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SF Chronicle
MAR 28 1975

New Charge In Jackson Escape Case

By George Draper

Chief Deputy Public Defender Frank J. Cox of Marin county has charged that various law enforcement agencies knew about and contributed to the bloody escape attempt at San Quentin Prison on August 21, 1971 in which George Jackson and five others were killed.

In his extraordinary affidavit now on file with the state Court of Appeal, Cox charged that an inoperable gun and simple window putty resembling plastic explosive were smuggled to Jackson through a law enforcement conspiracy to encourage his escape attempt.

"This was an attempt to kill George Jackson by a preemptive first strike," the deputy public defender charged.

Cox filed his brief in behalf of David Johnson, one of six San Quentin convicts now on trial for his alleged part in the escape attempt.

He is asking the court to order the Los Angeles police department and other agencies to produce documents that he believes they are holding that will prove his theory that there was a conspiracy to set up Jackson for escape.

David Johnson, according to Cox, had nothing to do with these circles of conspiracy. Therefore, Cox argued, the documents he seeks revealing the existence of such a conspiracy are central to Johnson's defense.

Cox said he has specific information from a confidential source that the Criminal Conspiracy Section of the Los Angeles police department and "perhaps other co-

operating covert agencies" knew before and on August 21, 1971 "that a gun was to be smuggled to George Jackson."

"This gun," Cox continued in his sworn statement, "was an inoperable .25 caliber or .380 mm automatic, probably a Llama Corto, for the purpose of enticing George Jackson into attempting an impossible escape attempt."

In his affidavit supporting a motion for discovery, the chief deputy public defender claimed he has "specific information linking a named correctional officer at San Quentin on August 21, 1971, with the smuggling of a gun into the Adjustment Center."

"This information was not

Back Page Col. 8



GEORGE JACKSON
Coded messages

From Page 1

provided by the prosecution," Cox noted.

Cox swore that a letter reportedly written by George Jackson and one other person was found by police in January of 1971 on the person of James Edward Carr, former

Carr, an ex-convict and former cellmate of George Jackson

The letter found on him and purportedly written by

Jackson, refers to escape plans and the smuggling into San Quentin of weapons and explosives.

The full text of the letter is contained in the affidavit filed by Cox.

"With 10 tubes of that (explosive) and a couple of .22 magnum derringers I can get out if you'll knock out the

electricity at the proper time," the letter states at one point.

The Cox affidavit goes on to say that the police did not arrest Carr at that time.

Instead, according to Cox, Carr was arrested a few months later and forced to cooperate with police under threat of being exposed by them for his allegedly embezzling large sums of money from the Angela Davis and Soledad Brothers defense funds.

"Carr," according to the Cox affidavit, "was persuaded to feign participation in the plot to free George Jackson, under threat of probable death by covert leaking of information to revolutionary cadres."

During the spring and summer of 1971, according to the affidavit, Carr persuaded his attorney, Stephen Bingham, to carry "innocuous coded messages" to and from George Jackson and others.

These messages were monitored by the Criminal Conspiracy Section of the Los Angeles police department and by the state's criminal identification and investigation (CII) agency.

Cox said he has information that specifically exonerates Bingham from knowledge of the coded nature of these messages, conspiracy in

Cox further stated that he has a statement from Louis Tackwood, Carr's brother-in-law, to the effect that Tackwood was told by Los Angeles police officer Robert Sherritt the day after the escape attempt that police had broken the inmate code "and even knew the day the attempt would happen."