

# Text of Washington Ruling

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 18—Following are excerpts from Federal District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell's decision refusing to halt *The Washington Post* from continued publication of a series of articles on the roots of the Vietnam War:

What is presented is a raw question of preserving the freedom of the press as it confronts the efforts of the Government to impose a prior restraint on publication of essentially historical data.

The information unquestionably will be embarrassing to the United States. There is no possible way after the most full and careful hearing that a court would be able to determine the implications of publication on the conduct of government affairs or to weigh these implications against the effects of withholding information from the public.

It is to be strongly regretted that *The Post* has been unwilling to allow the court to pursue this matter over the next two or three days and voluntarily to with-

hold publication. Unfortunate as this may be, *The Post's* position does not obviate the necessity for the court to determine the law, particularly since the Attorney General has stated he will pursue this action regardless of what result is reached in *The Times* case.

*The Post* stands in serious jeopardy of criminal prosecution.

This is the only remedy our Constitution or the Congress has provided. *The Post* will be allowed to publish and the request for a temporary restraining order is denied.

The application of the American Civil Liberties Union to participate in these proceedings as amicus is denied.

So ordered.

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