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IN ESTATE OF WIFE

Star 1-15-69
\$113,553 Claim Appealed

Rep. John P. Skeate has appealed to Hennepin District Court a denial by Hennepin Probate Court of his claim of more than \$100,000 against the estate of his wife.

Probate Judge Melvin J. Peterson denied Skeate's claim for \$113,533 in November. Skeate's wife, Alice, died June 13, 1967.

Peterson said a prenuptial agreement between Skeate and his wife provided that neither would claim anything from the estate of the other.

Skeate contended that his wife had violated an oral

agreement that both of them would deposit their entire incomes in a joint tenancy account, although keeping their estates separate. He said she had deposited only \$14,000 between 1961 and 1966, although her income in that period was almost \$60,000.

He also seeks title to stocks she bought from the account.

Peterson allowed Skeate administrative expenses of the estate and awarded him some of his wife's household goods and personal property.

Peterson said prenuptial agreements are common

where both husband and wife have children by a previous marriage and wish to preserve their estates for their own children.