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ONASSIS HEARING NEAR CONCLUSION

Galella Depicted as Peeping Tom and as a Journalist

By EDWARD HUDSON

Ronald E. Galella, a freelance photographer, was portrayed by opposing sides yesterday in his court battle with Mrs. Aristotle Onassis as a journalist "with an absolute right to pursue his occupation" and as a "peeping Tom" who has "unmercifully harassed" Mrs. Onassis.

The descriptions came as the case, which has been under way in Federal court here since Feb. 16, drew near its end and the principal attorneys as well as Judge Irving Ben Cooper all showed signs of irritation.

"I want each statement backed up to the hilt, or forget it," Judge Cooper warned the attorneys as he advised them how to prepare their written briefs for submission at the end of the hearings.

At one point during the morning Martin London, attorney for Mrs. Onassis, referred to Mr. Galella's attorney, Alfred S. Julien, as a "clown." To which Mr. Julien responded: "I object to this screamer, this jumper, calling me a clown."

Injunction Sought

Mrs. Onassis attended the morning session, but was absent from the afternoon proceedings.

In a series of cross-suits combined into one case, Mrs. Onassis is seeking a permanent injunction to keep Mr. Galella 200 yards from her Fifth Avenue apartment and 100 yards from her anywhere else.

The photographer began the legal battle with a \$3-million damage suit in which he alleged assault by Secret Service agents assigned to protect Mrs. Onassis, false arrest and interference with his livelihood.

Testimony in the case is expected to end this week.

Mr. Julien said that to place distance limits on Mr. Galella, his client, would "put him at the mercy of his competitors," deprive him of equal protection of the law and violate the freedom of the press.

Mr. London responded that Mr. Galella's freedom of speech, or the rights of the press, were not an issue. "This case is about a Peeping Tom," he said, adding that Mr. Galella had "sneaked" into a beauty salon in Manhattan to photograph the former Mrs. John F. Kennedy, and that he had once chased her car through red lights in Central Park at 40 miles an hour.

"There's nothing in the Constitution which protects that kind of conduct," her attorney said. "That's rowdyism. That's hooliganism."

Blown