

NEW ORLEANS

Walker Suit

STATES-ITEM

Dismissed by

29 JUNE 1967

Missouri Judge

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A federal judge dismissed today a \$2 million libel suit filed by former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker against the Pulitzer Publishing Co., publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge Roy Harper said he was guided by the U.S. Supreme Court's June 12 decision voiding a \$500,000 libel judgment against The Associated Press.

Both suits were filed as a result of dispatches about Walker's activities on the University of Mississippi campus in 1962. Walker was present when rioting broke out in the wake of the admission of a Negro, James H. Meredith, to the university.

The Supreme Court in reversing the judgment against The Associated Press, said there was not "the slightest hint of a severe departure from accepted publishing standards in the way The Associated Press reported Walker's activities . . ."

In dismissing the suit against the St. Louis newspaper, Judge Harper said the Post-Dispatch "in an effort to inform the public as soon as possible, relied on news releases published by reputable national news sources. This they had every right to do and in so doing they cannot be held guilty of actual malice in failing to further investigate the truth or falsity of facts supplied concerning an incident which occurred many miles away.

"For the foregoing reason, this court fails to find any genuine issue on which a trial could be necessary," Harper held.

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Reversal Is

Asked by AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Associated Press has asked the Supreme Court to summarily reverse a Louisiana court judgment awarding former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker \$75,000 in damages from The AP and The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp.

Petitioning the high court for review, The AP yesterday said the judgment directly conflicts with the Supreme Court's decision June 12 which threw out a \$500,000 judgment Walker had won against The AP in a Texas court.

The suits were based on AP accounts of Walker's activities at the University of Mississippi during 1962 disorders accompanying admission of James Meredith, a Negro, to the university.

The court, now recessed, will act on the petition when it returns this fall.