



Associated Press

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS  
... no trial in press

## Clements Sued for Slander

DALLAS, Dec. 28 (AP)—An Argentine businessman has filed a \$15 million slander suit against William P. Clements, who has been nominated by President Nixon to be deputy secretary of defense.

The suit was filed Wednesday by Antonio A. Diaz, a former Clements business partner who helped arrange an oil drilling contract for Sedco, Inc., of which Clements is board chairman. The corporation and Clements were named as defendants.

Diaz alleged in his petition that Clements made "grossly defamatory" statements about him in a news conference Dec. 18 at Sedco's Dallas headquarters.

Clements called the conference after he was named defense deputy and after stories were published concerning a 1966 suit brought by Diaz against a now-dissolved Sedco subsidiary. The suit claims not all profits were reported. Diaz

claimed a percentage of the profits.

The slander suit alleges that Clements made false, libelous and slanderous statements in the news conference.

The suit also alleges that Clements said Diaz's earlier suit was filed for the purposes of harassing and taking cheap shots at Clements and that Clements said Diaz did nothing to earn the money for which he earlier sued.

At the Dec. 18 news conference, Clements spoke only briefly of Diaz. He said he believed the information about the earlier suit was coming from two Americans now out of the country, whom he called "malcontents."

Clements issued a statement Thursday about the slander suit, saying, in part, "To put this into proper focus, you must realize that Mr. Diaz is a pro in the public relations field and I am not. Neither Mr. Diaz's original suit filed several years ago nor his new suit filed this week has any merit and both can be successfully defended.

"I am prepared to defend them in the courts where Mr. Diaz filed them. I have always felt that this is what the courts are for and I will not try these cases in the newspapers."

Clements, at the earlier news conference, described the two Americans—Charles R. O'Neill and William L. Dillin—as malcontents who cannot return to this country because the Internal Revenue Service has obtained tax liens against profits they made in the Argentine drilling project.

Diaz said in his suit, "The whole tenor and tone of the statements issued by defendant Clements are to discredit the honesty, reputation, character and integrity of Antonio A. Diaz."