

## A Charge He's Being 'Gagged'

# Sheriff to Shut Up on

By Carolyn Anspacher

Santa Clara county authorities began drawing a mantle of secrecy yesterday around the Angela Davis murder-kidnap-conspiracy trial and there were strong indications Miss Davis herself might no longer be available for interviews.

In a short, mostly negative press conference, Sheriff James Geary announced

that henceforth he would have no comment whatever on any phase of the case. He added:

"I would like to point out that 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 responsibility specified by law, and have been taken with all due consideration of any rights

and privileges conferred by the Constitution."

Presumably this convoluted declaration referred not only to Miss Davis, but also to 24 of her supporters arrested last week for demonstrating illegally outside the courthouse where pre-trial sessions are under way.

Later, Assistant County Counsel Byron Athan confirmed reports he had considered seeking an injunction prohibiting further

press, radio or television interviews with Miss Davis.

However, Athan said, he was informed by Superior Court Judge James Scott, supervising judge of the criminal division, that Superior Court Judge Richard E. Aranson, assigned to the trial, was preparing to vacate his order which allowed Miss Davis one interview a week. This, he said, would make such an injunction unnecessary.



Miss Davis leafed through a book she wrote



The defendant smiled in the courtroom



# Angela

Neither Scott nor Arnason could be reached for comment, but it was understood a formal written order to this effect is now being prepared.

The only formal communique from Scott came late in the day in the form of an order prohibiting Sheriff Geary from "making any statements of any nature relative to this defendant, trial of this action, the security provisions pertaining to the trial of this action or of any other security provision relative to the Superior Court of this county."

Fania Davis Jordan, Miss Davis' sister, claimed in a mid-day press conference that Geary was "gagged" because as late as ten days ago he said he felt the former UCLA philosophy instructor could safely be admitted to bail.

Meanwhile, within the tiny, heavily secured courtroom where Miss Davis soon is to go to trial on charges arising from the August, 1970, Marin Civic Center escape attempt in which four persons were killed, defense attorneys continued their efforts to change the county's jury selection system.

## MINORITIES

It is the defense contention, set forth on a sea of statistics, that Santa Clara county minority groups — blacks, Mexican-Americans and the poor — are not proportionately or even fairly represented on voter registration rolls.

Charles Hughes Bruner, a Stanford graduate student in political science who, on Thursday, testified about a random poll he and a group of fellow students conducted last month, was recalled for cross-examination.

He stuck firmly to his initial conclusion that voter registration lists do not in-

clude all those persons eligible for jury duty and significantly under-represent the poor, ethnic and racial minorities and the under-educated.

## BLESSING

Dr. Richard A. Brody, Stanford professor of political science, and an authority on survey research and

methodology, gave his academic blessing to the Bruner survey. He had acted in an advisory capacity after the poll had been completed.

He said that after studying the survey results, he concurred in the findings, and said the sampling procedure used was "reasonable." He added he felt young Bruner

was "highly qualified" to undertake the job, which had been commissioned by the Davis defense forces.

The presenting of evidence in these pre-trial motions is expected to end today. This will be followed by arguments and it is uncertain when the trial itself will start.