

Ellsberg

Suspect Can Dress Up

Kevin Quinn, the 21-year-old Mill Valley man accused of stealing documents from the home of Pentagon Papers figure Daniel Ellsberg, may wear street clothes to court from now on, a judge ruled yesterday.

Quinn's attorney's Carl Shapiro, had claimed Tuesday that the standard county jail garb for men — baggy white overalls and stocking feet — might prejudice the defendant.

Marin Sheriff Louis Mountanos argued yesterday that all male defendants wear such garb from his jail to pretrial hearings and are thereby afforded equal protection under the law.

"I find there is no discrimination" in the county policy, Marin county Municipal Court Judge Gary Thomas agreed. But he cited Quinn as a special case.

"I do find that the defendant is at a psychological disadvantage due to the nature of the charge," Thomas ruled. "It seems to have invoked a certain amount of notoriety."

Quinn, still in his baggy whites, refused to enter a plea to the charge that he allegedly stole top secret documents from Ellsberg's home, and Judge Thomas ordered that a not guilty plea be entered for him.

Attorney Shapiro said later, "I have a valid and justifiable reason (for not entering the plea) but I won't discuss it now."