

Angela Trial Questions

By Stephen Cook
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SAN JOSE — Would it embarrass you or your family if you were on the jury that acquitted Angela Davis?

Did you ever have an unpleasant experience with black people?

Would you be more likely to believe a police officer than a black militant?

Would you believe a Communist?

Those are just a sampling of the questions that the 12 Santa Clara County residents who will try Angela Davis will have to answer correctly.

They were being asked this week by Howard Moore Jr. and Leo Branton Jr., the chief attorneys for the 28 year old scholar and black militant who is accused of murder, kidnap and conspiracy.

With the close of the first week of jury selection yesterday, 33 prospective jurors had been questioned. Twelve survived preliminary questioning and will be in the jury box when the painstaking interrogation resumes at 9:30 a.m. Monday.

The importance of the proceedings in this small, plainly furnished courtroom was driven home yesterday by both the defense and prose-

cution as they opened the general "voir dire" interrogation of the first 12 jurors to survive questioning on matters of personal hardships and pre-trial publicity.

Accusation

The former UCLA philosophy instructor, fired for Communist Party membership, is accused of providing the guns for the escape attempt which resulted in the death of a judge and three others at Marin County Hall of Justice Aug. 7, 1970.

Prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr., assistant state attorney general, told the 12 prospective panelists they will have an "awesome responsibility" if chosen to hear the four-to-six-month trial.

"You will be the only ones in this state . . . to decide the facts of this case," he said.

2-Hour Session

Moore spent close to two hours yesterday questioning Juror No. 1 an attractive blonde who had not heard of Angela Davis until last week.

Before Moore acknowledged the panelist was not legally prejudiced, he had questioned her views on Communism, the black race, and issues she might encounter during the trial.

He asked her opinion of circumstantial evidence, saying:

"We expect in this case there will probably be great reliance on circumstantial evidence."

And he asked:

• "If Miss Davis were to testify, would you give her the same credence you would any other witness?"

• "Do you have anything against people who own firearms?"

• "If all the prosecution raises with its 104 witnesses is a guess, speculation and conjecture, do you understand your verdict must be not guilty?"

Explaining he was looking for signs of racial prejudice which might keep her from giving Miss Davis a fair trial, Moore asked:

• "Do you have any black friends?"

• "Have you ever felt revulsion against a black person for some kind of behavior?"

• "Does Miss Davis' natural hair style bother you?"

• "When was your last social contact with black people?"



RODGER McAFEE HELPS ANGELA DAVIS SEARCH FOR CIGARETTES
Mrs. McAfee looks on during interlude outside courthouse

—UPI Photo