

15 JUNE 1964
414 ACS

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WWP(220)

FORT WORTH, TEX., JUNE 15 (AP)-TRIAL OF FORMER MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER'S \$2 MILLION LIBEL SUIT AGAINST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS RESUMES TODAY IN DIST. JUDGE CHARLES MURRAY'S TARRANT COUNTY COURTROOM.

AT THE WEEKEND RECESS FRIDAY, THE PLAINTIFF'S CASE WAS NEAR AN END. WHEN WALKER'S ATTORNEYS REST, THE AP IS EXPECTED TO MAKE MID-TRIAL MOTIONS FOR DISMISSAL OF THE COMPLAINT. FAILING THESE, DEFENSE TESTIMONY WILL BE OFFERED TO A JURY OF FOUR WOMEN AND EIGHT MEN CHOSEN ON THE TRIAL'S OPENING DAY JUNE 8.

WALKER, 54, CONTENDS HE WAS LIBELED BY AP STORIES THAT HE LED A CHARGE OF STUDENTS AGAINST I. S. MARSHALS DURING THE SEPT. 30, 1962, DESEGREGATION RIOTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI. TWO MEN WERE KILLED DURING A CRISIS OVER THE ADMISSION TO OLE MISS OF NEGRO JAMES MEREDITH.

DURING THREE DAYS ON THE WITNESS STAND LAST WEEK, WALKER TESTIFIED HE CAME FROM HIS HOME IN DALLAS MERELY TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE OXFORD, MISS. CAMPUS. HE SAID HE NEVER APPROACHED WITHIN HARASSING DISTANCE OF THE MARSHALS, AND THAT HE ATTEMPTED IN A SPEECH TO DISSUADE RIOTING STUDENTS FROM VIOLENCE.

IN CROSS-EXAMINATION, AP COUNSEL SOUGHT TO SHOW THAT WALKER INTERJECTED HIMSELF INTO AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION, ALTHOUGH AWARE OF FEDERAL COURT ORDERS THAT MEREDITH'S INTEGRATION INTO THE UNIVERSITY WAS NOT TO BE INTERFERED WITH.

THERE WAS TESTIMONY ALSO THAT BEFORE HE WENT TO OXFORD, WALKER SOUGHT TO RALLY SEGREGATIONISTS WITH A BROADCAST PLEA TO "BRING YOUR FLAG, YOUR TENT AND YOUR SKILLET, 10,000 STRONG, FROM EVERY STATE IN THE UNION."

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