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Reporter's Plea

New York Times reporter Earl Caldwell entered a plea of innocent yesterday in San Jose to a charge of possession of marijuana.

Municipal Court Judge Gerald J. Kettmann scheduled a preliminary hearing in the case for April 14.

Caldwell, assigned to cover the Angela Davis trial, was arrested March 6 as he underwent the courtroom entry security search. A deputy sheriff said that he

found a small quantity of marijuana in a film canister Caldwell had in a pocket.

Caldwell, a black, became nationally known in 1970 when he refused to disclose his notes on stories about the Black Panther Party to a San Francisco federal grand jury. A Circuit Court of Appeals decision upheld the right of a reporter to maintain the confidence of his sources.

The government has appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.
