

Survey on Angela Trial Offered at Venue Hearing

By Elsie Milne

A University of California sociologist testified in Marin County Superior Court yesterday that black militant Angela Davis would have her best chance of finding an impartial jury in San Francisco.

Jeffrey Paige, an assistant professor at the Berkeley campus, said a recent survey showed there were fewer in San Francisco who held an "unfavorable" attitude toward Miss Davis than elsewhere. Alameda county came in second and the other three counties surveyed were "just as prejudiced" as Marin.

Paige testified during a day-long change of venue hearing before Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason on the results of the survey, taken in six so-called "Bay Area" counties.

Included in the telephone poll were San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin and Sacramento counties. There was no explanation why Sacramento was chosen for the survey, and Contra Costa, Sonoma and Napa — technically Bay Area counties — were not.

Of the total number questioned about Miss Davis, guilt or innocence on charges of kidnap, murder and conspiracy, Paige reported that 33.1 per cent thought her guilty; 13.4 per cent thought her not guilty and 52.5 per cent said they didn't know.

In San Francisco the figure stood at 31.4 per cent, guilty; 19.8 per cent not guilty, and 48.8 per cent didn't know.

In Marin, the figure was 34.8 per cent guilty; 10.9 not guilty and 54.3 per cent didn't know.

Prosecutor Albert W. Harris, Jr., emphasized he was not at this time opposing the request for a change of venue to San Francisco, but in a

document filed with the court said the request is challenged "because the defendant is trifling with the processes of the court by attempting to choose her own place for trial."

In his cross examination of Paige, Harris elicited the information that the polling in

Santa Clara county was done by members of the Angela Davis Defense Committee.

Two U.C. sociologists, Charles Glock and Arthur Stinchcomb, testified they believed Paige was qualified to conduct such a survey.

The hearing will continue today.



AP Wirephoto

Angela Davis smiled yesterday as a supporter in the courtroom in San Rafael shouted, "I love you, Angela"