

Prison Bad for Marin

Angry Marin County supervisors today deplored San Quentin's "adverse effect" on the people of Marin and demanded that ways be explored to keep future San Quentin trials out of the Marin County Civic Center.

The supervisors, expressing special concern about any trials resulting from the Aug. 21 violence at the prison, called on Presiding Judge Samuel Gardiner and District Attorney Bruce Bales to discuss the situation at the board's meeting next Tuesday.

Possibilities

Supervisor Arnold Baptiste said the meeting should pay particular attention to possibility of holding any court activities stemming from the aborted breakout in: a special building constructed in the Civic Center complex north of San Rafael; a special building elsewhere in the county; or in the prison itself.

He said fears arising from the Angela Davis-Ruchell Magee case, trials of other San Quentin convicts and now the prison break try have turned the \$15 million

Civic Center into "a virtual fortress."

"Employees here are tense and fearful," he said. "How secure can this building be when weapons and other paraphernalia are easily smuggled into a high security area like San Quentin?"

Saying the presence of the penitentiary "seems to touch the lives of all people in this county," Baptiste added, "We must be able to return this building to the people."

Supervisor Peter Arrigeni expressed concern about the expense of any trials arising from the prison violence which took six lives. Although he noted any such trials would be at state expense, Marin County taxpayers would face "peripheral" expenses like security, police protection at demonstrations and some court costs.

He noted that the Davis-Magee case is going to cost an estimated \$2 million, \$850,000 of which might be provided by the state, but those costs "are going to be minor compared to this."

Marin Grand Jury Foreman Millen Dempster said today the jury had spent 46

man hours before Aug. 21 investigating the prison and a four-man jury team was at the prison.

In a terse statement today, Dempster said, "Thus far, we have found no evidence that inmates are being mistreated."

Not Interviewed

Prison information officer W. D. Achuff said the Grand Jury "basically just came to get a layout of the area." He added that convicts were not interviewed.

District Attorney Bruce Bales said yesterday he was continuing his investigations into the killings but the case is not yet ready for the Grand Jury.

Also touring the Center yesterday were State Sen. Mervyn Dymally (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblyman John Miller (D-Berkeley), both black legislators.

Prison officials have already taken more than 50 written reports from guards and convicts who witnessed the killings. Achuff said from these reports it appeared that Ruchell Magee's claim that he took no part in the killings was justified.