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Davis Trial Seats a Preliminary Panel

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SAN JOSE, Calif., March 2— For the first time, the jury box was full today in the courtroom where Angela Davis is being tried on charges of murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy.

The jury that will hear the evidence against her has not yet been selected, but after three days of questioning a preliminary panel has been seated.

The panel is composed of eight women and four men and includes one black.

The 12 prospective jurors were seated just before noon today, and they now face what is expected to be weeks of voir dire examination from attorneys on both sides.

The 12 have been questioned thus far only on the extent of their exposure to pretrial publicity. Now, they will be examined on many issues.

The temporary panel includes a woman who said that she never heard of Angela Davis until a few days ago and another who said that she understood why the defendant disappeared when a warrant was issued for her arrest.

No Students or Chicanos

The panel does not include any students or Chicanos.

It was selected from the first 33 persons called as prospective jurors. of the 21 excused, most of them either said that they could not serve as jurors because of the expected length of the trial or because they were so prejudiced by pretrial publicity that they felt they could not give Miss Davis a fair trial.

The trial is expected to last from four to six months. Persons employed by concerns that

would not continue their salaries were excused by Judge Richard E. Arnason.

However, the defense was so concerned that yesterday one of Miss Davis's attorneys, Howard R. Moore Jr., said that he planned to offer a motion asking the court to supplement the income of poor persons so they might sit on the jury.

"If something isn't done," Mr. Moore said, "we will have only wealthy and retired people serving as jurors."

Prosecutor Backs Plea

Albert Harris Jr., the prosecutor, joined Mr. Moore in his suggestion that consideration be given to compensating working class persons serving as jurors. At present, jurors here in Santa Clara County are paid \$5 a day and given travel expenses.

Observers doubt that many panel members will survive the voir dire examination. Some are expected to be eliminated by the court for cause and others by the attorneys through the use of their challenges. Both sides hold 20 challenges that may be used at will.

The lone black seated on the panel was Mrs. Janie L. Hemphill, the mother of three young children. Her husband manages a local liquor store. Mrs. Hemphill has lived in Santa Clara, County for 17 years and in preliminary examination described herself as being "not very political."

Mrs. Ruth A. Ruth, a secretary employed by the Insurance Company of North America, surprised the court by saying that she had never heard of Miss Davis until she was called for jury duty last week.

"Someone said that I might be sitting on the Davis trial,"

Mrs. Ruth said, "and I said 'Who's Angela Davis?'"

Mrs. Ruth explained her lack of knowledge by saying that she was going through divorce proceedings when the kidnapping-escape attempt at the Marin County Courthouse took place in 1970.

Miss Davis is accused of supplying the guns smuggled into the courtroom and then used to take a judge, an assistant district attorney and two jurors as hostages in the attempt to free three inmates from San Quentin Prison. The judge and three other persons were killed.

The temporary panel of prospective jurors also includes an air traffic controller, who said that he believed there was a possibility that Miss Davis was guilty of conspiracy, and a computer specialist, William E. Hotaling, who said that while he was against members of the Communist party, he believed that he could give Miss Davis, a party member, a fair trial.