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PRIVACY DEFINED BY MRS. ONASSIS

Says It Includes Errands,
Even in Public Places

By MAX H. SEIGEL

Mrs. Aristotle Onassis declared yesterday that "when one is engaged in private errands, even in a public place, that's private."

She gave her definition of privacy in Federal Court here under cross-examination by Alfred S. Julien, counsel for Ronald E. Galella, a freelance photographer.

The question of privacy had been made a major issue by lawyers for Mrs. Onassis in a countersuit seeking to enjoin the photographer from coming within 200 yards of her apartment at 1040 Fifth Avenue and 100 yards of herself anywhere else.

United States District Court Judge Irving Ben Cooper, who is hearing the case without a jury, had previously reserved decision on a \$1.3-million suit filed by Mr. Galella against Mrs. Onassis on the ground that she has interfered with his livelihood.

Under questioning, Mrs. Onassis said that shopping was a private activity, although it took her to a public store; that visiting a friend was private, although she had to go through public streets, and that a walk alone in Central Park was private, although the park was public. She also declared that a visit to a museum or a restaurant was a private affair.

On Being Photographed

Mr. Julien elicited from the witness a statement that she had no objection to being photographed. "I would object to the conduct of the photographer," she said, "if he leaped out at me or trailed me."

Mrs. Onassis has contended that Mr. Galella constantly leaps toward her and often trails her both day and night.

Cross-examined by Mr. Julien, Mrs. Onassis acknowledged that the public might be more interested in her than in other women because of her wealth, prestige, background, activities and life-style.

The lawyer also sought to attack the credibility of the witness with regard to charges that the photographer leaped at every occasion or flicked her with his camera strap.

Yesterday's session was marked by another clash between Mr. Julien and Judge Cooper. It started when Martin London, one of Mrs. Onassis' attorneys, objected because he could not hear questions being put to Mrs. Onassis by Mr. Julien from a position near the witness.

Judge Cooper instructed the court clerk to push back the lectern used by Mr. Julien about three feet to a point some 23 feet from the witness.

When Mr. Julien objected, charging the court with interfering with his cross-examination, Judge Cooper said: "Will you stop prancing around and preening yourself?"

"I am cross-examining as I have for 39 years," Mr. Julien replied, "and no judge ever said that to me before."

After a brief exchange, Mr. Julien added, a few moments later: "I take exception to Your Honor's attitude toward me, and I say it is impossible, not only for me, I believe for any counsel, to represent this man in this court at the present time the way Your Honor is behaving toward me."

The dispute ended when Judge Cooper called a recess.

All through the day, the courtroom was filled to capacity with spectators. In the corridors outside, others waited in line for seats to be emptied.

The trial resumes today at 10 A.M. in the Federal Court House on Foley Square, with Mrs. Onassis on the stand for more cross-examination.

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