

SHREVEPORT, LA., OCT. 30. (AP)-A THREE-WEEKS TRIAL OF EDWIN A. WALKER'S LIBEL-SUIT AGAINST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE PUBLISHING CORP. HAS ENDED IN A \$3 MILLION JURY AWARD TO THE FORMER ARMY MAJOR GENERAL.

DEFENSE LAWYERS IMMEDIATELY MOVED IN COURT YESTERDAY FOR A MISTRIAL AND ALSO TO HAVE THE VERDICT SET ASIDE, ON THE GROUND THAT IT EXCEEDED THE \$2,250,000 IN DAMAGES ALLEGED IN WALKER'S COMPLAINT.

DIST. JUDGE WILLIAM WOODS DISCHARGED THE ALL-MALE JURY AND RESERVED DECISION ON THE MOTIONS. IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURORS, HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT "NO ONE MAY RECOVER MORE FOR ANY ITEM OF DAMAGE THAN THE AMOUNT SUED FOR."

THE AP SAID ANY FINAL JUDGMENT LODGED AGAINST IT WILL BE APPEALED.

THE CADDO PARISH (COUNTY) CIVIL COURT JURY DELIBERATED ONE HOUR AND 55 MINUTES IN ARRIVING AT ITS DECISION THAT WALKER WAS LIBELED BY AN AP ACCOUNT OF HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE DESEGREGATION RIOTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SEPT. 30, 1962.

SIMILAR SUITS FILED BY WALKER AGAINST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND NEWSPAPERS IN THOSE CITIES HAVE BEEN DISMISSED IN DENVER, KANSAS CITY AND LOUISVILLE.

IN ANOTHER OF THE SUITS, THE AP, AS SOLE DEFENDANT, IS APPEALING A \$500,000 LIBEL JUDGMENT OUTSTANDING IN FAVOR OF WALKER IN FORT WORTH, TEX.

WALKER, 55, ACCUSED THE AP OF FALSELY DEPICTING HIM AS ASSUMING COMMAND OF STUDENT RIOTERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI AND LEADING THEM IN A CHARGE AGAINST U.S. MARSHALS. RIOTS OVER THE ADMISSION TO OLE MISS OF NEGRO STUDENT JAMES MEREDITH CLAIMED TWO LIVES.

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THE TIMES-PICAYUNE PUBLISHING CORP. WAS NAMED IN THE CURRENT SUIT BECAUSE ITS NEWSPAPERS IN NEW ORLEANS CARRIED THE AP ACCOUNT OF WALKER'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE RIOT UNDER AN OXFORD, MISS. DATELINE.

THE JURY FOUND AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS "IN SOLIDO." AS JUDGE WOODS EXPLAINED HIS CHARGE TO THE JURY, THIS MEANS EITHER OR BOTH MAY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF ANY JUDGMENT.

AGREEMENT AMONG NINE OF THE 12 JURORS WAS NECESSARY FOR A VERDICT.

WALKER SAID OF THE VERDICT:

"I APPRECIATE THE COURT'S CONSIDERATION AND THAT OF THE JURY. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THEIR LONG, HARD WORK. I THINK JUSTICE HAS PREVAILED, WHICH I APPRECIATE."

THE TRIAL BEGAN OCT. 11.

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