

Harold - Examiner 1/5/71

Angela Pleads Innocent

Story in Cols. 7-8

Angela Arraigned; Charges Frameup

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (UPI)—Black militant Angela Davis declared herself "innocent of all charges" and the victim of a "political frameup" today at her arraignment on murder, kidnaping and conspiracy charges in a courthouse shootout that left a judge and three others dead.

Miss Davis, 26, appeared in a heavily guarded courtroom at the Marin County Hall of Justice, where the slayings occurred last Aug. 7.

After a lengthy argument, the judge allowed Miss Davis to make a brief request that she be allowed to act as co-counsel with five attorney's representing her.

"I declare before the court and the public that I am innocent of all charges" she said.

The 104-seat courtroom was jammed with her supporters and newsmen, while 200 other persons filled a corridor and another 300 chanted "Free Angela" on a knoll across a street from the building.

As Miss Davis entered the

courtroom, wearing a blue blouse and blue miniskirt and carrying an armload of documents, she paused, smiled and raised her fist in a clenched "black power" salute. The audience murmured "Right on . . . free Angela."

Her co-defendant on murder, kidnaping and conspiracy charges, Ruchell Magee, a San Quentin Prison inmate, was brought into court in chains and anchored to a chair. Magee, who has interrupted most of his previous court appearances, tried to make a statement complaining about his court-appointed lawyer.

Superior Court Judge Joseph G. Wilson warned both spectators and Magee he would permit no disruptions, and threatened to remove the convict from the court "if you behave in a destructive fashion."

Among those admitted were Fania Jordan of Los Angeles, Miss Davis' sister, and B. F.

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—UPI Telephoto

ANGELA DAVIS, RIGHT, CONFERS WITH ATTORNEY DURING HER ARRAIGNMENT
Michael Tigar, left, was one of five lawyers that represented black militant during proceedings

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Davis of Birmingham, Ala., her father.

Supporters of the black militant an avowed Communist, started chanting, "Free Angela, Off the Pigs," as they waited outside to enter the court under the eyes of deputies and a metal detector. But Cassandra Davis, coordinator of the Free Angela Committee and no relation to the suspect, told them to be quiet or none would get in. The chants quickly stopped. There was no trouble.

Another 200 persons, unable to get seats, walked to a knoll across a street from the Marin County Hall of Justice and

ham, Dennis J. Roberts, Howard Moor Jr. and Michael Tigar. Brotsky is an associate of Charles Garry, attorney for the Black Panthers. Miss Burnham was one of Miss Davis' lawyers in New York during her fight against extradition back to California. Tigar was one of the attorneys at the recent "Seattle Seven" conspiracy trial.