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Coast Newsmen File Suit
To Free Jailed Reporter

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 15 (AP) —Three newsmen have filed a Superior Court suit contending that Los Angeles County is spending public funds illegally to keep William Farr, a reporter, in jail.

The suit, filed yesterday, contends the money is being illegally spent because Mr. Farr was jailed in violation of his constitutional rights for refusing to disclose the source of an article he wrote about the Charles Manson "family."

Mr. Farr, a Los Angeles Times reporter, has been in jail for 18 days on an indefinite sentence for contempt of court.

The suit was filed by Rudy Villasenor, a retired Times reporter; Mel Leroy Lieder, a Los Angeles Herald-Examiner photographer, and Jesus A. Barker, a KABC newswriter.