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18- Section 1

Tells How Army Spies Operated

John M. O'Brien, former Army intelligence sergeant, testified yesterday that most of his "spying" on civilians in the Chicago area consisted of assembling newspaper clippings and sometimes obtaining information from police.

He continued his testimony, begun Monday, before Judge Richard B. Austin in Federal District Court at hearings on a suit filed last week by the American Civil Liberties Union and others, asking that Army spying on civilians be declared unconstitutional and the files destroyed.

Lists His Subjects

O'Brien was assigned for one year ended last June to the Army's 113th Military Intelligence Group, with headquarters in Evanston.

Among those he listed as his subjects for this type of "spying" were Sidney Lens, active in antiwar movements; Father James Groppi, radical Milwaukee priest; the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and the Rev. Francis L. A. Wlor, suspended Chicago Catholic priest.

He testified he once watched persons entering and leaving the north suburban home of a businessman when antiwar groups met there. He said he wrote down the license numbers of autos in the area.

Not Labeled Subversive

He said he "understood" a black Army agent for a time followed the Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation Breadbasket.

O'Brien said he talked to a person at Northwestern University to get information about

a law professor there.

The files of the Evanston office, he said, were not labeled subversive, but were called that in office conversations.

Another witness was Jared Stout, reporter for Newhouse National News Service, who discussed an article he wrote in early December after talking about military surveillance with the Army's general counsel, Robert E. Jordan III.

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