

Guilty Plea Winds Up Libel Case

PORTLAND (AP) — A plea of guilty to criminal libel was entered today by one of five defendants. The charges against the other four were then dismissed.

The action before Circuit Judge Arno Denecke all but ended the case of the pamphlet issued in the last political campaign in an attack on State Sen. Monroe Sweetland (D-Milwaukee).

At the time Sweetland was a candidate for secretary of state. He was defeated.

The state charged that the pamphlet was a criminal libel on Sweetland.

Today Homer Rogers, 60, Portland book store operator, pleaded guilty to libel in one of the 14 points listed in the pamphlet. That was the first, which had said Sweetland was disinherited by his father for radical opinions and subversive activities.

Sweetland had supplied, at an earlier trial, evidence to show this was false.

Judge Denecke said he would hold off on sentencing Rogers until after the next election. If he is not brought into court again by that time, the matter will be closed, the judge said, meaning there will be no sentence.

Then the state moved to dismiss the libel charges against Mrs. Louise Gronnert, Henry Dieringer, Mrs. Helen Baldrige, all Portland, and the Rev. Claude Pike, Oregon City, on the ground that justice had been served and that proof the others had circulated the material would be difficult.



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