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New Quarters

Ey Don West

Examiner News Staff

SAN JOSE — Engineering work began here today for new quarters at the main jail of Santa Clara County for Angela Davis.

Work began after Presiding Superior Judge John T. Racanelli issued a court order for the Jan. 31 trial to be held in Courtroom No. 1 at 180 W. Hedding St. here.

Judge Racanelli selected the 58-seat court following consultation with Contra Costa County Superior Judge Robert Arnason, who will preside over Miss Davis's

trial on murder, conspiracy and kidnapping involved in an Aug. 7, 1970, shootout at the Marin County Civic Center that left four persons dead. The case was sent here on a change of venue.

Exercise

Now being held in a two-cell suite at the Palo Alto branch of county jail, Miss Davis must now be transferred to Milpitas periodically where there are exercise facilities at the Elmwood Women's Rehabilitation Center.

The mail jail contains no

accommodations for women and special facilities are being studied there to eliminate the necessity for daily commuting for the prisoner.

Preliminary estimates of the new women's cell in the main jail have ranged from \$100,000 made by engineers to \$164,000 made by Under-sheriff Tom Rosa.

Security Problems

Sheriff James Geary has stressed the need for new facilities, because of security problems connected with regular transferring.

Engineering estimates for the proposed new cells are

for Angela

expected to be presented to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors next Tuesday.

The courtroom selected for the trial is connected by a tunnel to the main jail system so that Miss Davis could be brought to and from the court without exposure to the street.

The courtroom is situated at the rear of a 40-foot corridor at the back of the County Criminal-Legal Building. This was selected in preference to two larger courtrooms nearer the street, because its location made it simpler to control crowds.

Seating arrangements for the court are still being studied, but preliminary plans are to allot 32 seats to the press and 25 to the public.

Requests for accreditation by news media representatives have far exceeded the allotment and provisions for some may be made through a closed circuit television link to an assembly room nearby. Seating arrangements for the court have been taken over by Judge Racanelli and Superior Judge Marshall Hall, who will take over as presiding judge on Jan. 3.