

Garry Grills Soledad Judge in Another Court

Superior Court Judge S. Lee Vavuris, presiding at the trial of the so-called Soledad Brothers, was closely questioned on the witness stand in another courtroom yesterday on the intimate security searches he has authorized.

He was cross-examined by Charles Garry, the well-known radical attorney who is representing Berkeley attorney Elaine Wender, accused of contempt of court in the Soledad trial.

Garry, referring to the behind-screen search of female spectators, asked Vavuris what purpose was served by having women "drop their panties and brassieres before coming into your courtroom?"

ANSWER

Vavuris said he ordered underclothing searches after he was advised by officers guarding the security-conscious trial that women have been known to conceal explosives in their vaginas.

The 29-year-old Mrs. Wender never reached the search stage of the security operation before her arrest on January 25 on the third floor of the Hall of Justice.

ARREST

Officers testified she was turned back at the pass desk for carrying a prohibited briefcase. After an argument, they said, she was instructed not to return to the trial that day. On her return without the briefcase, she was arrested.

The trial is before a jury of six men and six women before Municipal Court Judge Samuel Yee.