

Manson Called Guilty

Volley of Protest On Nixon Remark

Mistrial Motion Denied

United Press

Los Angeles

The defense submitted a motion for a mistrial in the Tate-LaBianca murder case yesterday on the basis that President Nixon's remarks about the guilt of Charles Manson were prejudicial.

Superior Court Judge Charles H. Older, after a conversation with all the attorneys at the trial at his bench, outside the hearing of the jury, denied the motion.

The murder trial continued with cross-examination of Linda Kasabian, the state's key witness against the 35-year-old Manson and three young women codefendants.

The news of President Nixon's remarks, however, produced a volley of protest in the corridors outside the room where the trial is under way.

SESSION

As soon as the afternoon session began, the lawyers assembled at the bench and there was a furious whispered conference. It was learned that Judge Older has been given in his chambers an informal account of President Nixon's comments.

Deputy District Attorney Vincent Bugliosi pointed out that jury was locked up nightly with no access to newspaper, magazine, or television or radio accounts and therefore could not be influenced by whatever remarks the President may have made.

The controversy flared up after the President, in talking to reporters in Denver, described Manson as "guilty, directly or indirectly, of eight murders without reason."

Presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler hastily called the reporters together to tell them that Mr. Nixon's "obvious intention was to refer to the alleged charges."

NEWSMEN

Irving Kanarek, counsel for Manson, told newsmen in the corridor outside the court that "for the President to make a remark of this type is incredible. One wonders if the President has lost his cool."

Another defense attorney, Ronald Hughes, said Mr. Nixon was a "contemptuous figure to make remarks

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President Blames The Media

Associated Press

Denver

President Nixon, accusing the news media of making "heroes out of those who engage in criminal activities," caused a stir yesterday by saying Charles Manson is guilty, directly or indirectly, of eight murders.

Not long after Mr. Nixon spoke, however, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told newsmen Mr. Nixon "failed to use the word 'alleged'" in mentioning charges against Manson. Ziegler said he was, in effect, retracting the President's statement.

Defense attorneys for Manson, on trial in Los Angeles in connection with the slayings of actress Sharon Tate and six other persons last summer, immediately announced they would seek dismissal of the case against the defendants on the basis of the statement.

The motion was promptly filed in court and denied by the trial judge.

Appearing before reporters in Denver's Federal courthouse before attending a conference on law enforcement, Mr. Nixon pointed to news coverage of the trial and said:

"Here is a man who was guilty, directly or indirectly, of eight murders without reason. Here is a man, yet, who, as far as the coverage was concerned, appeared to be a glamorous figure."

Soon afterward, Ziegler called reporters together to make the retraction. In response to a question on the President's comment, Ziegler said, "The phrase he used could lead to some misinterpretation."

Asked if he was retracting

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Tate Case

Judge Denies Mistrial Bid

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about a trial in progress."

Hughes said after the motion for mistrial was filed the "judge asked us to hold it until we have verified press copy of Mr. Nixon's remarks."

Hughes, who is defending co-defendant Leslie Van Houten, said that "when the President of the United States finds it necessary to comment on the guilt or innocence of a defendant, it indicates that defendant is past the point of getting a fair trial."

Defense attorney Paul Fitzgerald said "you know what this means don't you, when the President of the United States can say a thing like that, it is all over in this country."

FLEE

Mrs. Kasabian admitted on the stand under direct cross-examination yesterday that she did not try to flee the Tate murder scene, that she never tried to tell police what happened was that she accompanied the "Manson family" on a secret foray the next

Under examination
key
"



AP Wirephoto

PAUL FITZGERALD
Defense objected

"The next night Char' (Manson) told you ready to go out a

"Yes."

"Did you

"I s

m

President Says Manson Is Guilty

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Mr. Nixon's statement, Ziegler replied: "I think I've done that."

Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who was at Mr. Nixon's side when he made the Manson comment, was asked later about the remark.

COVERAGE

"I don't believe the President made a charge or implied one," Mitchell said.

Ziegler, asked by a reporter what coverage of the Manson trial Mr. Nixon had seen, replied that he had read the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner while in San Clemente, Calif.

In Los Angeles, Ronald Hughes, one of four defense attorneys in the Manson trial, told newsmen:

"The fact that the President of the United States feels it necessary to com-

ment on the guilt or innocence of a defendant in this murder trial show that the case has been prejudiced through pretrial publicity to a point of not allowing a fair trial."

The trial jury has been sequestered to protect the jurors from possibly prejudicial outside comments during the trial.

During his remarks on the Manson trial, the President referred to the overnight jailing last week of two defense

attorneys found in contempt of court. Mr. Nixon said the lawyers had been "guilty of the most outrageous, contemptuous behavior in the courtroom."

VILLAIN

He said some press accounts made the judge, rather than the attorneys, appear to be the villain.

The chief executive said that "unless we quit glorifying those that deliberately obstruct," the American system will break down.

The President prefaced his discussion of the Manson case by saying he intended no criticism of the news media.

Then he went on to declare that, at his San Clemente home, he saw during the weekend a John Wayne Western, "Chisum."

The President said he came to wonder why Westerns are so durably popular and stated that he concluded it was because "the good guys come out on top."

HEROES

Then he went on to say that the media tend to make heroes of lawbreakers.

Later in the day, the Nixon staff released this text of the President's statements regarding Manson, with the parenthetical notation that Ziegler had "clarified" Mr. Nixon's remarks:

"I noted, for example, the coverage of the Charles Manson case when I was in Los Angeles, front page every day in the papers. It usually got a couple of minutes in the evening news.

"Here is a man, who was guilty, directly or indirectly, of eight murders without reason. (The intent of the President's remarks was clarified by Ronald L Ziegler in a subsequent briefing.) "Here is a man, yet, who, as far as the coverage was concerned, appeared to be rather a glamorous figure to the young people whom he had brought into his operations, and, also, another thing that was noted was the fact that the two lawyers in the case—two lawyers who were as anyone who could read any of the stories could tell—who were guilty of the most outrageous, contemptuous action in the courtroom, and who were ordered to jail overnight by the judge, seem to be more the oppressed, and the judge seemed to be the villain."

The eighth "murder" Mr. Nixon referred to presumably was the killing last summer of Malibu musician Gary Hinman. Manson is charged with murder in that case along with one of his co-defendants in the Tate case, Susan Atkins. Another Manson family member, Robert K. Beausoleil, has been convicted and sentenced to death in the Hinman case. A witness testified at his trial that Beausoleil killed Hinman at Manson's order.

The President flew back to Washington after the conference.