

Wild Courtroom Riot At SoledadHearing

## Spectators, Officers in Gory Clash

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A bloody courtroom melee erupted in the San Francisco Hall of Justice today at another hearing for the surviving two "Soledad Brothers."

Touched off by the screams and sobbing of a mother of one of the defendants, the tumult brought police and deputies rushing into the spectator section. The officers used their clubs during the battle.

Women's purses, newspapers and magazines flew in disarray. Blood spattered the walls and floor. Police and spectators fell to the floor, bloodied and bruised.

Police cleared the courtroom of the public and newsmen on orders from Superior Court Judge Carl Allen. The doors were locked and policemen stood guard in the corridor outside.

At least two persons were arrested. They were Earl M. Price, 27, of 154 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland, and his brother, Philip, 25.

Philip Price was treated for head injuries at San Francisco General Hospital. Both were booked for investigation of assault on police officers.

At least three sheriff's deputies also suffered injuries in the fracas; one was injured seriously enough to be treated at San Francisco General.

As the crowd of screaming spectators fled in a hysterical wave from the courtroom, police and spectators continued to shove and pummel each other in the corridor outside.

Just prior to the uproar, attorneys for the defendants

asked Judge Allen for permission to have private physicians examine alleged beating injuries the defendants claim to have suffered at San Quentin. Allen refused, saying there were doctors at San Quentin Prison where the men are in custody.

At that point attorney John M. Thorne, sitting in the spectator section behind a bullet-proof glass partition, leaped to his feet and shouted "You have jurisdiction over Q (San Quentin)."

Thorne was the attorney for George Jackson, one of the defendants who was killed in last Saturday's bloody escape attempt at San Quentin.

Allen sternly told Thorne, "One more outburst like that and I'll have you removed."

"This isn't a court of law," Thorne snapped, "I'm leaving anyway." With that he walked out of the courtroom.

Mrs. Doris Maxwell, mother

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of John Clutchette, 28, one of the defendants, began sobbing uncontrollably and screaming — charging the judge with being a racist and responsible for her son not receiving a fair trial.

As deputies moved in to remove her from the courtroom on orders from Judge Allen, several black men leaped to their feet and the battle was on.

Jackson, Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, were charged with the slaying of a guard last year at Soledad Prison.

The session before Allen this morning was to consider a series of motions lodged by defense attorneys.

Allen refused permission for Drumgo to remain in San Francisco County Jail for at least one night for conferences with his attorney, Richard Silver of Carmel. Silver pointed to what he called burns on Drumgo's neck and cheek.

The request was vigorously

protested by District Attorney Everett Barnes of Monterey County.

Drumgo cried out, "Then kill me now, man. You're going to kill me anyway."

Barnes replied he thought the outbursts of the defendants were for "publicity purposes."

Floyd Silliman, Salinas attorney representing Clutchette, told the judge when Clutchette was returned to San Quentin after Tuesday's hearing he was beaten by two guards. He identified the guards as Ray Hernandez and Smokey Thompson.

Mrs. Inez Williams, Drumgo's mother, was in the spectator section earlier in the morning but left weeping and had not returned to the courtroom when the riot broke out.

Judge Allen remained off the bench for 40 minutes while the courtroom remained locked to press and public. After he returned, spectators filed into the room quietly and the proceedings went ahead in a subdued tone.