

Marcello Prison Term Reduced to Six Months

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — U.S. Dist. Court Judge John V. Singleton yesterday reduced the two-year prison term he originally gave Louisiana underworld figure Carlos Marcello to six months. The judge left unchanged the \$5,000 fine assessed Marcello when he was convicted here two years ago on charges of striking FBI agent Patrick Collins during a confrontation with newsmen at the New Orleans International Airport in September 1966.

JUDGE SINGLETON said his new ruling was based on the age of Marcello — now 60 — and on a “further review of all the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident that began the case.”

The judge said a maximum sentence was not warranted and cut the sentence to six months and put Marcello on probation for two years.

Marcello testified at his trial that he thought the FBI agent was a newsman trying to take his picture. Earlier this year Marcello claimed the FBI planned the confrontation and entrapped him.

JUDGE SINGLETON then denied Marcello a new trial, but the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal from the decision.