

# Mrs. Onassis Leaves the Stand After Five Days of Examination

NYTimes

By MAX H. SEIGEL

MAR 15 1972

Mrs. Aristotle Onassis stepped down from the witness stand at 3:30 P.M. yesterday after five days of cross-examination in her suit against Ronald E. Galella, a freelance photographer.

Mrs. Onassis is seeking an injunction to keep the photographer at least 200 yards from her home at 1040 Fifth Avenue and 100 yards from herself elsewhere. She has accused him of harassing her by constantly following her and taking pictures of her.

In a related action, Mr. Galella is claiming \$1.3-million in damages from Mrs. Onassis on a charge that she has interfered with his livelihood.

Federal Judge Irving Ben Cooper, who has been hearing both cases without a jury, has reserved decision on a motion to dismiss Mr. Galella's suit.

## Questioning Ends Abruptly

The cross-examination of Mrs. Onassis by Alfred S. Julien, counsel for Mr. Galella, ended abruptly when Judge Cooper upheld an objection by Martin London, lawyer for Mrs. Onassis. Mr. London objected to questions about whether books, magazine articles and other writings had caused the witness annoyance and distress over the last three or four years.

Mr. Julien explained he had wanted to pursue this line of questioning to determine what he called "Mrs. Onassis anguish" and declared abruptly: "No more."

Before upholding Mr. London's objection, Judge Cooper himself asked Mrs. Onassis whether any books or other publications issued in the last few years about herself or mem-

bers of her family had caused distress.

The witness replied: "Not in the same way" as the distress caused by Mr. Galella. "There was not the constant surveillance," she said, "always the same person following, writing about me."

When Judge Cooper then announced that he was sustaining the objection, Mr. Julien declared abruptly: "No more questions."

## Lawyer Leaves Courtroom

As Mrs. Onassis stepped down from the stand, Mr. Julien asked to be excused for the rest of the afternoon, leaving an associate, Stuart Schlessinger, to represent Mr. Galella.

Earlier Mrs. Onassis admitted under cross-examination that she had embroidered slightly an incident involving Mr. Galella's attempt to photograph her and her husband at P. J. Clarke's Bar at 915 Third Avenue.

She had testified that when the photographer tried to take pictures through the window, while they were having brunch, someone "pulled down a shade" and they moved another table. Yesterday she said that perhaps no shade had been pulled down. The restaurant says it has no shades on the Third Avenue side.

As it had been for the last few days, the courtroom was crowded yesterday morning. But when Mrs. Onassis left the stand, the spectators began to filter out, leaving the courtroom half-empty.

The trial resumes today at 10 A.M., with Mr. London reading from the pretrial deposition of Mr. Galella.