

Plea bargain frees Casner

(Continued from A-1)

against Casner were about to be dismissed because a witness was excused during the preliminary hearing before Casner's attorney. Deputy Public Defender Gary Smeltzer, completed cross-examination. If a dismissal were to occur. Deputy District Attorney Joseph B. Canty would have the option of refiling the charges, but another preliminary hearing would have involved considerable expense in court time and transportation of witnesses.

Read perspective Sunday Section in The Sun

approved the disposition ceased to maintain his infor Casner because it was nocence, but agreed to in the interest of justice. plead guilty because he One factor in that decision was the avoidance of \$25,000 to \$30,000 in trial costs, he said.

Smeltzer told a reporter

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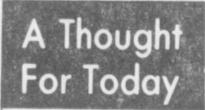
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In court Canty said he that Casner has never wanted to get out of jail.



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