

ANGELA DAVIS SPEAKS

PRODUCED BY WABC-TV "LIKE IT IS"

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FD 5401S

BASED ON AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY JOE WALKER OF "MUHAMMAD SPEAKS" NEWSPAPER



Photo by F. Joseph Crawford

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of MUHAMMAD SPEAKS

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The cry "Free Angela Davis!" resounds throughout the world and across the United States. The case of Angela Davis is an international "cause célèbre" and her name is a household word in every Black home in this country.

Never before in history has there been such an outpouring of support for a political prisoner. Support actions for Angela have been organized in the liberated zones of Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Chile, England, France, Italy, North Korea, North Vietnam, Laos, Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, and many other countries on six continents.

In the United States millions of people in Orono, Maine; New York City; Washington, D.C.; Miami, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; Nashville, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama; Chicago, Illinois; Gary, Indiana; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Tucson, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington and scores of other cities and towns in every part of the nation have raised their voices to demand freedom for Angela Davis.

Angela's supporters are Black, White, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Indian; workers, students, unemployed; young and old; men and women; Communists and non-Communists; radicals and liberals; Congressmen and other politicians; artists; clergymen; union and rank and file leaders; writers; musicians and singers; journalists; teachers; doctors. People from every walk of life! And the numbers of people joining the movement to free Angela Davis grows every day.

Angela Yvonne Davis was born in Birmingham, Alabama 27 years ago on January 26, 1944. Her political biography tells us that "she grew up among a whole generation of Black people who had seen their men risk their lives overseas in a fight against foreign fascism only to return home and find the same mentality still directed against themselves. . . ." They experienced racism and segregation. "She saw the symbols of law and order represented by the likes of George Wallace and Bull Connor, the burning cross of the old South, the electric cattle prods of the new. Yet she also saw among her generation, the first glimmering of a renewed resistance, and she joined that resistance. . . ."

At the age of 15 Angela left the South to attend Elizabeth Irwin High School in New York City on a Quaker scholarship. She attended Brandeis University, also on a scholarship. Angela studied at the Sorbonne in Paris under Professor Herbert Marcuse and changed her major from French to philosophy. She did her graduate work at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Upon returning to the U.S. Angela enrolled at the University of California at San Diego, where she became deeply involved in organizing in the Black community around the issues of unemployment, peace and police brutality, and on her own campus, fighting for a Third World people's college.

At this time Angela Davis joined the Communist Party. It is interesting to note that *Muhammad Speaks* canvassers found that among Black people polled in Harlem the questions most frequently asked were about her political ideas. Angela frankly answers these questions on the record.

Shortly after Miss Davis was hired as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of California at Los Angeles in the Spring of 1969, the issue came up of her being a Communist. Angela responded by stating publicly that she is a member of the Communist Party.

Governor Ronald Reagan and the Board of Regents attempted to fire the young assistant professor, but the courts ruled the firing unconstitutional. For the rest of the school year Miss Davis was the target of harassment by right-wingers, racists and kooks. Threats were made against her life and she found it necessary to be accompanied by body guards. She remained active in the struggles of the Black community, especially around the defense of the Black Panther Party and the Soledad Brothers (three Black inmates at Soledad State Prison accused of murdering a white guard).

In June, 1970, the Regents, continuing their attempts to get Angela off campus, voted not to renew her contract, giving as reasons her "extra-curricular activities" on behalf of the Soledad Brothers and the Black Panther Party.

On October 13, 1970, Angela Davis was arrested, without an indictment, in a motel in midtown Manhattan in connection with the

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Band 1 — PANEL DISCUSSION WITH BURNHAM, MITCHELL AND NOBLE

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alleged attempt in a courthouse in San Rafael, California last August 7, to free three Black inmates. In the ensuing shoot-out four persons, including a judge, were killed. Police charged that all four weapons used were registered under the name of Angela Davis.

Between the time the warrant was issued, on August 11, and her actual arrest, Angela Davis was the subject of one of the most extensive manhunts in history. She was placed on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List—the third woman to be so placed. The FBI described her as "possibly armed and dangerous" giving license to any cop to shoot Angela on sight.

Arrested along with Angela was her companion David Poindexter. He was charged with "harboring a fugitive," but was later acquitted.

Upon her arrest, President Richard Nixon publicly congratulated the FBI on TV, virtually declaring that Angela was guilty before she even went to trial. Contrast this with his treatment of Lieutenant William Calley whom Nixon released after Calley was found guilty of the premeditated murder of 22 Vietnamese civilians.

Angela was held in New York at the Woman's House of Detention without bail, and despite court appeals and requests from all over the country and the world, Governor Rockefeller signed the extradition papers. She was moved to California, under extremely heavy security measures, to stand trial for conspiracy, kidnapping and murder. These charges are punishable by death in California. The trial is slated to begin in the fall of 1971.

As is indicated by the massive support for Angela Davis in the U.S. and around the world, this case is of outstanding significance. The Nixon Administration has singled out Angela Davis during this period of widespread repression because Angela, as a Black Communist leading militant mass struggles for peace, liberation, economic justice and prison reform, symbolizes the most serious threat to the rulers of this country.

At this time this is even more true because the U.S. government is facing an acute crisis. The Nixon Administration still seeks to win its racist, genocidal war in Southeast Asia, despite the devastating defeat it is suffering there, and at the same time force the American people to pay for this war. Yet at the same time it is confronted with rising mass opposition to the war, to racism, and to the domestic conditions the war creates. To continue his policies, Nixon must crush the opposition.

With intensified repression, especially against the Black liberation movement, there are today many political prisoners. That Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins and other Black Panther Party members won their cases was a great victory. The fight to free all political prisoners must continue. The struggle to free Angela Davis is key to winning freedom for all political prisoners, and to advancing the entire movement.

Angela's fight is key because the fight to free Angela is a fight against racism and anti-communism, the two main ingredients for fascism in this country.

In addition to being Black, Angela Davis is a Communist. All over the world Communists have been the first to be persecuted, jailed and even killed. Both anti-communism and racism are used to justify repression not only of Black people and Communists, but of all progressive people in struggle.

"If the government stops Angela Davis, it can stop us next" is what millions of Americans are saying.

The fight to free Angela Davis is a fight against racism, for democratic rights and better living and working conditions in the U.S. If Angela Davis can be set free, and the American movement is strengthened, it will be a victory for people all over the world.

Since the interview in *Muhammad Speaks* was published, it has been circulated by the hundreds of thousands in every state of the country, and has been translated into 12 languages for distribution internationally. On this record you can hear, in Angela Davis' own voice, her answers to the 13 questions asked of her by the people in Harlem.

Joe Walker
New York Bureau Editor
Muhammad Speaks (the largest
Black newspaper in the U.S.A.)

Angela Davis - Like It Is

DAVIS: You know I think that the fact that I am a member of the Che-Lumumba Club, the Communist Party, the fact that I am a Black Communist is very symbolic in this case. As a Communist, I have to demand radical change. I see that capitalism does not possess the flexibility to allow for the solution of the basic problems which confront us today, the exploitation of workers, super-exploitation of Black and Brown workers, which means high rates of unemployment in our community and that's bad housing, atrocious living conditions, bad education. Now capitalism of course can allow for a little tokenism. The government as it has shown has subsidized a few people in the Black community and called that Black capitalism. But they can't create jobs for our people and they are resorting to fascist techniques more and more, fascist techniques of suppressing our rightful demands. Now I maintain that only under a socialist reorganization of society can we even begin to deal with these basic material problems to say nothing of eradicating these individualistic, competitive, racist mentality of the people in this country. Only after I feel a redistribution of the wealth in this country, only after we eradicate the exploitation of man by man, shall we begin to build a humane society both for Blacks, Brown and White people. Now I think it's significant as I said before to reconstruct me as a target of their attack. I think it's symbolic because Black members of the Communist Party are far, far from being the only Black people who are beginning to see that this society must be thoroughly transformed if we are going to solve these basic problems. All over the country, Black people, Chicanos, White people, everybody...

NOBLE: Hello, I'm Gil Noble. Today Like It Is will present an exclusive interview with Angela Davis. The interview was conducted by her lawyer, Margaret Burnham, while Angela was being held here in New York at the Women's House of Detention. It was arranged by Joe Walker, the New York editor of Muhammed Speaks. This is the first public broadcast of of it in its entirety. The questions for the interview were arrived at through a poll that was taken by Muhammed Speaks to find out what Black people in Harlem were most interested in asking Angela if they had the opportunity to talk to her. The original twenty minute interview was conducted by Miss Burnham. It was tape recorded inside the prison where no cameras were allowed. We hope that the film that was shot on several different occasions will give an added dimension to Angela's words. Now with me in the studio are three people who are actively involved in publicizing the truth about Angela Davis's case and are working extensively in her behalf. Joe Walker, the New York editor of Muhammed Speaks, which published the exclusive interview in its entirety in the January 1, 1971 issue, Margaret Burnham, one of the lawyers who is representing Angela, and Charlene Mitchell, a member of the New York Committee to free Angela Davis and a former candidate for President of the United States on the Communist Party ticket. Miss Burnham, who is Angela Davis? Let's put it in perspective.

BURNHAM: I think that Angela herself probably provides the best answer to that question. And she says on the tape that we will hear later on, she is a first and foremost, she is a Black woman. She is a Black woman who is also a Communist and I think it might be added that she is a highly intelligent and beautiful sister. But I think that even more important than that is the fact that Angela has dedicated herself like as have so many Black women nowadays have dedicated her brilliance

and her beauty to the struggle of her people and I think that it's that fact that explains Angela's present predicament.

NOBLE: How old is she? She's 26?

BURNHAM: She's 26 years old.

NOBLE: And the extent of her education?

BURNHAM: As you know, she was a Professor of Philosophy at U.C.L.A.

NOBLE: Yes.

BURNHAM: She has completed her master's degree and was beginning work on her doctoral degree before the events which have resulted in her imprisonment.

NOBLE: Can you specify the charges leveled against her?

BURNHAM: Yes. As a result of the events on August 7th in Marin County, Angela is charged with murder, kidnapping, and conspiracy to affect the release of the Soledad Brothers, conspiracy to aid in the attempted release of the San Quentin inmates who were in the court-room on August 7th and conspiracy to commit the crimes of murder and kidnapping.

NOBLE: And it is punishable by death?

BURNHAM: The charge of murder in Calif. is punishable by death and the charge of kidnapping also carries with it the death penalty. If the jury finds Angela guilty of kidnapping, they must sentence her to death or to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, so that we don't speak rhetorically at all when we say that we're talking about her life.

NOBLE: All right. Thank you very much. Now that you have Miss Angela Davis somewhat in perspective, let's listen to the interview.

interview

BURNHAM: First of all, many, many, many people wanted to know why are you a Communist?

DAVIS: Before anything else, I'm a Black woman and I've dedicated my life to the struggle for the liberation of Black people, my enslaved imprisoned people. I am a Communist because I am convinced that the reason we have been forcibly compelled to eke out an existence at the very lowest level of American society has to do with the nature of capitalism. If we are going to rise out of our oppression, our poverty if we are going to cease being the targets of lynch mob-of the lynch mob mentality of racist policemen, we will have to destroy the American capitalist system. We will have to obliterate a system in which a few wealthy capitalists are guaranteed the privilege of becoming richer and richer whereas the people who are forced to work for the rich and especially Black people never take any significant step forward. I am a Communist because I believe that Black people with whose labor and blood this country was built have a right to a great deal of wealth that has been hoarded in the hands of the Hughes, the Rockefellers, the Kennedys, the DuPonts, all the super-powerful white capitalists of America. Further, I am a Communist because I believe that Black

men should not be coerced into fighting a racist, imperialist war in southeast Asia where the U.S. government is violently denying the non-white people the right to control their own lives just as they violently suppressed us for hundreds of years. My decision to join the Che-Lumumba Club, a militant all Black collective of the Communist

Party, flowed directly from my belief that the only path of liberation for Black people is the one which leads toward the complete and total overthrow of the capitalist class and all its various instruments of suppression. The Che-Lumumba Club is concerned with the task of organizing Black people around their immediate needs but at the same time creating an army of freedom fighters which will overthrow our enemies. We realize that in order to accomplish this latter goal, we must work in harmony with the progressive forces of White America who have seen the nature of the beast. We struggle for Socialism realizing that the historical nature of our oppression and our continued resistance have placed us as Black people at the head of a revolution which must eventually involve not only our people but great numbers of Whites to crush the system and finally to build a Socialist society, free from racism, poverty and injustice.

BURNHAM: The second most frequently asked question concerns the question of your flight and your arrest here in New York. People ask why didn't you use the underground railroad like Robert Williams and Eldridge Cleaver and others to escape the persecution being waged against you?

DAVIS: First of all, I'm sure that J. Edgar Hoover in collusion with Nixon and Reagan decided to make an example of me. The F.B.I. unleashed an enormous amount of manpower in this search, much much more than they can afford to use ordinarily. Because so much public attention was focused on me and my alleged participation in events at San Rafael, they had to prove to their reactionary contingencies that they could capture Black revolutionaries. Therefore, hundreds of women resembling me in Black communities across the country were arrested. Not only were my family, friends and political acquaintances kept under constant surveillance, but casual friends and acquaintances, some of whom I hadn't had any contact with for a decade, were also under surveillance. Obviously they intended to block all paths of escape. And we have to realize that I was taken by surprise. There was no way for me to have foreseen that I would be compelled to run for my life last August. Therefore the entire flight had to be improvised. It was a difficult situation with my picture pasted up all over the country. And furthermore, the press helped the F.B.I. by doing all kinds of articles and doing even cover stories on me. I didn't escape successfully. But we should remember this, there will continue to be frameups such as mine and we will continue to be forced to hide. Just because they caught me doesn't mean that every one of us will be captured. They set all their running dogs on me. This they can afford to do only a few times over. We must refuse to allow them to strike terror among us for this was obviously the intent of their actions. Furthermore, because of the intensified repression we are experiencing, we have to begin to talk about creating a viable apparatus to allow freedom fighters, Black freedom fighters sought for by the police to remain in this country and to remain active in the Black liberation struggle.

BURNHAM: There has been much talk Angela that you are being used by the Communist. Is this in any way - is it in any way possible that this is so?

DAVIS: Any vicious propaganda to the effect that I am being used by Communists can only have been initiated by the enemies of our struggle. There have been rumors of it because the Communist Party has come to my defense. This means they are exploiting me and further indicates that perhaps the party has something to do with me capture. Anyone who believes such flagrant lies has been terribly deceived by the Nixon-Reagan clique for they are the ones who devise such underhanded methods of questioning our struggle. I'm a Communist, a Black woman Communist. The corrupt government of this country could not accept such a combination. This is why they use the events at San Rafael to launch an effort to murder me. As a member of the Communist Party, it was incumbent upon the party to come to my defense. Furthermore,

through me the government was attempting to attack and terrorize Black people as they have done in the case of George Jackson, Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Erica Huggins and I could go on and on and on. Therefore Black people have to begin to talk about rising up not only in the defense of political prisoners but in their own defense.

BURNHAM: Despite all that has fallen on you Angela, do you still feel strongly about the Black cause?

DAVIS: There is nothing, absolutely nothing which could deter me from continuing to fight with all my energies for the freedom of my people. Now there is no need for me to cry because I have been captured. But there is all the more reason to be strong and keep fighting. During the time I was participating in the efforts to free the Soledad Brothers, I continually warned that any one of us could be set up as the next target of the government's policy of repression, of the repression of Black revolutionaries. I am in prison but like Malcolm said, all Black people excepting a few who have betrayed us are in prison. And like Huey said, there are maximum security jails and minimum security jails. The latter constitutes the condition of the majority of Black people but many among us are locked up in the dungeons across the country. Ninety five percent of us here in the Women's House of Detention are Black and Puerto Rican. And with my people and we are going to continue to fight inside the dungeon.

BURNHAM: How can ordinary people help in your fight to gain your freedom?

DAVIS: Well committees have been organized all across the country, in fact throughout the world to force the government to set me free. Demonstrations, petition campaigns, massive literature campaigns have already been developed. There is a whole host of activities in which people can involve themselves and I would suggest that those who are interested should contact the Defense Committee in New York at 29 West 15th Street and Black Women for the Freedom of Angela Davis, an organization located at the Harlem YWCA. The national committee office is located in Los Angeles. I think it is important to link up the struggle for my freedom with the fight to free other Black political prisoners. My comrades, Erica Huggins, Bobby Seale, George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers and many others. And I maintain that the fight should call for the freedom of all Black men and women for few of us have received fair trials. We have certainly not been judged by juries from among our peers. Even if I am eventually allowed to leave the dungeon, I would not consider myself free. My freedom will become a reality when we as a people have destroyed our enemy, when we Black people have broken the yokes of our oppression and can freely erect a society which reflects our needs and our demands. I will not be free until all Black people are free.

BURNHAM: Have you ever had any doubts since you became a Communist about their ability to help Black people?

DAVIS: The Communist Party recognizes that Black people not only constitute the most oppressed collection of people in the United States but also that we are the product of the most militant tradition of resistance within the confines of this country. Therefore we, as Black people, are the natural leaders of a revolution which must ultimately overthrow the American ruling class thus freeing the masses of American people. Black people must free themselves. And we realize in our struggle that racism in this country is all pervasive. This we've learned in the experiences we encountered during the civil rights era in which many well meaning Whites unconsciously perpetuated racism by taking the patronizing posture that they must "help us, Black people" which meant to assist us in the futile task of integrating ourselves into a dying culture. The Communist Party acknowledges the need for White people to accept the leadership of Blacks, especially White workers if they are to free themselves of their chains, they must realize that first and foremost they must struggle against all manifestations of racism.

BURNHAM: Most of the newspapers have all said that you fled Calif. because you were guilty. Can you clear this up for us?

2 DAVIS: Well let me ask this question. When a slave who managed to

escape from the whips and the wheels of the White slave master fled to another state, was this evidence of his guilt? After Ronald Reagan and his fascist cohorts launched the campaign to fire me from my job at U.C.L.A., not because there were any defects in my qualifications but simply because I was Black and a Communist and devoted to the struggle for freedom of my people, how could I fail to realize that they were not determined to murder me. After all, they already unleashed a tremendous reactionary sentiment against me simply around the question of my job. Hardly a day passed last year when I didn't receive a death threat in some form or another. As a result of Reagan's actions, I was constantly harrassed by pigs controlling our community. I fled because I was convinced that there was little likelihood that I would get justice in California. And I might add that the L.A. Times conducted a survey in the Black community in Los Angeles and found that 80% of those questioned felt that I was correct in going into hiding. For to turn myself in would have been tantamount to delivering myself into the hands of my self-appointed executioners, the self-appointed executioners of Black people in general.

BURNHAM: If you must eventually stand trial in California, do you think you can get a fair trial?

DAVIS: The American judicial system is bankrupt. Insofar as Black people are concerned and it has proved itself to be one more arm which assists in carrying out the systematic oppression of our people. We are the victims not the recipients of justice. And it is obvious that democracy in America is hopelessly deteriorated, when the courts, allegedly guardians of the rights of the people have been enlisted to play an active role in the genocidal war against Black people. We must reject the right of the courts to further oppress us. And the only way we can get justice is to demand it and to create a mass movement which will give notice to our enemy that we will use all means at our disposal to secure justice for our people. This is the only way we can expect to free all our brothers and sisters held captive in America's dungeons. And this is the only way we can expect to ultimately gain total liberation.

BURNHAM: How is your morale holding up?

DAVIS: With all the beautiful sisters surrounding me, with all the sisters and brothers struggling in the streets, I cannot help but feel just as determined to keep on fighting as I was when I was captured. Each day I receive hundreds and hundreds of letters from sympathizers all over the world. The support I have been receiving has almost left me incredulous. Furthermore, the press failed to mention that when I embarked on a hunger strike to protest my solitary confinement here, many of the sisters in a gesture of solidarity joined in. Now I have been in jail for two months. Huey was incarcerated for two years. Erica Huggins, whom I know personally and admire as one of this country's great Black women, has been incarcerated for almost two years as has been Bobby Seale and when I stopped and tried to reinvent all that George Jackson has endured over the last 11 years of his life and has still emerged as a powerful brilliant leader of his people. And I think that Jonathan Jackson and many others have sacrificed their lives in our struggle. I am infused with all of the strength I need to carry on the fight.

BURNHAM: Could you describe how you are being treated here at the Women's House of Detention?

DAVIS: This is a prison and the atrocious conditions that characterize virtually every American prison are present in this place. Rather than start with the specific treatment I have been receiving, I'd like to delineate the circumstances under which all of us are compelled to exist. First of all, this prison is filthy. It's infested with roaches and mice. Often we discover roaches cooked into our food. And not too long ago a sister found a mouse tail in her soup. A few days ago, I was drinking a cup of coffee and was forced to spit out a roach. They literally cover the walls of our cells at night, crawling across our bodies while we sleep. Every night we hear the screams of inmates who wake up to find mice scurrying across their bodies. I discovered one in bed with me last night in fact. The medical conditions here are

abominable. The doctors are racist. They are entirely insensitive to the needs of the women here. One sister who was housed in my corridor complained to the doctor not too long ago that she had terrible pains in her chest, after which the doctor suggested to her that she get a job without once examining her. It was later discovered that the sister had tumors in her breast and needed immediate hospital attention. This is indicative of the way we are treated here. We spend most of our time either in five by nine cells with filthy concrete floors or outside in the bare corridors. We're not even allowed to place blankets on the floor where we must sit in order to protect ourselves from the filth and the cold. To talk a little bit about the library, they have a collection of adventure stories and romances which they have designated the library. To put it, I realize that although the prison population is 95% Black and Puerto Rican, I found only five or six books about Black people and literature in Spanish is extremely scarce. I could go on and on but perhaps now I'll turn to the specific kind of treatment I've been receiving myself. I'm convinced that the authorities in this place have been instructed to make life as difficult as possible for me probably in order to convince me to stop fighting extradition. And of course, after the courts overruled them and they were compelled to release me from solitary confinement and 24 hour guard, they had to seek other ways to assert their dominance. Unlike the other women who are being held for trial, I am forced to wear institutional clothing. They say I'm a high security risk and they want to make it difficult for me to escape. They refuse to permit my attorneys to give me legal material unless they first read it over, demonstrating that they have no respect whatsoever for the confidentiality which is supposed to exist between lawyer and client. I could continue to enumerate a hundred little things that have been done in the hope of breaking me but I continue to give notice to them that there is absolutely nothing they can do to break my determination to keep struggling. The only way they can accomplish this is by taking my life and then they would have to face the wrath of the people. The same holds true for Erica, for Bobby, for George and the Soledad Brothers.

BURNHAM: When you are freed, how will you continue to fight against this system which is oppressing us so badly?

DAVIS: I'll join together with all my brothers and sisters who are fighting in the streets to free all political prisoners and do everything in our power to fight for total liberation of Black people.

BURNHAM: What is your relationship with other prisoners here at the Women's House of Detention?

DAVIS: I've never encountered such an overwhelmingly warm and cordial welcome. Obviously, the reason why the prison authorities isolated me was the enthusiastic welcome I received. Each time I'd go from one area of the jail to another, the sisters hold up their clenched fists and convey expressions of solidarity. While I was in solitary confinement, the sisters on the floor conducted demonstrations in my behalf and when I embarked on a hunger strike, many of them joined in. After I was transferred into population, some of the sisters in my corridor with whom I had spent a great deal of time, were helping me answer letters from the outside. They were all immediately transferred to another floor but we still found ways to communicate with one another. I've already mentioned the state of the so-called library. After many requests and arguments, I was told that if books were sent directly from the publishing company I could receive them. Now the authorities allow me to bring up five of these books at a time per week. The sisters are immensely interested in the reading material I receive, everything from George Jackson's prison letters to works by Lenin and the books circulate all over the floor and are the occasion for many a discussion. Since the authorities have indicated that they are totally insensitive to the desires of the inmates, I would hope that brothers and sisters in the streets take it upon themselves to donate relevant literature to the library here.

BURNHAM: What were your feelings when you first learned that you were on the F.B.I.'s Ten Most Wanted List?

DAVIS: I expect the Nixon-Reagan clique to resort to any measure to suppress their critics and they are using all means in their power to eliminate revolutionary activity in this country. The F.B.I. is rapidly becoming a force similar to the Death Squad in Brazil to repress freedom fighters. By placing me on the Ten Most Wanted List, by characterizing me as a dangerous, hardened criminal, they were setting me up either to be killed on the spot or to be legally murdered by Reagan's running dogs.

BURNHAM: Your supporters have called you a political prisoner. Many are confused about the meaning of this. Can you explain what it means?

DAVIS: More and more Black people are being incarcerated not because they committed a crime but because of their political beliefs and the activities they undertake to bring our people together to struggle for freedom. Character charges are invented. Outright frameups are increasingly becoming the rule. George Jackson was arrested 11 years ago at the age of 18, on convicted of stealing \$70 from a gas station attendant. He was given an indeterminate sentence, one year to life imprisonment. Because he evolved into a revolutionary and began to organize his fellow captives, he was denied parole year after year. And finally last year was framed up along with two other brothers, John Clouchet and Fleta Drungo, who had demonstrated a deep concern for the destiny of our people. George Jackson, John Clouchet, Fleta Drungo are political prisoners. Their real crime lies in being absolutely devoted to the liberation of Black people. Bobby Seale is a political prisoner. Erica Huggins, Martin Sostra is a political prisoner. I am a political prisoner. The government intends to silence me, to prohibit me from further organizing my people, to prohibit me from exposing this corrupt, degenerate system by convicting me on the basis of a crime I had nothing to do with. Political prisoners are set up as examples to the rest of the people. George, John and Fleta were set up as examples to the rest of the Soledad population, examples vividly spelling out the fate of any and every captive who followed in their footsteps. The same holds true for Erica, Bobby, the Soledad Seven, Martin Sostra, the Band of 21, and myself. The government intends to terrorize our people by railroading us into the electric chair, gas chamber and into long prison terms. There is only one way political prisoners can be liberated. Millions of people must serve notice to the government that they intend to use every weapon at their disposal to secure the freedom of their captive warriors.

NOBLE: And that is the interview with 26 year old Angela Yvonne Davis. Joe Walker, how did it all come about? How did Muhammed Speaks come to arrange this interview?

WALKER: Well Gil, Angela Davis granted us this interview, this exclusive interview because she recognizes that Muhammed Speaks is the one national publication that is dedicated to giving honest and direct coverage to the struggles of Black Americans in this country. And it's important to note that the mass media has either distorted the Angela Davis story by painting her as a beautiful, brilliant Black woman who has somehow gone astray or completely ignored aspects of her case. Nowhere in the mass media has her side of the story been told. And so Muhammed Speaks' editors were very anxious to get to her and to present questions that were being asked in the Black community. And we went to the streets of Harlem knowing that although most Black people overwhelmingly support Angela Davis, that there were many questions being asked, questions in barber shops, in corners and so forth.

NOBLE: So something an editor wouldn't...or at least a reporter wouldn't instinctively think of, he'd probably be inclined to ask his own questions. How did it evolve that you'd think to ask the grass roots Harlemite?

WALKER: Well every Black journalist should be a person who is the eyes and ears of his people. And in order to really keep your finger on the pulse, it's important not just to sit in the office. It's important to get out there and talk with the man and the woman in the street. And we talked to a wide range of people, people who are unemployed, students, people from a wide range of occupations, 556 people

were interviewed. And I think slightly more women than men and everywhere we went there was interest in the case. There were questions. There was overwhelming support for her but her answers to these questions as you have shown here on this show were also very honest and direct.

NOBLE: Would you say that the preponderance of people in Harlem are unaware of the specifics of her involvement and her history because of the inadequacies of press coverage that you cited?

WALKER: I think undoubtedly. The kinds of stories like Life Magazine "The Making of a Fugitive" are kinds of thinks with which - make her guilty before she is even tried. It's not new for Black people in this country. And this particular case, it's more ghastly than anything else because of the kinds of charges, because of the kinds of pressure that has come down on Angela Davis.

NOBLE: Un huh.

WALKER: But I think people feel that she is one of them. This is an opinion that we got almost universally in the streets.

NOBLE: Miss Burnham, in the interview Miss Davis expressed a pessimism that she can get a fair trial. How do you feel about that?

BURNHAM: I think that Angela was accurately portraying the kind of fervor in the country that's been built up, specifically for the purpose of denying her her constitutional right to a fair trial. And Angela's situation is not a unique one as she herself describes in the interview, very few Black people in this country nowadays can get fair trials. In particular, it becomes more and more impossible for a Black militant or a Black revolutionary to get a fair trial from the system.

NOBLE: Now what about all these question that have been raised about the manner in which she was extradited to California, all that security that reports it as... Her attorneys weren't even apprised that she was being moved. Tell us about that.

BURNHAM: That's correct. It was our estimate that Angela would not be leaving New York until Wednesday morning. She, in fact, was whisked out of her cell at three o'clock in the morning Monday night. We were given no notice that she was to be moved. She herself was told - an officer at the jail came up and told her that her attorneys were waiting for her downstairs to inform her of her rights and that she should come immediately downstairs to the ground floor of the jail, the ground level of the jail and conference with her attorneys. Well of course, this was just a hoax to get Angela out of her cell and to keep the other women in the jail who were supportive of Angela unapprised of what was going on. When she got downstairs, she was manhandled by New York authorities. She was roughed up and beaten and then transferred to California authorities. And you know, I guess you know about the conditions of her flight from New York to California. It was a most horrendous and harrowing experience for Angela.

NOBLE: Well now, I recall the Justice Department saying that they had no jurisdiction in this matter and yet a Federal plane was used to transport her. Is that correct?

BURNHAM: That's correct. The involvement of the Federal Government has been clear, apparent throughout the whole history of Angela's present frameup. The Government's presence was first felt when she, a Black woman with no criminal record, was placed on the Ten Most Wanted List. And this was the first entry of the Federal Government in this case and their presence has been clear throughout. And this most recent episode of her transfer in a Federal plane also shows the Federal Government's hand in the frameup.

NOBLE: How about the conditions out in the jail where she is presently in California, do they rival what she said exists here in the Women's House of Detention?

BURNHAM: It's a very different situation in the Calif. jail. There are different kinds of pressure on Angela there. She is not, as she was in New York, among her sisters. She is isolated. She is alone because of the fact that there are no other women prisoners in the Marin County jail. So she is held in solitary confinement there. She is held under very very high, heavy security, much heavier if that could be imagined than the conditions under which she was held here in New York. It's a cleaner jail. It's a newer jail, that's for sure. In that sense, I guess it's a cut above the House of Detention but there are other conditions which make it equally unbearable.

NOBLE: Miss Mitchell, do you think knowing Angela that such pressure can crack her?

MITCHELL: I think, without a doubt, that that's the intent of the pressure. But knowing Angela, I don't think it can, mostly because she is so determined not only in the fight for her own right to be free but for the fight for the freedom of all Black and oppressed people. And that in itself makes for a different kind of courage when the fight is beyond yourself. And for Angela the fight has always been beyond herself.

NOBLE: I'd like to get into the actual legal charge that is leveled against her. Now, as I understand it the evidence and pictures and whatnot seem to make it pretty clear that she was not at the specific incident of the kidnapping of the Judge and the chase in the van that followed where the shootings occurred. Yet she is charged with murder. Is that correct?

BURNHAM: That's correct. Angela, the state of California has never alleged that Angela was anywhere present at the scene of that alleged crime.

NOBLE: Well then how can she be...

BURNHAM: She is being charged pursuant to what in California is known as an aiding and abetting statute. I guess in layman's language what the statute means is that one who participates in criminal activity can be held liable as the principal, as the principal can be held liable for the results of that activity. It's alleged that Angela conspired with Jonathan Jackson and the San Quentin inmates to...in the events at San Rafael.

NOBLE: I see. Is that common in most states in the United States?

BURNHAM: It's not an unusual....There's a lot of confusion about that statute but the statute itself is not unusual. What's unusual about it is the way that it is being used in this case. It's being used in a case where the state has almost no evidence on which to bring the charges against Angela. That's what makes the statute unique.

NOBLE: Uh huh. Miss Mitchell, what about the guns? Can you tell us about the guns, why Miss Davis purchased the guns or does this fall within the bounds of the legality of the case?

MITCHELL: I think it's very much probably in the legality of the case except that I was up at Yale Divinity School and I asked the Dean's office there how many of those people owned guns. And they were members of the clergy, every one of them. And they said, you know 90% of them owned guns and that they had owned them for a long time. They did not think that they would be held accountable if somebody were to take those guns. I don't think that there is any question that there are more and more people who are armed. And I don't think that there is any question that his is a right of people and that should be a right of Black people in this country. So that Angela owned guns or allegedly owned guns, I don't think is the question here. I think the question is why they are using that to frame up an innocent person. And I think that's exactly what's happening in this case.

NOBLE: Well let's talk about the physiology of her development when she became a Communist. Now here is a...I read about her and she came

from a family of at least comfortable means. She is well educated. What happened to Angela? How did it all come about?

MITCHELL: Well I think that there is a logical consequence and sequence of events that make people revolutionaries, that make people Communists. And to assume that one either that you are disgruntled with your parents you know and that's the reason that you become a Communist is you know to look maybe at some people who you know who may be new students or something but certainly not with Angela and certainly not with most people who become revolutionaries. I think that the sequence of events that made Angela a Communist was one the seeing of the children in Birmingham bombed, two - living in a society in New York in comfortable surroundings but nevertheless seeing as most of us do our brothers and sisters living in absolutely uncomfortable surroundings, the same kind of an atmosphere at Brandeis. And of course her acquaintanceship with revolutionaries and German revolutionaries when she was in Europe. I think her beginning to be acquainted with marxist philosophy that there was in her own understanding a way not only to look at the problems in this world but a way to change those. And I think that that's what made Angela a Communist.

NOBLE: I see. Let's talk about the support that is being raised in her behalf.

MITCHELL: Well I am from the New York Defense Committee to defend Angela Davis which is overall east coast and we have really been amazed at the kind of support, not so much because we didn't think people would automatically assume and know as we do that Angela is innocent but because we felt that people had been victims for so long of repression that there might be an inability to begin to speak out against that repression. But instead, I think people have begun understand that that repression might bounce back on them, that that kind of repression being used on Angela will be used against them and that they have responded to Angela's plight in a way that I think is just unprecedented. So that in addition to the springing up of committees which have affiliated themselves to the New York Committee in Queens, at N.Y.U., Brooklyn College, City College, Columbia. There is even a group at Mount Sinai Hospital. There is a group of garment workers. This kind of thing - the Black Women's Committee.

NOBLE: What are they doing actually? Are they raising funds or are they just trying to publicize the events of her situation?

MITCHELL: They are doing both. But they are also, in addition to publicizing it, they are using it as a means to educate people to what is happening because as Mr. Walker has said, there has been you know like a dearth of information in the press. So we have had to get the information to people. But in New York, we were also very much concerned with the fight against extradition which we were not successful in winning. But I think that that kind of support and the more that we are able to muster and that's what the committees are all about, will help to get her that necessary fair trial in California.

NOBLE: There have been international outcries raised about the plight of various people. Do you think that if this outcry in behalf of Miss Davis is internationalized and is loud enough that it might have an effect on what happens in the courtroom in Calif.?

MITCHELL: I think it absolutely will. I think that the international outcries have come from Africa just in you know tremendous amounts, telegrams that we've gotten duplicates of that have been sent to Governor Rockefeller and to President Nixon. There have been telegrams and marches and demonstrations in West Germany, in East Germany, from the Soviet Union, from Italy. There are beautiful cards you know that are made up by children from France, from Denmark.

NOBLE: Is this necessarily all Communist or non-Communist or what?

MITCHELL: Oh they are Communist and non-Communist.

NOBLE: Uh huh.

MITCHELL: And that is the reason I'm giving you the whole picture...

NOBLE: Yes.

MITCHELL: of what countries they come from. And with...you know I have no doubt that the Communist Party has played a very leading role in trying to get people to be educated to what is going on. I have been invited for example to West Berlin to speak. So that I think that people will understand that this is a worldwide thing. But I think the heart of the thing has to be right here in the United States. That's where we have to put the biggest pressure.

NOBLE: Well what about the feminist movement that's under way here in America? Has much support come from these groups? Anybody?

WALKER: That leaves me out of that one.

NOBLE: All right, all right.

MITCHELL: Well I think that there are two approaches within the Women's Liberation movement. In the Third World Women's Liberation movement, there has been absolute support for Angela Davis. Among Women's Strike for Peace, we have received certain resolutions. There are, however,, a number of women within what is called the Women's Liberation movement that have found it not so much at this point a big thing in their program. And I think that until they begin to see that racism and repression is as much a problem for the Women's Liberation Movement that they are going to be very much victims of their failure to see that.

NOBLE: Let's talk a little bit more about her. Do you want to say something?

BURNHAM: No, no.

NOBLE: Let's talk about her political philosophy. Do you think that there's another stage of development for her? Do you think that someday that she may decide not to be a Communist or what?

MITCHELL: Well I am a member of the Communist Party.

NOBLE: Yes, I know that.

MITCHELL: And I would have to put any Communist in my own you know...

NOBLE: All right.

MITCHELL: We, I think Angela and I would almost make the very same statement. I would make the statement that she did in her interview. The reasons that we join the Communist Party were because we felt that among the first reasons that the Communist Party offered the vehicle in which we could fight for a change of the economic and social conditions in this country which kept Black people, working people in bondage. And we thought that that was the vehicle that we would use to organize masses of people. There's nothing that would indicate a change in that.

NOBLE: Uh huh.

MITCHELL: And so in my opinion, Angela will be a member of the Communist Party.

NOBLE: All right. Miss Burnham, what about legal groups across this country? Was there an avalanche of requests to come to her legal defense?

BURNHAM: There has been considerable activity among the various bar associations here in New York and California and across the country on Angela's behalf. In our New York extradition proceeding, we were aided by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, a group of militant, activist Black lawyers here which has its center here in N.Y. as well

as by the New York Civil Liberties Union and an organization called the National Lawyers Guild and a fourth organization known as the New Women Lawyers. So there has been considerable activity among lawyers on Angela's behalf. I recently spoke to a group of Black lawyers in Detroit who are very much interested in participating in her defense in whatever way they can.

NOBLE: Miss Davis chronicled a horrifying set of circumstances in the Women's House of Detention here in New York. What have you seen in your visits there?

BURNHAM: Well I certainly haven't seen as much as Angela has seen because my visits are limited to counsel room there.

NOBLE: Yes.

BURNHAM: Which is located on the ground floor of the institution and I've never seen the cell areas which certainly are as she described them, miserable conditions. But just in... I can say that Angela has had fantastic support among both the inmates at the prison as well as the officers. The officers are mainly Black and Puerto Rican and in whatever way, whatever small way they can, they have made it clear to Angela that she has their full support.

NOBLE: How do you feel about the law that no cameras are allowed inside of a prison? Do you think that that's....

BURNHAM: I think that that law inasmuch as it applies to Angela's case and cases like her's is to limit the ability of the defendant to state his own case. What's happened in Angela's case is that she has been tried and convicted by a hostile press, a press which began to convict her immediately after August 7th before any formal charges were brought against her. And Angela, in California, has been gagged. There's a gag rule which applies to her and other people who are associated with the case which silences people on matters of importance relating to her case. And the law in New York barring press people from the jail has the same effect. The effect of it is to keep all the prejudice on the side of the government, on the government's side in Angela's case.

NOBLE: Joe Walker, what can you add to this? In your endeavors to get inside the Women's House of Detention or other jails to talk with prisoners, have you been outright rebuffed? Have you been given the runaround or what?

WALKER: Most of the attempts that we've made in investigating prison conditions have been in my area, in New York and in New Jersey. And you're not permitted at all to get in. We have to rely on the testimony of inmates who have been in and who have come out or lawyers in individual cases.

NOBLE: Uh huh.

WALKER: But in all of these cases, I think she adequately describes them as dungeons, places built decades and decades ago, overcrowding, and all kinds of incredible conditions which the recent Tomb riots here in New York certainly substantiated.

NOBLE: Uh huh. What about the gentleman that was arrested with Miss Davis? Where is he, Mr. Poindexter?

MITCHELL: David Poindexter?

NOBLE: Yes.

MITCHELL: As you know, he is under \$100,000 bail which you know as to say is exorbitant, just to put it mildly. David is at this moment in New York. He travels between New York and Chicago. And they have finally given him the right to go to Florida but not to Brooklyn so that he is in the southern jurisdiction. I think you will notice in the earlier film clips that you showed that David Poindexter showed up on almost every line of march that was in support of Angela Davis. And wherever

he can travel, in other words in New York City or Queens I think and in Chicago, he has been at Angela Davis rallies and has spoken. We in the Defense Committee consider very much David's case to be part of the case that we are very much have to help with because we consider that David protected an innocent sister. He did not harbor a criminal.

NOBLE: Uh huh. Most people seem to feel and I think you would agree that Miss Davis's case has received more publicity and attention in the Black community than say that of the Panther 21. If you agree, would you care to comment as to why?

MITCHELL: Well I agree and disagree. But I think what has happened....

NOBLE: How do you disagree?

MITCHELL: Yes, I think what has happened is that a whole host of people in this country began to see that whenever Black people or any radicals began to get the attention of masses of people that they immediately became victims of repression and that happened whether it was so overtly as the shooting of Fred Hampton or the gagging and binding of Bobby Seale and so on that people began to understand that this repression was becoming so great. And I think that acted as a backdrop then for the kind of momentum for the support that Angela got so that I think Angela sees her case and I think rightfully so as part and parcel of all of the repression that has happened.

NOBLE: You mentioned earlier that one of the things that led to her development was the shock at the bombing of that church. Did she actually see it? Was she there at the time in that town, in Birmingham or was she elsewhere? Were you with her?

MITCHELL: No, I was not with her. She was quite young. She was in Birmingham at the time. The children that were killed were friends of Fania's. Fania is Angela's younger sister. And Angela was friends of the older sisters of those children that were killed. So it was something that was very personal with her. I mean she was in the town.

NOBLE: She talked to you about it? What did she say? How did she speak about that incident?

MITCHELL: Well she speaks about it in a number of ways. I think the first time that I ever heard her really talk about it was when I knew her in the days of SNCC, when she was a member of SNCC, before she was a member of the Communist Party. And she was quite concerned about a young man named Gregory Clark who had been killed by the police in Los Angeles and she says there's really no difference, you know. We have a people's tribunal and the policeman goes free in Los Angeles and they've never found those who were guilty of the bombing in Birmingham although everybody knows who did it. So it seems that when the police are guilty of murder, it's justifiable homicide. When Blacks are charged with murder, they are ipso facto guilty.

NOBLE: Miss Burnham, she will be tried by her peers. That's how the law reads. But will she really, will she really? What would her peers be as you see it?

BURNHAM: Her peers would be the men and women who were interviewed by Muhammed Speaks on the streets of Harlem. They would be Black men and women who have come to realize like Angela that changes are needed in this society. It's unlikely that if her trial takes place in Marin County, she will be tried by these people. Marin County is a largely White, very very wealthy county in California with only a small pocket of Black people and it's highly improbable that in Marin County or for that matter anywhere else in California with the exception of two or three areas that she would have her right to have a trial by her peers which would have any meaning.

NOBLE: Well that's all we have time for but I'd like to thank you all for coming. This program has been an attempt to clarify some of the issues that have been raised in the press as a result of Miss Davis's actions.

And we believe it is our responsibility as Black journalists to attempt to present her side of the story in answer to the accusations that have been made against her. We'd like to thank Muhammed Speaks for offering us the first opportunity to present this interview on the air. All rights to that interview are reserved by Joe Walker of Muhammed Speaks and cannot be reused without their or his express permission. We at Like It Is want to encourage you to follow the events of Miss Davis's future because of the significance that it holds for all of us.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think Angela Davis will get a fair trial?

WOMAN: I don't think so because she's Black. I think they're gonna you know send her to jail and that's...nobody is going to hear anything else about it. I think that the things that they do to Black people these days, it's not right, like Edward Kennedy. He takes a girl out in a car and she dies and what not. And he is set free but Angela Davis didn't even do anything and she is going to jail for it. I don't think it's right.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Do you think that Angela Davis will get a fair trial?

WOMAN: No, I don't think she'll get a fair trial because of the idea that..the first is she has two things against her because....

INTERVIEWER: Tell us about it.

WOMAN: She was a...you know she...they say she's a Communist. So I really don't think she'll get a fair trial.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Do you think that Angela Davis will get a fair trial?

WOMAN: I think so yes.

INTERVIEWER: You think so?

WOMAN: Yes because I think that the people will see that she gets a fair trial.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Do you think that Angela Davis will get a fair trial?

MAN: No.

INTERVIEWER: Why?

MAN: I just don't. I don't know really. I just don't think that she'll get a fair trial.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think Angela Davis will get a fair trial?

WOMAN: I hope she do. I hope she gets a fair trial.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think Angela Davis will get a fair trial?

MAN: In some courts she will.

INTERVIEWER: Why?

MAN: Because there's a lot of rumors going around about her. Things like that. As a matter of fact, I'm not sure that she'll get a... maybe in a court of more Blacks, maybe she would but not in a court of Whites I don't think.

INTERVIEWER: In California?

MAN: No.

ANGELA DAVIS SPEAKS

Produced by WABC-TV's "LIKE IT IS"
Based on an exclusive interview by Joe Walker
of MUHAMMAD SPEAKS

Side 1

Band 1 — ANGELA DAVIS STATEMENT

Band 2 — INTRODUCTION

Band 3 — 13 QUESTION INTERVIEW

The cry "Free Angela Davis!" resounds throughout the world and across the United States. The case of Angela Davis is an international "cause célèbre" and her name is a household word in every Black home in this country.

Never before in history has there been such an outpouring of support for a political prisoner. Support actions for Angela have been organized in the liberated zones of Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Chile, England, France, Italy, North Korea, North Vietnam, Laos, Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, and many other countries on six continents.

In the United States millions of people in Orono, Maine; New York City; Washington, D.C.; Miami, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; Nashville, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama; Chicago, Illinois; Gary, Indiana; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Tucson, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington and scores of other cities and towns in every part of the nation have raised their voices to demand freedom for Angela Davis.

Angela's supporters are Black, White, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Indian; workers, students, unemployed; young and old; men and women; Communists and non-Communists; radicals and liberals; Congressmen and other politicians; artists; clergymen; union and rank and file leaders; writers; musicians and singers; journalists; teachers; doctors. People from every walk of life! And the numbers of people joining the movement to free Angela Davis grows every day.

Angela Yvonne Davis was born in Birmingham, Alabama 27 years ago on January 26, 1944. Her political biography tells us that "she grew up among a whole generation of Black people who had seen their men risk their lives overseas in a fight against foreign fascism only to return home and find the same mentality still directed against themselves. . . ." They experienced racism and segregation. "She saw the symbols of law and order represented by the likes of George Wallace and Bull Connor, the burning cross of the old South, the electric cattle prods of the new. Yet she also saw among her generation, the first glimmering of a renewed resistance, and she joined that resistance. . . ."

At the age of 15 Angela left the South to attend Elizabeth Irwin High School in New York City on a Quaker scholarship. She attended Brandeis University, also on a scholarship. Angela studied at the Sorbonne in Paris under Professor Herbert Marcuse and changed her major from French to philosophy. She did her graduate work at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Upon returning to the U.S. Angela enrolled at the University of California at San Diego, where she became deeply involved in organizing in the Black community around the issues of unemployment, peace and police brutality, and on her own campus, fighting for a Third World people's college.

At this time Angela Davis joined the Communist Party. It is interesting to note that *Muhammad Speaks* canvassers found that among Black people polled in Harlem the questions most frequently asked were about her political ideas. Angela frankly answers these questions on the record.

Shortly after Miss Davis was hired as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of California at Los Angeles in the Spring of 1969, the issue came up of her being a Communist. Angela responded by stating publicly that she is a member of the Communist Party.

Governor Ronald Reagan and the Board of Regents attempted to fire the young assistant professor, but the courts ruled the firing unconstitutional. For the rest of the school year Miss Davis was the target of harassment by right-wingers, racists and kooks. Threats were made against her life and she found it necessary to be accompanied by body guards. She remained active in the struggles of the Black community, especially around the defense of the Black Panther Party and the Soledad Brothers (three Black inmates at Soledad State Prison accused of murdering a white guard).

In June, 1970, the Regents, continuing their attempts to get Angela off campus, voted not to renew her contract, giving as reasons her "extra-curricular activities" on behalf of the Soledad Brothers and the Black Panther Party.

On October 13, 1970, Angela Davis was arrested, without an indictment, in a motel in midtown Manhattan in connection with the

Side 2

Band 1 — PANEL DISCUSSION WITH BURNHAM, MITCHELL AND NOBLE

Band 2 — STREET INTERVIEWS

alleged attempt in a courthouse in San Rafael, California last August 7, to free three Black inmates. In the ensuing shoot-out four persons, including a judge, were killed. Police charged that all four weapons used were registered under the name of Angela Davis.

Between the time the warrant was issued, on August 11, and her actual arrest, Angela Davis was the subject of one of the most extensive manhunts in history. She was placed on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List—the third woman to be so placed. The FBI described her as "possibly armed and dangerous" giving license to any cop to shoot Angela on sight.

Arrested along with Angela was her companion David Poindexter. He was charged with "harboring a fugitive," but was later acquitted.

Upon her arrest, President Richard Nixon publicly congratulated the FBI on TV, virtually declaring that Angela was guilty before she even went to trial. Contrast this with his treatment of Lieutenant William Calley whom Nixon released after Calley was found guilty of the premeditated murder of 22 Vietnamese civilians.

Angela was held in New York at the Woman's House of Detention without bail, and despite court appeals and requests from all over the country and the world, Governor Rockefeller signed the extradition papers. She was moved to California, under extremely heavy security measures, to stand trial for conspiracy, kidnapping and murder. These charges are punishable by death in California. The trial is slated to begin in the fall of 1971.

As is indicated by the massive support for Angela Davis in the U.S. and around the world, this case is of outstanding significance. The Nixon Administration has singled out Angela Davis during this period of widespread repression because Angela, as a Black Communist leading militant mass struggles for peace, liberation, economic justice and prison reform, symbolizes the most serious threat to the rulers of this country.

At this time this is even more true because the U.S. government is facing an acute crisis. The Nixon Administration still seeks to win its racist, genocidal war in Southeast Asia, despite the devastating defeat it is suffering there, and at the same time force the American people to pay for this war. Yet at the same time it is confronted with rising mass opposition to the war, to racism, and to the domestic conditions the war creates. To continue his policies, Nixon must crush the opposition.

With intensified repression, especially against the Black liberation movement, there are today many political prisoners. That Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins and other Black Panther Party members won their cases was a great victory. The fight to free all political prisoners must continue. The struggle to free Angela Davis is key to winning freedom for all political prisoners, and to advancing the entire movement.

Angela's fight is key because the fight to free Angela is a fight against racism and anti-communism, the two main ingredients for fascism in this country.

In addition to being Black, Angela Davis is a Communist. All over the world Communists have been the first to be persecuted, jailed and even killed. Both anti-communism and racism are used to justify repression not only of Black people and Communists, but of all progressive people in struggle.

"If the government stops Angela Davis, it can stop us next" is what millions of Americans are saying.

The fight to free Angela Davis is a fight against racism, for democratic rights and better living and working conditions in the U.S. If Angela Davis can be set free, and the American movement is strengthened, it will be a victory for people all over the world.

Since the interview in *Muhammad Speaks* was published, it has been circulated by the hundreds of thousands in every state of the country, and has been translated into 12 languages for distribution internationally. On this record you can hear, in Angela Davis' own voice, her answers to the 13 questions asked of her by the people in Harlem.

Joe Walker
New York Bureau Editor
Muhammad Speaks (the largest
Black newspaper in the U.S.A.)