

Los Angeles
Free Press

September 10, 1971

News Briefs

(A new feature by the noted
KDAY radio news journalist)

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Allan Mancino was a witness to the alleged escape attempt by George Jackson at San Quentin prison two weeks ago. We know that because prison authorities have told us that. They have not named any other inmate-witnesses — only Mancino.

In the aftermath of the riot at San Quentin, Mancino was shackled and made to lie on the floor of the adjustment center. Inmates later claimed that guards shot him in a leg while he was lying here — but last week black publisher Dr. Carleton Goodlet, who inspected Mancino's medical records, told a group of protesters that the convict had been wounded by bits of concrete that flew from a wall during the shooting. At first Mancino was placed in the hospital in San Quentin. Then he was removed from the prison altogether and sent to the Vacaville State prison. The reason given for his transfer was that Mancino, as a material witness, is in danger of being murdered to silence him.

But the *Berkeley Barb* has raised a fearful question. Why has Mancino been the only material witness identified as such? What about the other witnesses? Why haven't material witnesses in other prison cases — for example, the case involving the Soledad brothers — why haven't they been identified? In any event, the *Barb* conjectures that Mancino is being set up to be killed. They claim that he has not been able to see an attorney — or anybody else from outside the prison walls since the shooting began.

Now it has been revealed that Mancino has been moved once again — this time to the state prison in Carson City, Nevada. The warden there, Carl Hocker, says the prisoner is in protective custody for his own safety and has been isolated. Warden Hocker indicates that Mancino was transferred to Nevada under terms of an agreement between that state and California. He adds: "I have no idea when Mancino will be returned to California."

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