

Story of Jailbreak Near Angela Trial

Los Angeles

A former inmate of the Santa Clara county jail claims he was offered \$1000 by militant supporters of Angela Davis to stage a jailbreak last March 28 only 100 yards away from the courthouse where she was being tried for murder and conspiracy.

Some jurors in the Angela Davis case have been quoted as saying they might have been influenced to favor Miss Davis by such acts of violence. Eight of the jurors witnessed the attempted breakout.

The inmate, who was not identified, now is seeking immunity because he claims he was cheated out of the money.

Attorney Victor I. Reichman of Los Angeles confirmed yesterday that he planned to meet with a representative of the state attorney general's office in San Francisco today to dis-

cuss immunity for the inmate, who was not identified.

"I'll confirm that I am meeting with the deputy attorney general . . . in a matter related to the Angela Davis case," Reichman said. "The purpose of the case is to discuss immunity for the witness . . . it's a very delicate and serious matter."

The witness was uncovered as a result of an investigation by author Charles Aschman of Long Beach for a book about the Angela Davis case.

REFERRAL

Aschman said that, after the witness came forward, he referred him to Reichman, who began negotiations with the attorney general's office "several days ago."

Investigative reporter John Blackburn, in a copyrighted story in Sunday's Santa Ana Register, said the inmate had been offered \$1000 by supporters of Miss

Davis to help plan the jailbreak and now was willing to talk about it in return for immunity because he had been cheated out of the money.

The breakout attempt began when three inmates, Norman Lucas, Fred Guerrero and Jacob Zitzer, reported to the jail infirmary on sick call. They suddenly produced 12-inch homemade knives and took a public defender and a medical secretary hostage.

RESCUE

After several hours of negotiations, sheriff's deputies rushed in, capturing Lucas and Guerrero and killing Zitzer. The hostages suffered minor wounds.

Eight members of the jury hearing the case against Miss Davis, who was charged with murder and conspiracy for allegedly supplying arms used in the Civic Center escape attempt and gun battle in Marin county, witnessed the beginning of the Santa Clara escape attempt.

Aschman said many of the jurors he had talked to confided that they did not believe the trial was fair — even though Miss Davis was acquitted — because they were not sequestered and therefore were exposed to publicity about the trial and to incidents of violence such as the jailbreak attempt.

United Press