

AMA Apologizes For Using Spurious Phonograph Record

By Frank C. Porter

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The American Medical Association publicly apologized yesterday for circulating a spurious phonograph record. The voice on the record purported to represent a labor leader threatening members who failed to contribute to a pro-medicare campaign.

The retraction was part of an out-of-court settlement of a \$400,000 libel suit brought by the labor leader, Paul Normile, director of District 16, United Steelworkers of America.

The AMA also agreed to pay Normile \$25,000, sources close to the case said.

David E. Feller, former

Steelworkers general counsel who represented Normile, had called the record a complete fabrication. He said it portrayed Normile as "a semi-literate moron . . . and thug" who was violating his trust to union members.

The AMA's retraction was carried on Page 1 of the AFL-CIO News yesterday and will be published in the next issue of the American Medical Journal.

"As a result of its exhaustive investigation," the statement read in part, "the AMA is now satisfied that Mr. Normile did not make the speech in question.

"In fairness to him, the statement that he did so is retracted. Furthermore, all copies of the tape recording and the AMPAC (American Medical Political Action Committee) booklet and record in possession of AMA or AMPAC have been destroyed.

"To prevent further playing of the recording, it is urged that any person having a copy of either the tape or the record take similar action. The AMA sincerely regrets the error."

During court proceedings two years ago, an AMA official's affidavit disclosed he had bought the recording for \$20 in 1963 from a middleman sent by a man known to him only as Irv, who had described himself as a disgruntled union member.