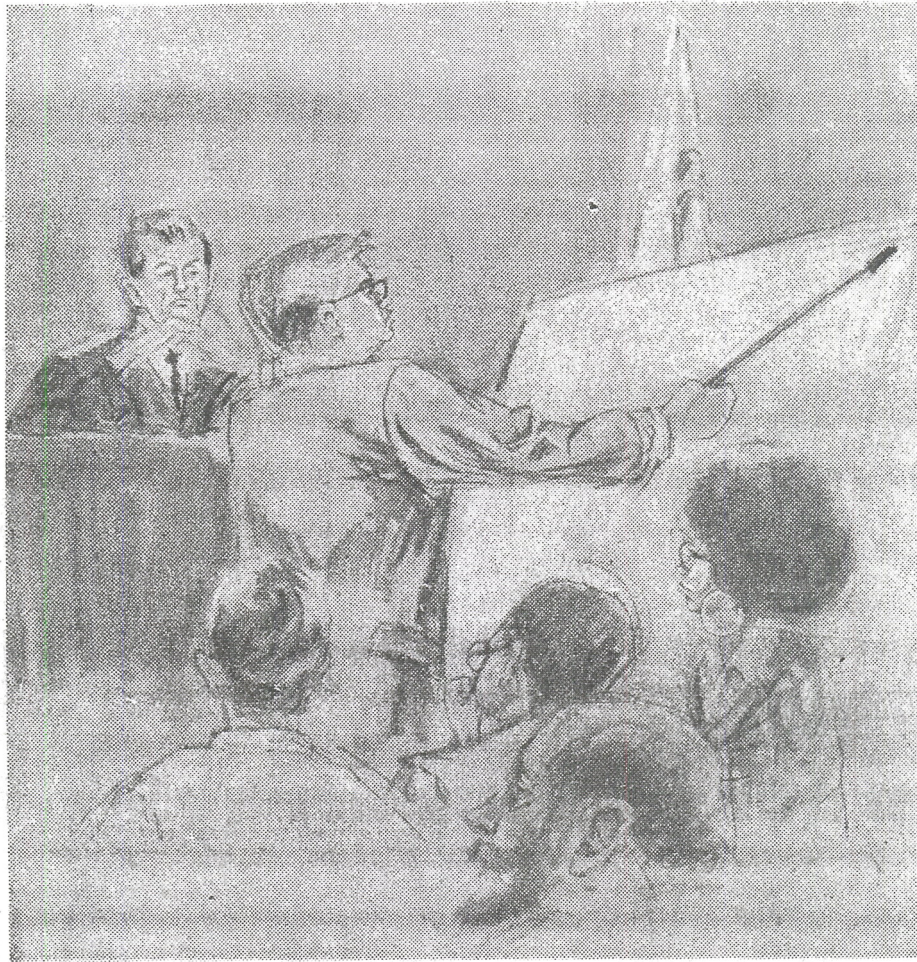


# Angela Davis Trial



The picture was drawn by Aggie Whelan for CBS television news—KPIX in San Francisco

Judge Arnason listened as prosecutor Harris (at blackboard) made his opening presentation. Angela Davis is at the right.

## State Calls the Motive Her Passion for Jackson

By Carolyn Anspacher

The State of California submitted a detailed overview yesterday of its case against black revolutionary Angela Davis and in the doing, described a passion—a physical passion so intense it resulted in what the prosecutor called a “bloody day of horror.”

On that day in San Rafael, he said, in the bright sunlight, on Aug. 7, 1970, four died, three were wounded (one permanently disabled) and two lapsed into profound shock because Miss Davis committed herself totally to a San Quentin convict, “Soledad Brother” George Jackson.

This was the cornerstone of the State’s case as out-

lined by Assistant Attorney General Albert W. Harris Jr. during the day-long opening argument before a jury of eight women and four men in the San Jose court of Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason.

The motive for the San Rafael catastrophe, said Harris in his quiet almost casual way, was “simple human passion—a passion for Jackson that knew no bounds, a passion that had



no respect for life, not even for the life of George Jackson's 17-year-old brother, Jonathan."

Both Jacksons are now dead. Jonathan shot to death during the Marin county episode, and George, killed during last year's day of violence at San Quentin in which six persons died.

#### MEETINGS

Harris did not say the Davis-Jackson passion was ever consummated. That would have been most difficult during their two fish-bowl meetings in the Marin County Jail in July of 1971. Jackson was brought there from San Quentin.

"But," he said, of the one meeting on July 8, 1971, "the result was a close, passionate, physical attachment, and a month later he died. The relationship was so close that the defendant considered herself married to George Jackson."

There are letters, Harris said, intimate, private letters exchanged by Miss Davis and Jackson that will be introduced during the trial that will show "in detail how and why it was possible for Angela Davis — a professor

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at UCLA — to commit the crimes she did commit."

"It is the oldest motive we know of," he said. "It was passion that gave her the willingness to do whatever had to be done to free Jackson, to undergo any hazards and any risks necessary to free him."

#### REACTION

Harris' dominant theme, presented in varying forms throughout the day, did not visibly move Miss Davis. She took notes, poured water from a vacuum bottle with steady hands, and had no open communication with any of her four attorneys seated with her at the counsel table.

Harris, rarely glancing at

his binder full of notes, gave an architectural rather than a dramatic exposition of what his case will be during the next weeks and months.

It was Miss Davis, he said, who was responsible for the murder of Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, the respected Marin county jurist slain in the August shootout. It was she who planned it, aided its commission, provided the guns and ammunition, rented the van for a plot that was "so simple and ingenious that it almost succeeded."

The ultimate objective was to exchange six hostages, Judge Haley, Assistant Marin District Attorney Gary Thomas and four women jurors seized in the abortive escape attempt, for George Jackson, then awaiting trial in San Quentin with the other Soledad Brothers.

#### FACTOR

The key factor in the plot, Harris said, was George's little brother, a high school junior, so youthful in appearance that he could enter Judge Haley's courtroom, wearing a knee-length topcoat which hid three guns, and attract no attention whatever.

He carried a "bulging" attache case, Harris went on, in which were stored hundreds of rounds of ammunition, rolls of wire and white adhesive case — all hidden under a store of paperback books.

"Three of the books, carried by this boy, a high school junior were in French," Harris said, hardly bothering to mention that Miss Davis speaks an impeccable French. "And two, 'The Politics of Violence' and 'Violence and Social Change,' bore Miss Davis' name in the front . . . The signatures were written by her in the books."

#### DETAILS

Harris gave a detailed schedule of the events preceding the shootout, a min-

ute - by - minute recital of Jackson's invasion of the Haley courtroom and of the weapons he tossed at San Quentin convicts James McClain, Ruchell Magee and William Christmas. Jackson himself kept possession of his "favorite," a .30 cal. carbine with what was described as an "extendable" stock that "looked like a machine gun."

This weapon, and all the others used, Harris said, had been purchased by Miss Davis, some as far back as two years before the shooting, and one only two days before Aug. 7, 1970. Some came from Los Angeles, some from San Francisco.

It was Miss Davis, too, he said, who bought the nearly 1000 rounds of various kinds of ammunition, some purchased in company with young Jackson, some with Jackson's mother, Georgia, by her side.

In the violence that was to follow at the San Rafael courtroom a shotgun was taped to Judge Haley's neck, along with a packet of flares masked to look like dynamite. But throughout it was convict McClain who "kept the cool"— McClain: careful, mature, experienced, Harris said.

The trek outside the room was sketched: the women jurors and Assistant District Attorney Thomas wired together, McClain in the lead, young Jackson in the rear. And in the parking lot, where a hired yellow van

was waiting, Harris said, young Jackson fired "at least once" with his favorite gun.

The hostages were herded into the van. McClain started to drive off, but had trouble. Jackson took over.

#### GUNS

And here, again, Harris interjected something new. Numerous guns had been taken by the convicts and Jackson from helpless deputies, who were afraid to open fire for fear of shooting



the hostages.

From the driver's seat, Jackson fired a 357 Magnum, taken from a deputy, at an official car parked near by.

Thomas, an Assistant Marin District Attorney, said Jackson's hand was bloodied and the Magnum was bloody. Thomas, according to Harris, looked at Judge Haley, and saw the taped shotgun had been removed from his neck.

"Thomas will testify that he saw Magee hold a shotgun at the point of Judge Haley's chin. He saw Magee pull the trigger, and he saw Judge Haley's face slowly dissolve. Then, he will testify, he saw convict Christ-mas fire a bullet in Judge Haley's chest with a rifle seized from one of the guards."

#### SHOOTING

It was at this point, Harris said, that Thomas grabbed Jackson's Magnum. "He fired at Jackson, at McClain, then turned and shot Magee."

"The van was to have gone to the San Francisco Airport, and the scene (of the crime) extends there," Harris said. "Angela Davis was waiting there."

The exchange of hostages for George Jackson was to have been effected there at 12-12 noon, not 12 midnight. And how did Miss Davis reach there? Harris said that on August 4, three days before the shooting, young Jackson had borrowed a Volkswagen from a San Jose woman. He said he would return it the following day. But two weeks later, Harris said, the woman was informed by Jackson's mother that the auto could be found at the airport, and it was.

And how did Miss Davis learn the escape plot had failed.

"Enough to say," Harris declared, "that in young Jackson's wallet was found a slip of paper on which a number had been written. It referred to a remote public phone booth near the American Airlines ticket counter at the airport."

Who telephoned that number, Harris did not say. Nor did he say that Miss Davis had received the call.

#### SHELLS

He did say, however, that after the shootout, a box of Remington shells, with one missing, was found in the yellow van. Miss Davis, he said, had purchased the ammunition the day before in San Francisco.

He claimed the entire plot had been conveyed to the elder Jackson by his brother Jonathan during visits to San Quentin, and Jackson, in turn, had been the "conduit" to McClain and the other convicts.

He said the day before the shooting, Miss Davis was positively identified as having been in the yellow van with Jackson at a service station near the Marin County courthouse and also as having been with young Jackson at San Quentin.

She was described, before the identification was made, as a "tall young black woman with widely spaced teeth and who smoked a small black cigar."

Harris catalogued Miss Davis' hurried departure from San Francisco at 2 p.m. on August 7 and her subsequent flight from Los Angeles as "indicative of her feelings of guilt."

"She fled," he said, "shortly after the van was stopped and the kidnap was aborted and a week before a warrant was issued for her arrest."

By August 15, he said, she was in Chicago, and was wearing a wig, and at that time of her arrest in New York, in September, she was carrying identification papers for Loreen Robertson and Loreen Poindexter.