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Subject: New Orleans Times Picayune Article of February 23, 1996 on Angelico Contempt
(C) 1996 TIMES PICAYUNE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.00334073 WDSU REPORTER FOUND GUILTY NEW ORLEANS TIMES
Picayune (NO) - FRIDAY, February 23, 1996By: The Associated Press Edition: THIRD Section: METRO Page: B3
Word Count: 591TEXT: WDSU-TV reporter Richard Angelico was found guilty of contempt Thursday for airing
the names of some witnesses who testified nearly three decades ago during a grand jury investigation into
President Kennedy's assassination.Angelico was given a three-month suspended jail term and fined \$100 by
Criminal District Court Judge Frank Marullo.It was the second conviction in the case. On Feb. 13, Marullo
found a former investigator for Jim Garrison, whose Kennedy assassination probe was fictionalized by Oliver
Stone in the movie "JFK," guilty of contempt for handing the secret grand jury transcripts to Angelico.The ex-
investigator, Gary Raymond, testified earlier that he kept the records for more than 20 years after District
Attorney Harry Connick ordered their destruction in 1974, shortly after succeeding Garrison. Raymond said he
felt the transcripts were of historical value.Raymond said he contacted Angelico after Connick told the federal
Assassinations Records Review Board on June 28 that the records had disappeared during the Garrison
administration.Assistant District Attorney Camille Buras said earlier that the board was told that if grand jury
records still existed, they would not be turned over. Buras said Connick was referring to investigative files
dealing with Garrison's probe.As part of Raymond's agreement with Angelico, the records were sent to the
records board. Angelico also mailed a copy to Dallas reporter Hugh Aynesworth.Connick petitioned Marullo to
find both in contempt, saying that the state's grand jury secrecy law had been violated when Raymond handed
over the records and when Angelico aired the names of some of the witnesses in July.Angelico's attorney,
Julian Murray, said that the secrecy law applied only to court officials, and not to reporters, who Murray said
have the constitutional right to publish any information they are given.But Marullo, saying he could not find a
similar case, disagreed."Without protecting the secrecy of a grand jury, why have secrecy," Marullo said. "This
will hinder the prosecution of other cases. People who go before the grand jury are told that it is secret . . .
and they expect it to remain secret."Marullo said the First Amendment issue concerned him, but "just because
it's No. 1, doesn't mean it ranks higher than No. 3, No. 6, No. 8 or No. 10."Murray said the decision would be
appealed. Raymond, who is free on bond, also is appealing his contempt citation and a six-month jail
sentence.Marullo and Connick were condemned Thursday by the executive board of The Press Club of New
Orleans, an organization of professional journalists and public relations people.Connicks prosecution of
Angelico and Marullo's ruling are "contrary to the fundamental principles of freedom of the press and the
public's right to know," the board said.The club called Marullo's ruling "abhorrent to anyone who understands
Record
Body:
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: