

# Magee Spits on Attorney

By Harold V. Streeter

Ruchell Magee spat on his attorney and walked out of the courtroom.

Before that, he told the judge "This man has conspired to murder me."

He also filed a handwritten motion with the judge to fire the attorney.

Later, on returning to the courtroom at the attorney's request, Magee spat on him again and was forcibly removed — cursing — to a holding cell.

Despite all these hectic happenings yesterday, the attorney, Robert Carrow of Novato, reluctantly stayed on today to wind up the preliminaries to Magee's trial as an accused gunman in the Marin County Civic Center shootout Aug. 7, 1970.

Although Magee was barred by Superior Judge Morton Colvin in an Aug. 3 order from acting any longer as his own counsel, he managed to make a deep

imprint on yesterday's proceedings.

He staged three walkouts and was ejected the fourth time.

## Shows Magazine

At the outset of the afternoon session, the diminutive 33 year old black defendant held aloft a magazine and said an article in it violated a court order.

Magee charged that "Mr. Carrow and one of his agents" had given "false and defamatory statements" in an article in violation of a ruling that barred both sides from any publicity on the case.

Judge Colvin promptly recessed the session for a private meeting in his chambers that exceeded 20 minutes. When he emerged, he declined to take any action against Carrow.

That's when Magee spat on his attorney and walked out.

The preliminaries, expected to last another day or

two, are aimed at clearing the way for Magee's trial on charges he killed Judge Harold Haley in the Marin Civic Center shooting. Two San Quentin convicts and a black youth who smuggled in the guns also were slain.

During yesterday's proceedings, it was brought out how prolonged Magee's trial may be. Eric Collins, assistant attorney general who is prosecuting, said more than 100 prospective witnesses have been interviewed. He

also said that some 1700 "discovery records" have been examined.

Carrow told the court that three prosecutors have worked on the case for a year and a half; two investigators have spent full time on it since Aug. 7, 1970; and all law enforcement agencies have been involved, including the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the California Highway Patrol and the Marin County Sheriff's office.