

# Sheriff Silenced In Angela Case

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SAN JOSE — Santa Clara County Sheriff James Geary was prevented by court order today from answering a series of demands by the National United Committee to Free Angela Davis.

Geary had scheduled a news conference to make public his reactions to the demands. But before he could hold it, he was summoned into the chambers of Judge James Scott, supervising judge of the criminal division of the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Scott gave verbal orders not to make further public comments on the case. Geary reported.

On advice of Deputy County Counsel Byron Athan, he continued, he met the press and read a prepared statement. But he refused to answer any questions, and added that he doesn't know when if ever he will be able to respond to the committee's demands.

## Constitution

"All measures and actions taken by my department in all instances pertaining to prisoners in my custody have been deemed necessary and proper in the execution of my responsibilities specified by law, and have been taken with all due consideration of any rights and privileges conferred by the Constitution," Geary statement declared.

As of today, it appeared that was all the response the committee would get to its demands — amnesty for 18 demonstrators arrested last week, removal of a 12-foot

fence around the trial area, stopping the photographing of all who enter the courtroom, and more seating.

Geary previously won attention in the case by commenting, late last month, that he believed Miss Davis should be released on bail. He admitted at the time that he was not familiar with the evidence against her.

## Polling

Fania Jordan, Miss Davis' sister and one of those arrested last week, promptly charged that Geary had been prevented from answering the committee because of his stand on bail.

"Now they gag the sheriff," she said. "Where will it end?"

Inside the courthouse, pre-trial hearings continued

with the Stanford graduate student who made a public opinion survey for the defense under cross-examination.

He admitted that he had ever heard of another public opinion poll based on so small a sample as he used — 89.

Charles H. Bruner had tes-

tified, on the basis of questioning persons chosen at random from the Santa Clara city directory that he found a relationship between education, income and race on the one hand and the tendency to register to vote on the other.

That was important to the defense, which is attacking the county system of jury selection, because potential jurors are chosen from voter registration lists.

Bruner also said, on the basis of his survey, that non-whites are less likely to register, while blacks and Latin-Americans are more likely to be neutral or more favorable to Miss Davis' defense.

## Sample

Deputy Attorney General Clifford Thompson, in his cross-examination, brought out today that the sample of 89 out of a county population of more than one million represents .00009 percent of the total population.

While Bruner could not recall so small a sampling being used before, he insisted it was possible that it had happened.

He also said that he and the other interviewers, almost all Stanford graduate students, had worked on a volunteer basis.

He did not know, he said, how many may have already made up their minds about Miss Davis' guilt or innocence. All were interested in a fair trial for her, he added.

## Final Round

Personal bias of the interviewer, he admitted, could affect answers from their subjects, but he said it was stressed to all volunteers that the important thing was to obtain a true picture of public opinion.

Today's court sessions were entering the "final round" of pre-trial hearings, with a possibility that they might wind up by tomorrow — unless new motions are filed.