

ACTION CHARGED SLANDER

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Bondsman Drops Suit Against Kohn

Jefferson bail bondsman Nick Christiana today abandoned prosecution of a \$75,000 slander suit against Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

Attorney Arthur Dumaine, counsel for Christiana, said the suit was dropped after Kohn had agreed that he did not "and does not accuse Christiana of holding membership" in the Mafia or other rackets organizations.

Kohn said he never accused Nick Christiana of belonging to the Cosa Nostra or the organization of Carlos Marcello, but questioned the "associations" of Christiana relative to a loan made by him to Criminal District Judge Alvin Oser.

IN A STATEMENT approved by attorneys for him and for Christiana following the dismissal of the slander suit, Kohn said that his statement was made because the Metropolitan Crime Commission was critical of Gov. McKeithen's appointment of Oser.

Kohn's statement follows:

"With the dismissal of the suit against me in Jefferson Parish, it appears appropriate

to conclude the matter with certain clarifications.

"FIRST, I DID NOT and do not now, accuse Nick Christiana of membership—and I emphasize membership—in the Cosa Nostra or the Marcello organization.

"An examination of my

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statement last June, on behalf of the MCC, will show we were critical of Gov. McKeithen's appointment of Alvin Oser, who had borrowed money from Nick Christiana.

"In the course of this statement reference was made to past associations Christiana believed to render the transaction of involving Judge Oser highly questionable.

"OUR STATEMENT regarding Nick Christiana's associations did not extend to other members of his family and it is hoped that what was said will not in any way, by implication reflect upon them."

Christiana filed suit after Kohn allegedly accused the bondsman of having underworld connections including the Carlos Marcello organization. Christiana charged Kohn made the statements in a television interview last June.

KOHN'S ATTORNEY, Milton Brenner, told Gretna District Judge Charles Gaudin that there was no monetary settlement in the agreement to dismiss the case.

The abandonment of the case makes moot a federal district court ruling which was scheduled to come down today on whether Marcello should be required to respond to a subpoena in the Christiana case.

Marcello had sought to avoid getting on the witness stand and he had asked Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey for an injunction against the subpoena to appear.

THE ALLEGED rackets figure asked for the injunction on the grounds that answers he may have given in the Christiana case would have prejudiced a U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision on an appeal of his conviction for striking a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in 1968.

Marcello lost a previous fight to win a temporary restraining order against having to testify in the Christiana slander case.