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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. AP - Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, was en route by auto Friday for Texarkana, Tex., to serve a one-year prison sentence for contempt of Congress.
Shelton surrendered to federal marshals in Birmingham and began the 500-mile trip after marshals processed papers concerning his surrender.
Shelton, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., declared that he will continue to run the Klan from his prison cell but complained, "There seems to be one law for Robert Shelton and another for anarchists and black militants."
The former tire salesman was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing tt turn over certain membership records to a House Committee investigating the Klan.
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Shelton said that federal courts had upheld the rights of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to keep its membership rolls secret and suggested that the Klan should have the same right.
The Klan leader said his group had made financial records available to Internal Revenue Service agents but did not feel it should be forced to make membership records public.
He vowed that Congress will never see secret Klan records.
"It's none of their confounded business," he said. "It's the principle involved."
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