

Court Rules Reporter Not In Contempt

Los Angeles

Superior Court Judge Earl C. Broady ruled yesterday that Los Angeles Times reporter William Farr is not in contempt of court for refusing to answer 15 questions in the perjury trial of attorney Vincent T. Bugliosi.

Broady said Farr had legally invoked Section 1070 of the California State Evidence Code, which gives a reporter immunity from contempt for refusing to disclose his sources.

Mark Hurwitz, Farr's attorney, said the ruling "finally affirms that a newsman cannot be forced under penalty of contempt to violate the confidences reposed in him in his news-gathering effort."

Special prosecutor Theodore P. Shield argued unsuccessfully that since the court was trying to protect itself from perjury, a previous appellate court decision applies.

That decision said Section 1070 was unconstitutional when a court was trying to enforce its own order.

Bugliosi is charged with lying under oath in denying he gave Farr a transcript of witness Virginia Graham's statement during the 1970 Charles Manson murder trial.

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