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Arizona Patrolmen Won't Sue Sahl

Phoenix

Highway patrolmen in Arizona have decided not to sue comedian Mort Sahl for defamation of character.

The Associated Highway Patrolmen's board of directors discarded the idea of filing a lawsuit against Sahl for implying on national television that Arizona had stolen property from him.

An association spokesman said Sahl was found wandering aimlessly on the median of Interstate 40 one mile west of Winslow on the evening of February 7, and that when approached, he told a patrolman there were "5000 marines on the median," covered by "nets."

Sahl was taken to Winslow, where he refused hospital treatment, and hired a car to take him to Phoenix, the spokesman said.

"When I got the car back there was nothing in it," Sahl said on a television talk show May 31, "which is interesting to know that thievery is not just limited to people outside the law — some people are above the law."

An investigation by the Arizona Department of Public Safety showed there were no infractions of the law and

that Sahl's car was towed away at his own request.

"As far as a lawsuit against Mr. Sahl is concerned, we feel we have better things to do with our time than to assist in an apparent publicity stunt," the patrol association said. "We will continue to spend our time assisting citizens of Arizona, which is our main interest."

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