

Libel Suit By Hassan Is Dismissed

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Black nationalist Hassan Jeru-Ahmed's libel and conspiracy suit against the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has been dismissed by U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt.

Hassan had sought \$24 million from the JDL, which he claimed falsely accused him of being anti-Semitic and of training a guerrilla army.

Pratt ruled that the ADL made its statement "after careful and diligent research" and that the statements "are in fact true."

The ADL had cited literature circulated by Hassan in 1967 naming, among other things, an international Jewish conspiracy "to exploit American blacks. The ADL said Hassan's organization distributed the literature as recently as last fall. It also contended that he was raising a guerrilla band and that he keeps company with known white anti-Semites.

Hassan acknowledged circulating the literature in 1967 but denied all other charges.

Pratt's opinion, issued last week, said, "The statements alleged in (Hassan's) complaint to be defamatory are in fact true, as is evident from (Hassan's) own utterances . . ."

Pratt also wrote that the ADL's allegedly defamatory statements were not made with knowledge of falsity or

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with reckless disregard of truth or falsity (but were made) after careful and diligent research, and pursuant to (ADL's) legal and moral duty, prescribed by (the ADL) charter."

Hassan's suit, filed July 6, was part of his legal battle to maintain more than \$500,000 in federal funds to support his inner-city heroin treatment program.

He charged that the ADL, by its accusations of anti-Semitism, pressured the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, to suspend grants to his Blackman's Development Center — the controversial inner-city education and drug treatment project — pending federal audit.

Two weeks earlier, Hassan filed a \$10-million libel and slander suit against Rep. Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn.) after the congressman called Hassan an "anti-Semitic manipulator" in an address here to the New Haven Jewish Community Council. That suit has not yet been decided.

HEW, accusing Hassan of sloppy bookkeeping, has suspended a \$197,000 job training grant to the Blackman's Development Center and is auditing its books.

He has since said he is putting that he would resign as head of the center and leave this month on a four- to six-month tour of countries in Africa and the Near East to plan an assistance program for selected nations.

He has since said he is putting off the trip until the HEW audit is completed. Hassan remains field general of the Blackman's Volunteer Army

of Liberation, whose 200 or so women staff the center and occupy its buildings.

He explained that he had to resign from the center to engage in politics because of the center's tax-exempt, nonprofit and technically nonpartisan status.

Pratt's decision was made without oral hearings after B'nai B'rith filed a written brief asking for a final judgment and Hassan failed to file opposing papers as required by law.