

DEC 9 1971

Soledad

Security

Upheld

SF Examiner

A petition to halt what was termed "unwarranted surveillance and illegal searches" of spectators at the Soledad Brothers murder trial has been denied by the State Court of Appeal.

In its brief announcement, the court said:

"The court having considered the petition for a writ of mandate, together with the petition of the Attorney General in response thereto, concludes that the security regulations in question, under all of the circumstances, are reasonable. Therefore, the petition is denied."

Although unsigned, the denial was made by Presiding Justice Preston Devine, Justice Joseph A. Rattigan and Acting Justice A. F. Bray.

The action was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union last month on behalf of Suzan Fine, 28, Marie Chapman, 63, and Agnes McFaddin, 54, all of San Francisco.

They sought to void the security order of Superior Judge S. Lee Vavuris who is hearing the case of Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette, accused of murdering a Soledad guard.

Those attending the trial must submit to a thorough search as well as being photographed.

The ACLU claimed this was a violation of their civil liberties under the 14th Amendment.