

Jailed L.A.

Reporter Set Free

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Justice William O. Douglas today ordered Los Angeles reporter William Farr freed from jail while he appeals a contempt conviction for a story about the 1970 Manson trial.

Farr, 38, has been in jail 48 days. Douglas ordered that he be freed "in his own recognizance."

Farr was held in contempt by Superior Court Judge Charles H. Older of Los Angeles for writing a story about a prospective witness' statement that the Manson "family" planned to murder several movie stars. Farr was then working for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. He now is a reporter for the Los Angeles Times.

Older held Farr in contempt for refusing to divulge the names of the lawyers who supplied him with the statement. During the trial the judge had imposed an order barring lawyers and other trial participants from disclosing any information about the case.

Farr asked Douglas 10 days ago to order him released until the U.S. Circuit Court in San Francisco rules

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on an appeal. The justice held up action until the Los Angeles county counsel of-
fice replied.

John D. Maharg, the county counsel, and William F. Stewart, his deputy, told the justice that most of Farr's legal argument had been made in an earlier appeal rejected by the Supreme Court in November. Douglas was the sole dissenter.

"The real issue in this case is the continued viability of the judiciary to preserve the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial," they said.

"There is no question present in this case concerning governmental interference with the expression of private beliefs or attempts to invade the privacy of opinions, associations or intellectual viewpoints."