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Angela Is 'Broke'--Asks For State Aid

By Donovan Bess

Strategists for the legal defense of Angela Davis said yesterday their worldwide fund-raising drive has failed to collect enough to keep up with expenses.

Franklin Alexander, coordinator of the National United Committee to Free Angela Davis, said the committee has raised "something less than \$100,000" in its year-long campaign on behalf of the black militant former professor.

Earlier this week, it was learned, Miss Davis filed a motion in Santa Clara County Superior Court asking that the state be ordered to provide "reasonable attorney fees" for the trial, which is expected to last as long as nine months.

The motion said all funds collected from donations, and from royalties from books, articles and records, have been exhausted. It asks for state financing of her lawyers' salaries as well as payments for expert witnesses and other defense costs, such as research.

MOTION

This motion, along with two others filed by Miss Davis' four attorneys, will be heard in Palo Alto on Wednesday. The trial was moved from Marin County on initiatives of her defense and is now scheduled to begin in Palo Alto on January 31.

The chief attorney for the 27-year-old defendant, Howard Moore Jr., said defense expenses currently are running at between \$5000 and \$15,000 a month.

Noting that the state has assigned three full-time prosecutors to the case, he said it should finance the defense "in order to equalize the opportunity."

BAIL

Doris Brain Walker, another member of the legal defense team, estimated that the salaries of the prosecutors alone would come to more than \$60,000 if the trial went nine months.

Yesterday the defense team had a major setback when their appeal for bail for Miss Davis was denied here by U.S. District Judge William T. Sweigert. However, he deplored the fact that the trial has been "interminably" delayed, keeping her in jail for a year and 20 days so far.

Miss Davis, a brilliant former assistant professor of philosophy at the University of California, is charged with kidnapping and conspiracy and furnishing the guns for 1970 shootings in a Marin County courthouse in which a judge and three others were killed.

Her well-organized defense committee, working through 50 chapters, has raised funds at numerous rallies in various nations.

Most of the money, Alexander said, came in \$1, \$2 and \$3 contributions, sales of posters, solicitations in supermarkets and benefits such as cocktail parties.

But, he acknowledged, "We're in the hole."

California courts have ruled against bail for Miss Davis and the motion was appealed to the U.S. bench. Miss Davis herself appeared before Sweigert Wednesday, arguing that denial of her bail was "more a political gesture than a legal gesture."

In yesterday's ruling, the jurist said "the prolonged duration of the proceedings" in

the case was "irrelevant" so far as bail was concerned.

But he went on to make a critique of the system itself, saying that "it could be plausibly argued that any judicial system which, in addition to precluding bail in a case of this kind, also either requires or permits such cases to drag almost interminably, comes arguably close to denial of the right to a speedy trial, denial of due process and, perhaps, even cruel and unusual pre-conviction punishment."