and the notes do not support any such theory."

The Chronicle disclosed last Monday that the notes, jotted down during a defense conference in the Marin county jail on July 15, 1971, were ordered sealed and vaulted by Superior Court Judge Richard A. Arnason, the judge sitting on the case.

The notes had been found in the jail messhall by a cook after the conference ended. He read them, turned them over to sheriff's officers who also read them, and they eventually reached Marin County Counsel Douglas Maloney.

On July 19, 1971, Maloney delivered the notes to Judge Arnason in a secret chambers conference attended by Miss Davis' four defense at-

torneys. After hearing heated arguments over what Miss Burnham described as the "most important of all papers," Judge Arnason ordered them copied and the copy sealed and vaulted. The originals were returned to her.

Sources familiar with the contents of the notes have told The Chronicle they contain references that interlock with confidential police reports of an investigation into what, at the time, was believed a wide conspiracy involving numerous persons.

Miss Burnham angrily declined to discuss with The Chronicle what the notes might contain, at one point remarking, "I have no recollection of what my notes may say, I have only a vague recollection of the incident. Don't you guys have anything better to do than to write stories about notes from four years ago?"

She said she wasn't sure even if she still had the originals of the six pages penned in red on pages from a yellow legal pad.

In the interview with UPI, prior to talking with The Chronicle, Miss Burnham was adamant that the notes contain nothing startling.

