

## Diversions Charged

# Reds Raising Angela Cash

By Ed Montgomery

Untold thousands of dollars are being raised by Communist organizations throughout the world for the defense of Angela Davis, whose kidnap-murder-conspiracy trial begins Feb. 28 in San Jose.

Reports that some donations are diverted from the defense fund are vigorously denied by its spokesmen. They say the reports are "slandorous attempts" to undermine her legal defense.

Collections of about \$85,000 are estimated so far by Ossie Davis, the actor who is chairman of the Angela Davis Legal Defense Fund, and its executive secretary-trustee, Marbel Cooke.

Monitored shortwave broadcasts from Radio Moscow and Radio Havana carry appeals for monetary support and reports of funds raised throughout Western Europe and Central America in the name of Angela Davis, the former UCLA instructor accused of supplying guns for the Marin Civic Center shootout that left four dead in 1970.

Recently Miss Davis appealed to the court to have the State assume the cost of her defense. She contended that only \$100,000 in contributions have been received, and this money has been spent.

Franklin Delano Alexander, a Communist involved in the fund-raising effort, confirmed Miss Davis' statement and said the books of the fund are open for inspection.

In a joint statement, Ossie Davis and Mrs. Cooke said, "No money goes anywhere except for legal activities."

The books, however, do not reflect donations that haven't reached the defense fund. One reported diversion of contributions is cited in the recent sworn testimony of Gerard Connolly, a witness before the Subversive Activities Control Board and the House Committee on Internal Security.

Connolly, 22, is the son of a New York attorney. His older brother is a detective with the New York Police Department.

To infiltrate the Communist Party in New York, he enrolled as a student at the Center for Marxist Education, cited as a Communist front in the list recently revised by outgoing Attorney General John Mitchell.

There he took courses in Marxism and Leninism under Prof. Roque Ristorucci, a member of the Communist

Party's national committee. Connolly testified Ristorucci, in time, recruited him as a member of the Young Workers Liberation League, primary youth group of the

Communist Party, USA, founded in 1969.

Connolly said he rose through the ranks of the YWLL to become organization secretary.

Connolly told of numerous rallies and forums conducted throughout New York City for the purpose of raising money for the defense of Angela Davis.

In describing "one of the biggest" forums held on the Lower East Side "in defense of Angela Davis," Connolly said, "a considerable amount of money" was raised, adding:

"This money, which was supposed to have gone for the defense of Angela Davis, went straight to the section committee of the league and that's where it stopped. It was to pay some of the bills that the section acquired.

**Q—If I understand you correctly, what you are saying is that you raised money for the defense of Angela Davis—**

**A—Yes.**

**Q—And this money did not ever go to her benefit?**

**A—Not a chance.**

**Q—Where did the money go?**

**A—It went into the section committee and from the section committee it was used to pay bills that they acquired. For instance there was a large telephone bill that wasn't paid.**

**Q—Was this an unusual occurrence?**

**A—Not to my knowledge. This was accepted as proper. It was assumed that if it helped the league carry on more activities, somehow it would help Angela Davis.**

**Q—I'm not sure I follow that. Could you elaborate a little more on that?**

**A—You see, they rationalize to the extent that although the money will not go directly to Angela Davis, if the money helps them to stay in existence somehow, miraculously, it is going to help Angela Davis.**

Mrs. Cooke, informed of Connolly's charges, said: "It's incredible that anyone would say that. It's absolutely impossible. Everything is for Angela, everything."