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Reporter Loses in Attempt
To Be Freed for Birthday

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 22 (AP) —William T. Farr, reporter for The Los Angeles Times, lost a last-minute effort to be released from jail today, his 38th birthday, and resigned himself to remaining in prison over Christmas.

While refusing to release him, the state appeals court kept his latest appeal of a contempt-of-court conviction under advisement. Mr. Farr has been ordered kept in jail until he discloses sources of a news article written during the Charles Manson murder trial.

Mr. Farr's attorney, Mark Hurwitz, filed a new appeal alleging that the indefinite sentence given the reporter was "tantamount to life imprisonment."

The court indicated it might rule on that petition next Tuesday, the first day it will be in session after the Christmas holiday. The appeal raises grounds not cited before— notably, that the reporter may be serving a sentence in violation of the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment.
