

A Juror Quits

Four White Alternates on Angela Jury

By Carolyn Anspacher

Prosecution and defense in the Angela Davis murder-ki d n a p-conspiracy case, after an almost dizzying game of musical chairs, accepted four white alternates to join the all-white San Jose jury that will try the 28-year-old black militant.

The four alternates, one of them a junior college student with a Prince Valiant haircut, were sworn in at 12:30 p.m., after one of the original jurors sworn in Tuesday, was excused for "personal reasons."

No explanation was given for the sudden exit of Mary Titcomb, married, the mother of five children and the daughter of a retired Sheriff's captain. But her seat in the jury box — No. 3 — was taken over by the first alternate, pretty, raven-haired Michelle Savage.

YOUNGEST

Miss Savage, 20, a secretary-receptionist, thus became the youngest person to sit on a U.S. jury in a major case.

She will lose this distinction if four of the regular jurors fall by the wayside during the trial that could take as long as six months.

The No. 4 alternate chosen was John W. Tittle, the 19-year-old student who had his classes at West Valley Junior College changed so

he could serve.

Young Tittle was questioned scarcely at all, either by Assistant Attorney General Albert M. Harris, Jr. or defense attorney Leo Branton Jr. Branton seemed more interested in determining whether Tittle was related to famed former 49er quarterback Y. A. Tittle than in any other bit of information. The Tittles are not kin.

Miss Davis, whose brother Ben, is a defensive back with the Cleveland Browns, was diverted by the brief interplay.

OTHERS

Also chosen as alternates were Robert Seidel, a white-haired Danish-born retired FMC engineer; Barbara L. Deutsch, 27, a divorcee with two children who works occasionally as a secretary, and Samuel J. Conroy, a mechanical designer for Ampex, who is married and the father of two adopted children.

Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason set opening statements in the trial for 9:30 a.m. Monday, March 27, explaining to the jurors the week would be needed to prepare for the trial proper.

Prosecutor Harris has said he will call 104 witness-

es to bolster the state's contention that Miss Davis, an avowed Communist Party member, provided the weapons used in the August 1970 Marin County Courthouse escape attempt and shooting in which four persons were

slain. One of the dead was Marin Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, and another was 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson who carried the weapons into Judge Haley's courtroom.

DEFENSE

Defense Attorney Howard Moore, Jr. declined yesterday to discuss the strategy his side will employ and would give no hint of witnesses he could call to bolster Miss Davis' pleas of not guilty.

Of the eight-woman, four-man jury selected in a remarkably swift nine-day period, Moore commented: "It's unlikely we could get a better jury in the county."

He and other defense counsel have consistently complained that the original panel of 120 prospective jurors had only one black member — Janie Hemphill — who was excused by Harris on peremptory challenge.

By the time the final jury and four alternates had been chosen, the jury drum had fewer than a dozen names left.

Oddly, where the defense had exercised only 2 of its 20 peremptory challenges in

picking the jury proper, six were employed to find satisfactory alternates.

The prosecution exercised only one of its eight peremptories in picking alternates, and four in choosing the jury.