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A Summary of Supreme Court Actions

WASHINGTON, March 18
—The Supreme Court took the following actions today:

BANKRUPTCY

Promulgated a new 50-page set of rules of procedure for bankruptcy cases in the Federal courts, to become effective on July 1. Dissenting: Douglas.

CRIMINAL LAW

Declined to review a decision reversing the conviction and life sentence as a habitual offender of a West Virginia man on the basis of two convictions on bad check charges and one for perjury No. 73-739, Goiner v. Hart). Dissenting: Burger and White.

Agreed to review a decision denying a defendant in a robbery case the right to appear as his own attorney No. 73-5772, Faretta v. California).

Declined to review a decision that a Pennsylvania court could not try an accused burglar and robber in absentia when he left a room in the courthouse before the trial began and never reappeared (No. 73-810), Pennylvanai v. Felton).

INFORMATION

Dismissed an appeal from a decision denying the Philadelphia Inquirer access to state and city welfare rolls (No. 73-586, McMullan v. Wohlgemuth).

Declined to review a decision setting up new procedures under which persons seeking government information under the Freedom of Information Act will have less difficulty persuading the courts that documents should be made public. (No. 73-1107, Rosen v. Vaughn).

LIBEL

Declined to review a decision granting a libel trial to

a Georgia contractor who had been falsely reported by a credit rating service as having been the subject of two lawsuits (No. 73-1159, Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., v. Hood). Dissenting: Douglas.

NARCOTICS

Declined to review a decision requiring that a search warrant for the home of a narcotics suspect must be based on reports from informants whose reliability is indicated by independent checking or by a past record of reports leading to convic-

tions (No. 73-425, New York v. Sutton and Peltzman.) Dissenting: Burger and Blackmun.

OBSCENITY

Agreed to hear appeals from a Federal court decision enjoining an Ohio court order closing a motion picture theater as a public nuisance for showing obscene films (No. 73-296, Huffman v. Pursue Ltd.) and from a decision in a similar Alabama case in which the Federal court refused to enjoin such state court action (No. 73-1119, MTM Inc. v. Baxley.)