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COAST REPORTER IS ORDERED TO JAIL

Held in Contempt in Refusal
to Disclose Sources

NYTimes

By **ROBERT A. WRIGHT**

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LOS ANGELES, Nov. 27 —

William T. Farr, a Los Angeles reporter, was ordered to jail today for contempt of court after again refusing to disclose his source for an article he wrote concerning the 1970 murder trial of Charles Manson.

Superior Court Judge Charles Older ordered Mr. Farr into custody after a dramatic two-and-a-half-hour court proceeding.

Six prosecution and defense attorneys in the Manson case, who has earlier been indicated to be among Mr. Farr's sources, successively took the stand and denied under oath that they had provided Mr. Farr with a potential witness's statement on which he based a 1970 article in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

All six also responded yes when asked by the Los Angeles County prosecutor, William Stewart, if they would release Mr. Farr from any ethical, moral or legal obligation to disclose his source.

Mr. Farr was then asked Judge Older if he had changed his mind and would purgify himself from contempt. The reporter said he had not.

Sees Goal as Martyr

Judge Older declared: "Mr. Farr apparently has a strong desire to become a martyr. He apparently wants to go to jail notwithstanding the release from confidentiality by these lawyers.

"Either that or you [Mr. Farr] have made some kind of under-the-table agreement with them."

After conferring in the jury room with his attorney, Mark Hurwitz, Mr. Farr again refused to answer the question, taking exception to the judge's remarks about being a martyr.

"I take that as a personal slur," he said.

During the Manson trial Mr. Farr was a reporter for the Herald-Examiner. Judge Older learned that he had obtained a statement from Mrs. Virginia Graham, a potential prosecution witness, and called the reporter into his chambers. Judge Older noted that he had issued a so-called gag order barring lawyers, witnesses and court personnel from disclosing any information about the case that was not admitted into evidence.

Mr. Farr, in the presence of an official court reporter, conceded that he had copies of the Graham statement. Judge Older, indicating that he realized that Mr. Farr had immunity as a reporter under California law, asked him to disclose his source. Mr. Farr declined.

The next day, Oct. 9, 1970, an article by Mr. Farr based on the Graham statement was published in the Herald-Examiner.