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Suit 220

New Orleans (AP) - A \$350,000 slander suit was filed in civil district court here Tuesday against a Warren Commission witness. The plaintiff in the action also testified before the commission, which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Carlos Bringuier, who was involved in a street brawl here in August 1963 with Lee Harvey Oswald, said in his suit that bar owner Orestes Pena gave "slanderous and defamatory testimony" before the Warren Commission.

Pena's testimony, the suit said, portrayed Bringuier as "an enemy and traitor to the United States, a Castro sympathizer and a vulgar opportunist."

Pena told the Warren Commission a man resembling Oswald was in his French Quarter bar and became ill after drinking. The commission discounted Pena's testimony, citing statements by Oswald's Russian-born wife that the accused assassin did not drink.

Pena told the commission he was a Cuban native but had become a naturalized American in 1956. Bringuier is presently the New Orleans delegate to the Cuban Student Directorate, an Anti-Castro group.

Pena testified on July 21, 1964, in New Orleans. In his testimony was a statement that he was active in an anti-Castro Cuban exile group headed by Sergio Arcacha Smith.

New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who has launched his own investigation of the Kennedy assassination in Dallas, has sent aides to Dallas, Tex., to question Arcacha, who now lives there. Arcacha refused to be quizzed and Garrison later filed a charge of conspiring to burglarize an ammunition bunker at Houma, La., against him. Arcacha is fighting extradition to Louisiana. G1039pcd may 16