

DPP 1 : NS 0

Duncan Campbell writes: In a brief hearing before Lord Chief Justice Lord Widgery last week, the Attorney-General was granted leave to bring contempt proceedings against the *NEW STATESMAN*. The Attorney-General alleges that publication of an interview with a member of the jury in the Jeremy Thorpe conspiracy case (NS 27 July 1979) was an 'interference with the due administration of justice as a continuing process' – and was therefore in contempt.

Lord Widgery noted that there was no previous judicial ruling on the subject of jurors discussing the cases they had tried, and ruled that the Attorney-General's application to bring proceedings should be allowed. The case will be on a 'broad basis' with the Attorney likely to argue that any revelations by jurors should be forbidden.

The application was adjourned for evidence to be brought, and will probably be heard in January.