

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officer wins Oswald suit

By PUTH EYRE
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A movie depicting a criminal conspiracy to murder Lee Harvey Oswald—"Executive Action"—has resulted in the awarding of a \$750,000 default libel judgment to a Dallas police officer.

But the co-author of the movie's screenplay, Mark Lane, asked a Dallas federal judge Thursday to set aside the judgment entered against him.

The libel suit was filed by officer Roy Vaughn, who claims the movie depicts him as a policeman who knowingly allowed Jack Ruby into the police station to shoot Oswald.

Vaughn charged the movie impeached his honesty, integrity and reputation as a police officer.

Certain scenes depict Vaughn as a participant in the criminal conspiracy, Vaughn's suit alleged. And he was identified by name in informational pamphlets handed out to moviegoers, he charged.

Lane filed a \$22,000 counter-claim against the police officer alleging the suit constituted a "false and groundless" claim which caused him embarrassment.

Vaughn filed the \$3 million libel suit against Lane and National General Pictures Corp. in Dallas federal court last year.

Vaughn dropped the suit against the film company. But he requested a \$750,000 default judgment against Lane when the writer failed to appear for trial in May.

U.S. Dist. Judge Robert W. Porter granted the default judgment June 16.

Lane contends he understood that Vaughn's settlement of claims with other defendants would result in dismissal of the action against him.

The co-author, who is also an attorney, claims he has a meritorious defense and that the judgment should be set aside or he should be granted a new trial.

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