

Anderson Must Tell Sources Or Lose Suit Against Nixon

Washington

Columnist Jack Anderson was ordered yesterday to disclose some confidential sources or face dismissal of his \$22 million suit against former President Richard M. Nixon and 18 other individuals.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell said Anderson "is attempting to use the First Amendment simultaneously as a sword and a shield . . . He cannot have it both ways."

Anderson alleges Nixon and the others engaged in a conspiracy to harass him because of his writings. But in the course of pre-trial depositions, the columnist refused to identify sources of information on which some of his charges are based.

Anderson claimed that the Constitution entitles him to protect

his sources, while Nixon and the others said they had the right to develop facts for their defense against the charges.

"Here the newsman is not being obliged to disclose his sources," said Gesell in a ten-page opinion. "Plaintiff's pledge of confidentiality would have remained unchallenged" if he had not sued for damages.

Asked about the order, Anderson said "the whole purpose of my suit was to fight back against extraordinary, incredible, illegal, unwarranted tactics used by the government to get my sources. Now the judge says the only way to get redress from the government is to disclose my sources. I don't understand that kind of thinking."

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