

A Tense Marin Hearing

Quentin Escape Case Delay

By Tim Findley

The arraignment of six San Quentin inmates on murder and conspiracy charges growing out of a bloody alleged escape attempt August 21 was postponed ten days yesterday to allow the defendants to consult with attorneys.

Marin county Superior Court Judge E. Warren McGuire also issued a warrant for the arrest of Stephen Bingham, the 29-year-old fugitive Berkeley attorney accused of smuggling a gun to the late Soledad Brother George Jackson.

Judge McGuire reset the arraignment for 9 a.m. October 15.

SECURITY

Yesterday's scheduled arraignment began under a heavy cover of security while only two courtrooms away another hearing was being conducted in the Angela Davis case.

Each of the six inmates formally requested a continu-



By Clem Albers

His hands shackled, Hugo Pinell was brought into Marin Superior Court for a hearing yesterday

ance of 30 days in the case, and five of them asked unsuccessfully for a recess to be allowed to consult with their fellow defendants.

They were brought in one at a time, their wrists shackled close to their waists and their ankles hobbled by chains. Each protested that San Quentin authorities had prevented them from gaining free access to their attorneys, and the inmates repeated charges they had been beaten and mistreated since three correctional officers and three inmates were killed in the alleged escape attempt August 21.

"This whole indictment is illegal," inmate defendant David Johnson said. "I've already been tried for this on the 21st of August."

Johnson, 24, provided the

only moment of disruption in the otherwise peaceful court hearing when Judge McGuire refused to allow him to read a motion saying he had been beaten and brutalized in the San Quentin adjustment center.

"Then I don't have anything more to say," Johnson snapped, standing up from his seat at the defense table, and telling the judge, "you're in a conspiracy right along with these dogs." It was clear he was referring to his guards, one of whom quickly grabbed at the chain around Johnson's waist.

Judge McGuire calmed the situation, telling Johnson he would consider the motions and rule on them in the next 24 to 48 hours.

He asked again if Johnson wanted an attorney appointed to represent him, and Johnson shot back, "keep them shysters out of this."

INMATES

Although the hearing was peaceful, the inmates came in to the semi-circular courtroom looking sullen, and at times angry.

The 45 spectators and members of the press who were allowed into the courtroom were thoroughly searched and watched closely by bailiffs. Besides the press, most in audience were attorneys and a few members of the defendants' families.

When the first inmate, Willie Tate, 27, was led in, one person in the audience began to clap.

"I'm not entertaining any demonstrations," Judge McGuire said sharply. "If there's any further such outburst I'll clear the court."

TEETH

Inmate Hugo Pinell, 27, said three of his teeth had been broken in one of four alleged beatings and that one tooth had been removed.

The most quiet-spoken of the inmates was Soledad Brother Fleeta Drumgo. His attorney, Richard Silver, asked for and was granted permission to consult with Drumgo at San Quentin later yesterday.

In addition to Johnson, Pinell and Drumgo, the inmates accused in the August 21 incident are John Larry Spain, 22, and Louis Talamantes, 28.