

WALKER LOSES LOUISIANA SUIT

T-P 1971/67
Judgment Against T-P,
AP Reversed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court reversed Monday a \$75,000 judgment former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker had won against The Associated Press and The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp. in Louisiana courts.

The judgment was thrown out in a brief unsigned ruling in which the court cited its decision of last June that public figures—like public officials—cannot recover libel damages without a showing of actual malice.

The AP had said in its appeal that the Louisiana judgment was in "direct and irreconcilable conflict" with the June decision.

Walker's suit was based on AP accounts of his activities at the University of Mississippi campus at Oxford in 1962 during disorders accompanying the admission of a Negro, James Meredith, into the University.

Last June the court threw out a \$500,000 judgment Walker had won against AP in a Texas state court. Both suits were based on reports of the Oxford incident.

In the Louisiana case attorneys for Walker asked the Supreme Court to let the judgment stand. They said there were "defamatory statements" in the AP accounts "found to be false by both the trial jury and the Louisiana court of appeals."