

# Jail Sentence for Fourth Newsman

Fresno

A fourth Fresno Bee staff member was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence in jail yesterday for refusing to tell how he got a grand jury transcript.

Superior Court Judge Denver Peckinpah imposed sentence on City Editor James Bort. The sentences for all four were stayed until next month so their lawyers can appeal.

Peckinpah, commenting on editorials in other newspapers on the case, said, "I don't care how much pressure is put on me as long as the law stands as it is I will do my sworn duty to uphold it."

Earlier, Managing Editor George Gruner, also facing a jail term, said he published transcript material because he felt "it was important to the public."

Gruner and two reporters

of the McClatchy newspaper face indefinite jail terms for refusing to disclose how they obtained the sealed transcript in a grand jury probe that led to a bribery indictment of Fresno City Councilman Marc Stefano, later acquitted in a trial.

"We felt the public was entitled to know what was in the transcript since other matters were coming before the City Council on which Stefano served," Gruner said.

"I felt I had a duty to publish these stories."

Peckinpah ordered the jail terms for Gruner and reporters William Patterson and Joe Rosato for contempt of court.

Stefano was acquitted of a charge he accepted a bribe to influence a city council vote on a \$12,000 sewer tax rebate for a local developer.

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