

A150DN

NIGHT LEAD WALKER SUIT (170)

FORT WORTH, TEX., JUNE 8 (AP)-A JURY OF FOUR WOMEN AND EIGHT MEN WAS SELECTED TODAY TO TRY FORMER MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER'S \$2 MILLION LIBEL SUIT AGAINST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

THE 54-YEAR-OLD FORMER ARMY OFFICER CONTENDS THAT ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES FROM OXFORD, MISS., FALSELY ACCUSED HIM OF LEADING A CHARGE ON FEDERAL MARSHALS DURING A SEGREGATION RIOT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SEPT. 30, 1962. TWO MEN WERE KILLED IN THE DISORDERS.

IN A COMPLAINT READ TO THE JURY, WALKER'S ATTORNEY, CLYDE WATTS, SAID THE STORIES WERE FALSE AND AS A RESULT "PLAINTIFF HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO PUBLIC HATRED, CONTEMPT AND RIDICULE."

WATTS SAID THAT WALKER DID NOT LEAD A CHARGE AT ANY TIME.

IN REPLY, ATTY. J. A. GOOCH, REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, TOLD THE JURY THAT THE STORIES CONCERNING GEN. WALKER "WERE AND ARE TRUE IN FACT AND SUBSTANCE."

GOOCH ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE STORIES CONTAINED "FAIR COMMENT MADE IN GOOD FAITH."

DIST. JUDGE CHARLES MURRAY IS PRESIDING OVER THE STATE COURT TRIAL WHICH IS EXPECTED TO LAST TWO WEEKS OR MORE.

JS/RW734PCS NM