

# Two Testify About Miss Davis's Gun Purchases

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SAN JOSE, Calif., April 6—  
For the first time, testimony in the trial of Angela Davis centered today on the guns that have been used to link the black activist with a raid on a Marin County courtroom.

The state called two witnesses, both employes of gun shops in the Los Angeles area, who testified that they had sold weapons to Miss Davis.

One of the witnesses, Owen W. Swisher, who was an employe of the Western surplus store in Los Angeles, said that Miss Davis had been a frequent visitor to the gun shop in the store where he worked. He said that he had recognized her when she came into the store and knew that she was a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles at the time.

### Called Favorite Weapon

Mr. Swisher said that on April 7, 1969, he sold Miss Davis a .30-caliber carbine for \$129.95. He said that she used her passport and an Alabama driver's license for identification. The weapon was among those that the police say were smuggled into Judge Harold Haley's courtroom in Marin County in August, 1970.

This carbine was described by Albert W. Harris Jr., the prosecutor in the state's murder, kidnapping and conspiracy case against Miss Davis, as Jonathan Jackson's favorite weapon.

Mr. Harris said in his opening statement: "Of all the weapons that you will hear about involved in this case and that be-

## Prosecution Seeking to Link Weapons to August, 1970, Raid on Courtroom

longed to the defendant, apparently this weapon was Jonathan Jackson's favorite."

In the case against Miss Davis, the state contends that she purchased the guns that were later smuggled into Judge Haley's courtroom and used to take hostages. The hostages, according to the state, were to be used later in an exchange for the freedom of the Soledad Brothers, three black convicts who were in San Quentin Prison.

### Second Witness Testifies

The fact that Miss Davis was a frequent visitor to the Western surplus store, a general merchandise shop, was brought out by Howard R. Moore Jr., defense counsel, on cross-examination.

Mr. Swisher was followed to the stand by John E. Plimpton, who in January, 1968, was an assistant sales manager at the Brass Rail gun shop in Los Angeles. He testified that on January 12, 1968, he sold Miss Davis a 380 Browning automatic pistol.

He said that he had recommended the weapon, which Miss Davis had purchased for \$59.50 after she said that she needed a

gun for protection. He said that she had also purchased ammunition for the fun.

As was the carbine, the pistol was also to figure later in the Marin County kidnapping attempt. It was this weapon, according to the prosecutor and earlier testimony, that Jonathan Jackson had in his hand when he first stood up in Judge Haley's courtroom in August, 1970.

Mr. Harris acknowledged in his opening statement that these two guns had been purchased by Miss Davis long before the inception of the alleged conspiracy of which he said she had been a principal.

Miss Davis, 28-years-old, is also accused of purchasing other weapons, some in the days just before the Aug. 7 raid, but those guns were not the subject of testimony today.

In other testimony, four deputies in the Marin County sheriff's department testified that weapons had been taken from them by the Jackson youth and the three San Quentin prisoners who aided him in taking Judge Haley and four others hostage. They testified that the weapons taken were inside the van that was being used as the getaway vehicle when shooting erupted. Four persons died, including the judge.

After today's session the taking of testimony was recessed until Monday.