

Davis Trial Seen As Test Of System

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—Black revolutionary Angela Davis says if she is acquitted of murder-kidnap charges it will be a victory for the people, not the judicial system. However, she said: "If I am convicted, I will see the jurors as having been willing or unwilling accomplices in a conspiracy presented by the state."

As she prepares for trial Jan. 31, she worries that some people are supporting her only because they believe she had nothing to do with the

bloody Aug. 7, 1970 shootout at the Marin County Civic Centre in which four persons died.

"I had nothing to do with August 7th," she said.

But the 27 year old self-described Communist and former philosophy instructor said Americans must understand the forces that led to those deaths — and work to eradicate them.

In an interview in a jail visiting room, Miss Davis said "People have to realize, they have to see August 7th as

being more or less a dramatization of things that had been festering under the surface in the prison system for so long.

"I think the fact that Ruchell Magee and James McClain and William Christmas had to attempt to gain their freedom in such a way — and I'm not saying that they had any intention of using any violence, and I think the facts will bear this out — it's important to understand what the forces are that led them to that point in the first place. Why?

McClain and Christmas both San Quentin convicts, were killed in an attempted escape from the courthouse. Their hostage, Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, and Miss Davis' constant companion, Jonathan Jackson, 17, also were killed and Magee was wounded.

Of Haley's death, Miss Davis said: "I'm very sorry . . . If we could have a revolution without shedding any blood, that's the way it should be."

"But when you look at that, when you compare that one act, when you compare that to say one act of rebellion in the black community, when you compare the hundreds of years and the millions of people that have been killed, it just doesn't seem to me to be rational for someone to get so upset about one person that they fail to understand the other side.

"This I think, is the important thing, and this is going to be really difficult in the trial."

Miss Davis is accused of furnishing the four guns and helping plot what the prosecution says was an abortive attempt to take hostages in exchange for the freedom of the Soledad Brothers — three black prisoners.

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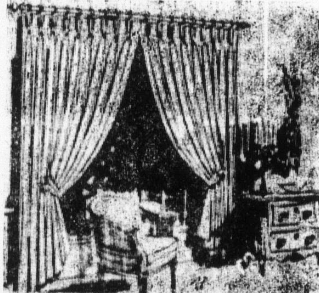
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