



—United Press International

TONY CURTIS

FOE OF SMOKING PLEADS GUILTY

British Fine Tony Curtis on Pot Charge

LONDON (UPI)—Actor Tony Curtis pleaded guilty today to possessing marijuana and was fined 50 pounds (\$120).

Curtis, 44, was arrested at Heathrow Airport yesterday after customs inspectors found marijuana in a pouch in his luggage.

The actor appeared this morning before the Uxbridge Magistrates Court and said, "I plead guilty." He arrived at the court in a Bentley limousine, but his British attorney, Jeffrey Leach, asked for time to raise the fine.

Leach told the three magistrates Curtis did not use marijuana himself but had been given it by a friend before leaving New York for London.

Curtis licked his lips nervously as he entered the dock in the low-ceilinged courtroom located not far from Heathrow Airport.

Leach explained that Curtis is in London to make a television series and would be here a year to 15 months. He explained Curtis was "uprooting his life" by coming to London for such a long time, and was "under difficult stress and strain."

Curtis, a Bronx, N.Y., native whose real name is Bernard Schwartz, flew here from New York with his third wife, British-born former model Leslie Allen, 25.

Both Curtis and his wife, whom he married two years ago, appear in the United States on a nationally televised public

service advertisement sponsored by the American Cancer Society in which they speak about dangers of smoking.

He has made numerous anti-smoking speeches in the United States and London as president of the "I Quit Smoking Club," saying people can protect themselves against cancer and heart disease if they give up smoking.

His lawyer told the court Curtis was in effect "starting a new life." Leach said, "He is not a man who smokes cannabis (marijuana) and was given it by a friend to take if the need arose." Leach said the friend, whom he did not identify, told Curtis that the actor was looking "pale and strange." The friend then gave him the marijuana, the attorney said.

The arresting officer said Curtis was "completely cooperative" with police and customs officials at Heathrow. He said a search of the actor's luggage turned up "a small amount of marijuana in a pouch." The detective said the amount was "less than an ounce."

Leach appealed to the magistrates for leniency, saying that notoriety is "the price such persons as Curtis may have to pay for the fame they receive."

He said Curtis had instructed him to thank the police and custom officials for the "courteous and helpful manner" in which the actor was treated.

The magistrates, two men and one woman, retired for two minutes to deliberate sentence. They imposed the fine of 50 pounds fine without comment. It is the least possible penalty for that offense under the Dangerous Drug Act.



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The Weather

District and vicinity—Partial clearing this afternoon with high about 70. Partly cloudy tonight with low in the mid-50s. Variable cloudiness tomorrow with high in the mid- or upper 70s. Yesterday's high, 65 at 12:45 p.m.; today's low, 55 at 1:30 a.m.

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