

Does Her Own Thing

Angela Ousts an Anti-Red Juror

By Stephen Cook
Examiner News Staff

SAN JOSE — The jury selection phase of Angela Davis' murder, kidnap and conspiracy trial was expected to end here today with the seating of four alternate veniremen.

The trial, speeded up immensely by Tuesday's surprise acceptance of a jury of eight women and four men, could begin formally as early as Monday.

Prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr. said, though, he hoped the judge would grant him a week's delay, until March 27, to allow time for final preparation of the case, now pending 15 months.

Miss Davis took an active part as her own lawyer yesterday, for the first time since the trial began Feb. 28, and won a victory of sorts.

Challenge

The 28 year old former university professor and admitted Communist took more than an hour to successfully challenge for prejudice a 38 year old telephone company engineer with strong anti-Communist bias.

The panelist, who the defense contended had quit the Presbyterian Church in anger over a church donation of \$10,000 to Miss Davis' defense fund, sparred good naturedly with the tall, professorial black militant, but at one point admitted her questions were causing him discomfort.

"You have put a strain on

my 18 hour deodorant, I'll tell you that," he said.

Miss Davis apologized and said it was easy to empathize because, "if and when I do testify I'll find myself in the same situation — probably worse than you are."

'Black Racist'

Questioned extensively about his racial attitudes, the man finally told Miss Davis: "Where you might term me a white racist, I might have every reason to term you a black racist."

"Why is this?" asked the startled defendant, who has been given court permission to act as her own co-counsel along with her four attorneys.

"You're obsessed with black problems," the juror said, "and you might overlook the problems of others. You might not be able to see

the other side of the picture in the same way a number of whites are not able to see your side."

Speech

Miss Davis abandoned the question and answer technique and said: "I find it a little difficult to conceive of a person being a black racist simply because she's primarily concerned with black people. Let me try to clarify myself. I am deeply concerned with the problems of black people, also the problems of Chicanos, native

Americans, poor whites, all oppressed people."

The juror: "I didn't say you were a black racist."

Miss Davis: "Well, I've never been called a black racist before and it struck me as sort of strange."

Before he allowed Miss Davis her successful challenge of his presence on the jury, the engineer got in one final dig.

Disagrees

He could give her a fair trial, he said, but, "There are a lot of things I don't agree with that you've done. I don't think the plight of the black people merits Communist beliefs.

"These problems could be solved within the democracy, though that probably won't happen as fast as we all would like."

Superior Judge Richard E. Arnason finally excused the juror for cause when he admitted he would probably be less likely to believe a Communist witness than any other.

Miss Davis, who had stood at the end of the defense table during the interrogation, flashed a smile to her professional lawyers as she strode back to her seat.

Harris said this morning that he now expects the trial to go to the jury in about three months — a reduction of previous estimates that it might last as long as six.

He also suggested in questioning one of the prospective alternates that, if the judge permits, he may take the jurors on a field trip one day to demonstrate the firing of a sawed-off shotgun. Such a weapon was used in the 1970 Marin Courthouse shoot out in which four persons, including Judge Harold Haley, were killed.