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"Newspaper of the North", March 31, 1994

## Mostly retrial Altink small affair

Our reporter Marguerite Benak

**ASSEN / AMSTERDAM** - A ruling by the court in Amsterdam on possible reopening of the controversial Altink-forgery affair still leaves a few weeks delayed. But it looks as though the artist Cor van L [REDACTED] from Holthe not yet prosecuted for forgery of works by the Groningen Ploeg Altink painter (1885-1971). Attorney General Brilman PM has advised the court namely to reject the request. He thinks it likely that Van L [REDACTED] is guilty of a crime, but there is insufficient legal and convincing evidence for a criminal case, he says.

Thus the complaint of gallery owner R. Smithuis appears in Heiloo and Groninger art dealer C. Hofsteenge to have little chance of success. Against the prosecution last year accused Cor Van L [REDACTED] forgery in 1991 was abandoned because the prosecutor had sufficient evidence. That decision was immediately challenged by Smithuis and Hofsteenge because they feel affected their reputation. Smithuis - they brought the forgery affair also rolling in 1991 - and its location Hofsteenge heard as expert witnesses. Their opinion on the Altink was 'false'. That Justice nevertheless refrained from prosecution opposed the sore leg.

At the court is the final verdict. Initially this should have come yesterday, but according to a court clerk, the court, considering the thickness of the Altink file, need more time. The expectation is that there will be done in two three-week rule.

For Attorney General Brilman particular location makes writing competition conducted by the forensic laboratory plausible that Van L [REDACTED] is guilty of a crime. This research has shown that probably are false signatures on some controversial Altink cloths. Writing able report appeared, however, in June 1993, while the Justice officer in March it archived.

The attorney general called the events surrounding it for Cor van L [REDACTED] as blasting investigation 'unfortunate'. "This is a matter for this very important report not been part of the judgment deformation of the prosecutor," said Brilman. According to the Attorney General has therefore been a 'novelty' and the Court can still order a prosecution, except that there is insufficient evidence for prosecution. For though there has been forged paintings, criminal proceedings is only possible if also can be proven that Van L [REDACTED] acted with malice.

Van L [REDACTED] lawyer, mr. Drs. EJA Schönfeld, regrets the postponement of the court. The lawyer Asser is otherwise afraid that the uncertainty will increase at Van L [REDACTED], now he again has to wait a few weeks longer. "You count on today and it is very annoying when you have to wait another few weeks. And you can connect to all sorts of conclusions, but usually that mistake," said Schönfeld.