

L.A. Drops Dalton Smith Stock Case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charges of conspiracy and grand theft were dropped yesterday against Dalton Smith, 46-year-old former New Orleans contractor who was accused of stealing almost \$500,000.

Smith, who was arrested in May, 1968, on a county grand jury indictment, was freed after Superior Court Judge Benjamin Landis granted a defense motion for dismissal.

Smith's attorney, who entered the motion after the state rested its case, contended that the prosecution had not presented sufficient evidence to convict. A poll of the jury showed that the jurors agreed with Landis' ruling.

The prosecution charged that Smith, now of Los Angeles, conspired with a brokerage firm clerk in December 1967 to issue checks for stock they were not entitled to and for fictitious accounts.

Smith is appealing a five-year federal sentence imposed earlier this month after being convicted in U.S. Dist. Court of 18 counts of interstate transportation of stolen and forged securities.