

Court Seals Columnist's Records

Washington

A federal judge ordered a court seal placed yesterday on records of telephone calls made by columnist Jack Anderson and his associate, Leslie H. Whitten Jr. — calls that were subpoenaed during a grand jury probe of the takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs last fall.

And U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica ordered a set of records, which became public during the court hearing, destroyed.

Andersen and Whitten were seeking to have all copies of the phone records destroyed, claiming that the government was using them to trace and harass confidential sources.

Whitten was arrested on charges of illegally possessing documents stolen by Indians from the Bureau of Indian Affairs building last November.

The case was dropped February 16 after a grand jury refused to indict him.

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