



A manacled and chained John Frazier passes through tight security and a battery of newsmen in the law library of the county courthouse today. The courthouse was sealed off by deputies at 5:30 a.m., with first newsmen and spectators allowed in at 8 a.m. All persons entering the courtroom were subjected to an electronic metal detector. Frazier changed his innocent plea to innocent by reason of insanity in the brief courtroom proceedings. (Photo by Sentinel Chief Photographer Pete Amos)

# Frazier Pleads Insanity

By CLIFF JOHNSON  
Sentinel Staff Writer

John Linley Frazier, 24, accused slayer of Dr. Victor M. Ohta and four others last October, today appeared in Judge Charles Franich's Superior courtroom where his attorney modified a plea of innocent to innocent by reason of insanity.

Judge Franich appointed Dr. John Peschau, a psychiatrist, at Agnews State Hospital and Dr. Robert Noce, a Salinas psychiatrist, as alienists.

An alienist is a psychiatrist appointed by the court to determine the sanity of a defendant. The

term is a holdover from the past, according to deputy district attorney Chris Cottle, as recent changes in the law have deleted it.

When Judge Franich asked if Dr. Noce might be disqualified because he knew Dr. Ohta, District Attorney Peter Chang said there was "a very, very slight possibility that Dr. Noce knew Dr. Ohta slightly."

Alienist reports are due Feb. 9 with a hearing set for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 16. Judge Franich told defense attorney James Jackson that the court session Feb. 16 would be the time for any change of venue motions.

Frazier sat quietly through the proceeding, an ironic smile sometimes playing at his lips. His only departure from court protocol came at the end of the brief session when he remained slouched in his chair after the bailiff called out "please rise" for Judge Franich's exit. Deputies made no attempt to make Frazier stand.

Frazier is accused of the Oct. 19 execution slayings of Dr. Ohta, his wife, Virginia, their sons Derrick and Taggart, and the doctor's secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Cadwallader. All were found bound and blindfolded in the Ohta swimming pool; each had been shot from behind.

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### Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA—Fair through Wednesday but patchy morning fog on Wednesday. Low tonight in the upper 40s or low 50s. Cooler Wednesday with high in the upper 50s to mid 60s. Light winds.

Temperatures for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today: High 74, low 49.