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Angela 'Love'

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SAN JOSE — "I, your wife, your comrade who is supposed to love you, fight with you, fight for you . . . I'm supposed to rip off the chains. I'm supposed to fight your enemies with my body, but I am helpless, powerless . . ."

This is one of the excerpts remaining in the shortened version of a controversial letter written by Angela Davis to convict George Jack-

son last July, after their first face-to-face meeting in Marin County Jail.

The prosecution in Miss Davis' murder-conspiracy trial has cut the letter virtually in half, excising irrelevant material in the hope Superior Judge Richard Arnason will then permit it to be introduced into evidence.

Defense Attorney Leo Branton charged at an in-chambers debate on the letter last Thursday that the state has performed "what amounts to a literary loboto-

my" on the missive.

However passages which the state says will show the jury that Miss Davis loved Jackson, who was later shot to death in a gun battle at San Quentin Prison, remain in the new version.

She wrote it over a period of three days — July 8, 10 and 12 — after she and Jackson had met in her conference room next to her cell in the Marin County Jail.

"A scene frozen in my mind: I am standing in the little glass cubicle down-

Letter, Edited Version

stairs, standing waiting, loving, desiring, and then hot cold rage when the chains begin to rattle as you slowly descend the stairs surrounded by that small army of mindless but armed automats," she said.

" . . . I contain the rage inside. I do nothing. I stand there watching, forced to assume the posture of a disinterested spectator, the whole scene perceived through glass, laboratory-like, mad at them for thrusting this thing upon me, mad at my-

self at doing nothing.

"George, I love you, everything about you. There is (sic) so many things I plan to tell you for which there just wasn't enough time. I wanted to tell you how beautiful your P.S. on Ulysses was. It's inconceivable that any black man or woman who is half way sane can avoid, after the slightest contact, falling madly in love with you. This is why I often wonder whether I deserve to have so much of

The letter was written al-

most a year after the August, 1970, escape attempt and shootout at Marin County Civic Center in which Superior Judge Harold Haley and three others, including Jackson's younger brother Jonathan, were killed.

The state claims that Miss Davis provided young Jackson with the guns he smuggled into Judge Haley's courtroom, in the hope the judge could be held as a hostage in exchange for the freedom of George Jackson.

The prosecution argued that the love of which Miss Davis spoke in the 1971 existed before the shooting, and was her motive in providing the guns.

Judge Arnason rejected the letter as evidence, on the ground it contained too much extraneous material. The state then trimmed it, and Assistant Atty. Gen. Albert Harris Jr. argued during the in-chambers hearing that if it is not now admitted in evidence, "we might as well all pack up and go home."