

Soledad Jury Deadlocks 9 to 3

An all-white jury reported itself hopelessly deadlocked yesterday after a weekend of deliberations in the case of the "Soledad Brothers" but was asked by the judge to keep trying.

The case of two black convicts — John Clutchette, 28, and Fleeta Drumgo, 26 — accused of murdering a white prison guard went to the jury of nine men and three women at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

After a total of 12 hours deliberation, the jury returned at 3:30 p.m. yesterday to report a 9-3 impasse. Superior Court Judge S. Lee Vavuris asked them to try again to reach a verdict.

There was no indication whether the vote leaned toward conviction or acquittal.

The panel ended its deliberations at 6 p.m. Friday and resumed work at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The jurors deliberated until 12:30 p.m.

took a break, and then worked from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Although they had asked previously to attend Palm Sunday services yesterday, they changed their minds and returned to consider the case at 9:30 a.m.

Clutchette and Drumgo are accused of killing Correctional Officer John V. Mills at Soledad Prison in January, 1970.

A third black prisoner, George Jackson, whose book on prison conditions and the plight of blacks caught in the penal system had made him something of an underground hero, also had been charged in Mills' death.

Jackson was shot dead by San Quentin guards last August in what prison officials described as an escape attempt.

During the trial, defense attorneys have attacked the credibility of the prosecution's inmate witnesses.