

A135DN

Misc II - Walker

16 JUNE 1964
714 PCS

NIGHT LEAD WALKER (300)

FORT WORTH, TEX., JUNE 16 (AP)-A NASHVILLE NEWSPAPERMAN TESTIFIED TODAY THAT HE SAW 400 OR 500 PERSONS FORM A SOLID LINE BEHIND FORMER MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER DURING THE 1962 SEGREGATION RIOTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

THE FORMER ARMY OFFICER IS SUING THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FOR \$2 MILLION BECAUSE OF STORIES FROM OXFORD, MISS., THAT HE LED A STUDENT CHARGE ON U.S. MARSHALS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CAMPUS RIOT SEPT. 30, 1962. HE HAS CALLED THE STORIES FALSE, MALICIOUS AND DAMAGING.

CRAIG ELLIS, 26, TESTIFIED FOR THE DEFENSE THAT HE WAS ON THE CAMPUS SEPT. 30 AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NASHVILLE BANNER. HE SINCE HAS JOINED UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL.

ELLIS QUOTED GENERAL WALKER AS SAYING IN A SPEECH TO A GROUP OF STUDENTS RIOTERS:

"I WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOU ALL ON THE PROTEST YOU'RE MAKING. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO PROTEST UNDER THE CONSTITUTION. ANY BLOODSHED HERE TONIGHT IS ON THE HANDS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE AGENCIES THEREOF. . .

"THERE IS NO STOPPING POINT, YOU CAN CONTINUE. MANY PEOPLE FROM OUT OF STATE ARE HEADING TOWARD OXFORD."

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AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPEECH WHICH WAS DELIVERED FROM A CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, ELLIS SAID OF WALKER:

"HE STOOD WHERE HE WAS FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, THEN TURNED LEFT AND STEPPED DOWN FROM THE MONUMENT. HE TOOK SEVERAL STEPS UP THE WALK BY HIMSELF. I RECALL THAT ONE OR MAYBE TWO MEN CAUGHT UP WITH HIM. THESE TWO OR THREE, INCLUDING GENERAL WALKER, MOVED 10 OR 12 FEET UP THE SIDEWALK.

"ABOUT THAT TIME, THE PEOPLE LISTENING TO HIM MOVED BEHIND HIM AND THEN A SOLID LINE FORMED BEHIND THE GENERAL. I LOST SIGHT OF THEM AS THEY NEARED THE FLAG POLE."

THE FLAG POLE REFERRED TO WAS ABOUT HALFWAY BETWEEN THE MONUMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WHERE THE U.S. MARSHALS HAD TAKEN UP THEIR POSITIONS.

"CAN YOU ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FELL IN BEHIND THE GENERAL AS HE STARTED FOR THE FLAG POLE?" ELLIS WAS ASKED.

"I WOULD HAVE TO MAKE 400 TO 500," THE WITNESS REPLIED.

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