

Cop's Libel Suit Settled

CORE Aides Pay Newark Officer, Retract Charge

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By BRUCE BUCK

A libel suit filed by Newark patrolman Henry Martinez against Newark-Essex Congress of Racial Equality officials and other persons who allegedly called him a "murderer" in the gunshot killing of a Negro has been settled out of court with Martinez receiving an undisclosed sum in damages.

Martinez' attorney, Edward G. D'Alessandro, said yesterday that the Newark patrolman will receive "more than a token amount" from the defendants named in the original court action. In addition, retractions have been received from five CORE officials for pamphlets that were distributed at the time of the incident in June 1965.

Martinez, 31, of 13 Niagara St., was exonerated for the shooting of the Negro by the Newark Civil Rights Commission and by an Essex County Grand Jury in separate probes before the libel suit was initiated.

Knifing Incident

The shooting occurred at the corner of Oriental Street and Broadway when Lester Long, 22, ran from Martinez and his partner after he allegedly knifed the other patrolman.

Long was felled by one bullet from Martinez' revolver after the man had slashed Patrolman William Provost on the arm.

The reported knifing occurred when the two radio patrolmen attempted to search Long in their patrol car after stopping him for weaving in and out of traffic at high speed with only one headlight functioning on his car.

Martinez, at the time on the force five years and the recipient of four commendations, was "technically suspended" by Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio eight days after the shooting, following meetings with various city and civil rights officials. However, the five-day suspension did not cut-off his pay.

Counter Pickets

Pickets were set-up by civil rights groups around City Hall and, then, after the suspension, police groups picketed protesting the suspension. It was during this picketing by both groups that the alleged pamphlets were distributed.

In a statement yesterday, Martinez said, "I accept the apologies of the several persons and acknowledge the retractions. After considering the total impact of this matter, I do not feel that it would be in the best



PTIM. HENRY MARTINEZ

"Quite Satisfactory"

ment he is to receive "quite satisfactory."

"Although I felt that individuals' actions were not justified and was troubled by same, I am more concerned with the overall peace in the community in which I am employed and reside," the patrolman said.

Without Malice

"I hold no personal malice toward any of the individuals but feel that perhaps in the future they will be a little more cautious in making false accusations against police officers."

James Farmer, former national director of CORE, was charged in the original damage suit with conspiracy to injure the

patrolman's earning power and reputation. However, D'Alessandro said, "We were unable to prove those statements were made by him." Farmer had denied in previous depositions that he referred to Martinez as a "murderer" in a press conference held in New York in June 1965.

Retractions were received by three members of CORE's current executive committee, Fred E. Means, Gail Lissek and Charles Tuller and from Robert Curvin, former chairman of the Newark-Essex chapter of CORE.

Not all of the defendants will be involved in the monetary settlement. At least one defendant, Thomas Edwards, business agent of Local 889, Asphalt Workers Union, will make no contribution to the monetary settlement, according to his lawyer, Thomas Parsonnett.

After being returned to active duty, Martinez was transferred from the second to the third precinct. He currently is again working as a radio patrolman in the second precinct. Recently, he was one of nine policemen from Newark and East Orange who were injured in a neighborhood flareup at the city line in 14th Street near Sixth Avenue.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL DESERVED VICTORY.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS throughout the Nation should CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT "POLICE BRUTALITY" IS A MYTH AND A FIGURE OF SPEECH.

VETERANS CIVIC LEAGUE OF NEW