

Notes on People

Jailed Reporter Free

A Superior Court judge in Los Angeles yesterday set aside the indefinite jail sentence imposed on **William Farr**, a Los Angeles Times reporter, for refusing to name his source for a story he wrote during the Charles Manson murder trial.

Judge **William H. Levit** ruled: "By reason of his commitment to the principle of confidentiality and to the promise he has made, there is no substantial likelihood that further incarceration of Farr will result in his compliance with the court's order to reveal his sources or otherwise serve the purposes of the order."

Mr. Farr has already spent 46 days in jail for contempt of court, and now that Judge Levit has ruled in his favor, he must return to the court of Superior Judge **Charles Older**, who originally sentenced him, for final disposition of the case. Judge Older may impose a new contempt-of-court sentence, but it would not be of indefinite duration. It would be for no more than five days in jail and a \$500 fine.

It cost **William Durkee**, a retired businessman, \$1,075 to have **Mrs. Gail Thomson**, wife of Gov. **Meldrim Thomson Jr.** of New Hampshire, serve him and his party of six a pancake breakfast yesterday morning. Mr. Durkee bid for the breakfast with the Governor in public television station WENH's annual fund-raising auction last month. It was only after he had committed himself to more than \$500 that he realized he was bidding against a group of homosexuals who wanted to win the breakfast and thus have a chance to explain their views to Governor Thomson, who was instrumental in having the Gay Students Organization banned from the University of New Hampshire campus. However, Mr. Durkee said "I considered my bidding a matter of the Governor's image around the state and nation. What would it look like if the Governor had to have breakfast with them?" An apparently grateful Governor Thomson covered Mr. Durkee's pancakes with maple syrup from his own farm.

According to a survey taken by the United States top mail getter was **Henry Aaron**, the Atlanta Braves home-run king. He received an estimated total of 900,000 pieces of unsolicited (that means "fan") mail. Some letter-getter runners-up in the survey included **Dinah Shore**, **Johnny Carson**, **Alan Alda**, **Joe Namath**, **O. J. Simpson**, **Randolph Mantooth**, **Archie Manning** and **Kevin Tighe**.

Theodore H. White, author of the four President books, is now at work on "The Impeachment of the President," Atheneum Publishers announced yesterday. Mr. White said he saw the story now unfolding in Washing-

ton as "the greatest political drama in recent American history." Atheneum hopes to have the volume out early next year. . . . Other books and authors: **Elliot L. Richardson**, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and former Attorney General, has concluded an agreement with Holt, Rinehart & Winston to write a book on government, "not about Watergate, but with inevitable allusions to it," his publisher said. He received a "substantial" advance on the basis of an 82-page outline. . . . **Robert and Michael Meeropol**, the sons of **Ethel and Julius Rosenberg**, have sold a book to Houghton-Mifflin that tells how the trial and 1953 execution of their parents for spying affected them. Michael, now 31 years old, and Robert, 27, took the name of their adoptive parents.

Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, and his brother-in-law, **Capt. Mark Phillips**, have volunteered their services as recruiters for the Navy and Army. Charles posed in front of a helicopter aboard the Royal Navy frigate **Jupiter**, on which he serves as a junior officer, and **Captain Phillips**, who married **Princess Anne**, appear on horseback in a brochure promoting "a commission in the Royal Armored Corps."

Soviet authorities, who have been having difficulties with unorthodox writers and other artists, have now shifted from a hard to soft line toward **Viktor Nekrasov**, an open admirer of **Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsen** and author of the novel "In the Trenches of Stalingrad." This year he was threatened with expulsion from the Writers' Union and was told that his works would never be published unless he denounced Mr. Solzhenitsen. He was also forcibly removed from Moscow to his home in Kiev, and, fearing further repression, Mr. Nekrasov applied for permission to leave the country. But now, friends say, the authorities have backed off, offering to publish his works to improve his living conditions if he remains in the Soviet Union.

Nick Fink, of Comstock Park, Mich., is there, and so are **Don Fink** of Eldridge, Iowa, and **Wilbur Fink**, of Columbus, Ohio. It's National Fink Week down in Fink, Tex., and although the north central Texas town has a population of only nine (including three Finks), more than 2,000 persons are expected to celebrate the names of Fink, Phinks, Finques, and Phinx. The celebration is the Finks way of doing honor to a name that, many of them admit, has gathered nasty connotations over the years. The Mayor of Fink is no Fink herself, but **Patricia Albright**, who said in a telephone interview yesterday that "All Finks are welcome in Fink except rat finks. Think Fink."

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