

APR 19 1972

State Exhibits

SFChronicle

Angela Letters Are Introduced

By Carolyn Anspacher

The State of California made its first sustained effort yesterday to link Angela Davis directly to the slain George Jackson and, through him, to the Marin county Civic Center gun battle of Aug. 7, 1970, in which four persons died.

Some of the long-heralded letters of love, written by Miss Davis to Jackson, made their way into the San Jose courtroom where she is on trial for murder, kidnap and conspiracy in connection with the Marin episode. But at day's end, they remained mere exhibits, marked for identification.

Out of the presence of the jury, Doris Brin Walker, peppierist of Miss Davis' corps of attorneys, did verbal battle with James McCord, former FBI agent who had entered Miss Davis' Los Angeles apartment and found the letters.

EXHIBITS

Segments of the so-called "Dear George" letters surfaced before, during pre-trial hearings in Marin county. But yesterday they were merely Exhibits 120, 121, 122, 123, and 124.

A mysterious veil surrounded two of the exhibits, Nos. 120 and 121. It was acknowledged by the prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General Albert Harris Jr., they were photocopies rather than originals.

Harris insisted this was known to lawyers who earlier appeared on behalf of Miss Davis.

Both of the photocopies were seven pages long, beginning "Dear George" and signed "Angela." They bore the dates of June 2 and June 20, but no year.

EXAMINATION

Under Mrs. Walker's *voir dire* examination, McCord, now a criminal lawyer in Los Angeles, said he did not note in his inventory of effects taken from Miss Davis' apartment that two of the letters seized were photocopies because he didn't think it was necessary to list them as such.

"The fact of the matter is that they were not letters at all, isn't it?" Mrs. Walker snapped.

"No."

"Isn't a fact that you took Exhibits 120 and 121 with you when you went to that apartment?"

"No", he said.

The former FBI agent insisted the apartment search on Aug. 18, 1970 was undertaken only to attempt to locate Miss Davis, and to find evidence of flight to avoid prosecution.

The "Dear George" letters, he said, were important because they bore the name "Jackson" and he thought this person might provide information about Miss Davis' whereabouts. She was picked up two months later in New York City.

The trial was adjourned for the day before Mrs. Walker completed her examination of McCord. Superior Court Judge Richard E.

Arnason then must rule on admissibility of the letters.

WITNESS

McCord was preceded to the stand by Sergeant Charles P. Foster of the Monterey sheriff's department, who was the first witness to bring Miss Davis directly into the trial.

Foster said he was in charge of prison transportation in May and June of 1970 and on at least five occasions had escorted the so-called Soledad Brothers—George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and William Clutchette—from Soledad Prison to court in Salinas. All three had been charged with murder in connection with the death of a prison guard.

Foster said he came to know Jonathan Jackson, George's younger brother, and "Miss Angela Davis" by sight. They were, he said, "in attendance" at the courthouse during several hearings.

It is claimed by the State that Miss Davis' passion for George Jackson was such that she engineered and armed the August, 1970, escape attempt, hoping to exchange five hostages for the elder Jackson.