

6-5-72

SF

EXAM

Judge Thanks Jury

Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason, who presided over the Angela Davis case from May 1971 until its conclusion, thanked the seven women and five men who served in the 13 week trial with a quotation from British author G. K. Chesterton.

After serving on a jury, Chesterton wrote, in a book titled "The Twelve Men.":

"Our civilization has decided, and very justly decided, that determining the guilt or innocence of men is a thing too important to be trusted to trained men.

"If it wishes for light upon that awful matter, it asks men who know no more law than I know, but who can feel the things I felt in a jury box.

"When it wants a library catalogued, or the solar sys-

tem discovered, or any trifle of that kind, it uses up its specialists. But when it wishes anything done that is really serious, it collects 12 of the ordinary men standing about. The same thing was done, if I remember right, by the founder of Christianity."