

## U.S. Attorney Rejects Charge Against Pearson

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The U.S. Attorney's office yesterday declined to file charges against Washington Post columnist Drew Pearson, who had been accused of "assaulting" a photographer on assignment for the Liberty Lobby.

The Liberty Lobby has come under attack in Pearson's column as promoting a "neo-Nazi" movement in the country.

On June 17, Pearson gave preliminary testimony in an attorney's office at 919 18th st. nw. in connection with a Louisiana civil suit involving Rep. John Rarick (D-La.), his defeated opponent Ozzie Brown and the Liberty Lobby.

Upon leaving the office, according to the complaint, Pearson met George Ortiz, of 3731 Jocelyn st. NW. who attempted to photograph Pearson. The columnist said yesterday he put his arm around Ortiz's back and held up a paper to block the camera's view. Pearson then let Ortiz take several pictures.

Ortiz later filed a complaint and demanded an arrest warrant on a charge of assault. U.S. Attorney Joel Blackwell, the chief assistant at General Sessions Court, scheduled a hearing instead.

The case lacked "prosecu-

torial merit," Blackwell said after the hearing yesterday, and since Pearson has apologized to Ortiz, he considered the matter settled.