

Fitts Is Target of Legal Action Over 'Red Plot'

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Charged With Misuse of Powers in Arrest of Unionist

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 25 (ICN).—Burton Fitts and his Fittskriegering lieutenants — already up to their necks in legal action including a \$65,500 false imprisonment suit today faced possible contempt citations on seven counts because of the district attorney's "red murder plot."

The action seeking citations for contempt of court, a quasi criminal offense, was filed today in superior court by Leon Gallagher, A. L. Wirin and Grover Johnson, attorneys for Britt Webster, first trade union victim of Fitts's just-before-election campaign.

Named in the complaint which listed six counts were: Fitts and deputy Fittskriegers Russell E. Parsons, William Simpson and Ernest Roll. Also named was Fitts' chief investigator, Tom (Squeaky) Cavett.

Based on affidavits by Webster and Wirin, the contempt action charges that the Fittskriegers in defiance of law "maliciously, wantonly, oppressively and with complete disregard of Webster's rights," refused to take him before a magistrate after his arrest. Webster was arrested Friday, Aug. 2, and not formally charged with a crime until Monday, Aug. 5.

The files contain complete clippings of all local newspaper stories which quote Fitts to great length about the so-called "red mass murder plot."

THE CHARGES

Fitts' asserted attempts to try E. Webster in the newspapers before he had even been permitted to consult an attorney, the action stated, "constitute misbehavior in office and . . . willful violation of the district attorney's duties. Among the counts on which contempt citation were sought were:

1 — Fitts' inflammatory speech over radio station KNX and subsequent distribution of excerpts of this speech to the press by B. Fitts' political campaign committee.

2—Fitts' asserted violation of the grand jury confidence through press releases.

3 — Fitts' "the nation in peril" speech to the grand jury which assertedly unduly influenced and embarrassed the grand jury.

4—The summoning of reporters to Fitts' home on Sunday, Aug. 4, and the fantastic yarn spun to them by Fitts and his aides even before Webster was taken before a magistrate.

5—The "unduly delay" with which Webster was taken before a magistrate.

Meanwhile Britt Webster was enjoying his first day at home since the Fittskrieg began 20 days ago.