

## Newsman on Coast Sent to Jail Until He Reveals Source of Data

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LOS ANGELES, Nov. 16 — William T. Farr, a reporter for The Los Angeles Times, was sent to jail today for an indefinite term because he refused to disclose his sources for a 1970 news article on the Charles Manson murder case.

Superior Court Judge Charles H. Older ordered the reporter taken to jail when he declined again at a hearing to identify the lawyers who had given him a copy of a statement by a prosecution witness.

During the murder trial, Judge Older had forbidden witnesses, lawyers and court attendants to release any information about the case not admitted into evidence—the so-called “gag” rule first proposed by the American Bar Association in 1969.

On Monday, the United States Supreme Court refused to hear Mr. Farr's petition for review of a contempt citation issued by Judge Older in July, 1971, seven months after Manson, the hippie cult leader, and three women co-defendants were convicted of murdering Sharon Tate and six other persons.

### Lawyer Interrupted

In a courtroom so crowded that many newsmen had to stand in the vestibule, Judge Older cut off Mr. Farr's lawyer, Mark Hurwitz, who had been trying to challenge the court's jurisdiction.

“We're not going to relitigate this matter all over,” Judge Older declared. “You're raising questions that have been raised a hundred times before.”

Judge Older then asked Mr. Farr if he would identify the sources. He declined and was

ordered to jail “until such time as he will answer each and every question.” There were 13 specific questions that the judge asked. Each one named a possible source and asked for confirmation of it.

After the hearing, Mr. Hurwitz said that he would seek a writ of habeas corpus and the release of Mr. Farr on bail, pending further hearings.

### New Limitations Seen

In rejecting Mr. Farr's appeal for a hearing, the Supreme Court appeared to add new limitations on newsmen, beyond its decision last June that said grand juries might force reporters to disclose confidential information.

During the Manson trial, when Mr. Farr was a reporter for The Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, he obtained copies of a statement by Mrs. Virginia Graham, saying that one of the defendants, Susan Atkins, had confessed the murders to her and had recounted plans of the Manson “family” to kill numerous celebrities, including Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Tom Jones and Frank Sinatra.

Mrs. Graham's lawyer informed Judge Older that he had learned that Mr. Farr had obtained the statement. The judge summoned the reporter and demanded to know his sources. Mr. Farr refused to provide this information.

The next day The Herald-Examiner printed an article by Mr. Farr based on Mrs. Graham's statement. Much of the information in her statement was not admitted as evidence, and the jury, which had been sequestered, did not see the article.