To Judge Walker

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON SECURITY AND FINANCE

The California Freedom of Information Committee has surveyed various media representatives about the two questions of financing a closed circuit monitor in a Courtroom Annex and of securing the facility against tapping lines, photographing monitors or recording sound from loud speakers.

This report is not a final set of recommendations, but represents a distillation of suggestions offered in our weekend discussions. We would be glad to pursue any further details desired.

SECURITY, DECORUM AND ENFORCEMENT

We are of the strong opinion that all rules which the Court imposes for security and decorum in the Courtroom itself should be made to apply to the Annex as well.

Continual movement by persons getting up and sitting down, or moving in and out of the room, could supply the confusion that might cover an attempt to take unauthorized photographs or make recordings, both of which would have to be done close to the source of picture or sound.

SECURITY ON AUDIO AND VIDEO LINES

Induction tapping of existing sound and telephone lines in the Courtroom itself is possible. We would make the Annex facility more secure. We suggest shielded sound lines, which make induction pickup almost impossible. A simple visual check would make almost impossible any tapping of the lines.

Tapping coaxial cable for the picture also is almost impossible. Protection against tapping can be handled in three ways: (1) A visual check of lines for taps. (2) Place lines where they would be difficult to reach. (3) Watch the monitors. Tapping would produce a change in the picture which would be easily recognized by an experienced engineer.

STRAY SIGNALS

Some types of receiving equipment, including radios and television sets, give off signals which can be received elsewhere by other equipment. These signals come in recognizable patterns, but they cannot be translated into voice or pictures.

Equipment used in the Annex would be of a different kind that does not give off such a signal. A monitor on a closed circuit is not the same as a television receiver in this regard.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECORDINGS

In the unlikely event that a miniature camera were carried into the Annex, and it were possible for it to be used without being seen, the user obviously would have to remain at some distance from the monitors. The monitors could be placed in high positions where it would be impossible for anyone to get close to them. A miniature camera using 16mm film or even 35mm film would obtain on the negative such a tiny image of a distant video screen that the picture would be almost useless for reproduction. Photos of video screens which are printed occasionally in newspapers or news magazines are taken close to the set, so that the screen fills the negative.

The sound obtained off loud speakers with miniature recording equipment would be unsuitable for replay. That is why in press conferences a person is confronted with a battery of microphones. The microphone must be close to the source for useful recording. Directional microphones are too large to be hidden. To obtain a quality recording in the Annex, it would be necessary to place a microphone as close as possible to a loud speaker. Routine surveillance would prevent that from happening.

We should point out that whatever might be picked up by such equipment in the Annex could be done in the Courtroom itself, possibly with better results.

The above technical points can be demonstrated to the Court, if so desired.

SECURITY MEASURES

To prevent the unlikely from happening, we believe the following steps should be taken under orders of the Court, which has the sole authority and the contempt power to control what goes on in the Courtroom and the Annex.

1. The Court issue an order which applies to the Annex all of the rules which apply in the Courtroom itself.

2. Specific prohibitions be issued against photography or recording in the Annex and against tampering with the equipment installed there and in the Courtroom.

3. Search of all who enter the Annex.

4. Assignment of an engineer to operate the equipment and to police sound and picture wires against direct taps.

5. Movement of persons in the Annex be kept to a minimum, exactly as in the Courtroom itself.

6. Seats be assigned. This is important in eliminating milling about and confusion about getting into seats. It would be helpful in maintaining proper surveillance over those present if the bailiffs, in the Courtroom and the Annex, were familiar with the person in each seat.

7. Signs be posted in the Annex and outside warning that cameras and recorders are banned from the area.

8. Security measures in the Annex be enforced by bailiffs, as in the Courtroom.

9. Prompt removal of anyone violating any rule.

FINANCING THE SYSTEM

We do not feel it would be proper or desirable to prorate the cost among those who would actually use the Annex or the Courtroom. Requiring payment from anyone would imply that someone was charging admission to the trial or selling news.

If our Committee supplied the technical equipment on loan, the only significant cost would be the salary of the technician. In that regard, we presume that the Court would desire to have its own man from the County supervise the operation, maintenance and policing of the equipment.

We can obtain the equipment from a variety of sources, without obligation, and we would be glad to provide any necessary technical advice for installation, operation and policing.

We believe that in this manner we could avoid the theoretical question of self interest that might arise if our Committee supplied funds raised by voluntary contributions from our members.

OTHER EQUIPMENT IN THE ANNEX

We believe it could defeat the security measures if any other special equipment, such as teletypes or telephones, were permitted in the Annex. The resulting movement of people, with noise and confusion of voices or buzzers or bells, would be incompatible with Courtroom decorum.

All such equipment should be in the corridor or perhaps in the existing press room at the other end of the building, and there should be no business in the Annex other than observance of the trial.