

Court to Act On Secret

CIA Costs

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(AP)—The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered a three-judge court set up to decide the constitutionality of a law exempting the Central Intelligence Agency from revealing its expenditures.

In a 4-to-3 decision, the appeals court told the U.S. District Court in Erie, Pa., to empanel the special court.

The ruling Thursday was made on a request filed by William B. Richardson, 52, of Greensburg. He charged the government's failure to disclose CIA expenditures violates the constitutional requirement for an accounting of all government financial dealings.

Richardson appealed to the Circuit Court after a District Court judge in Erie rejected his plea.

In the appeals court decision written by Judge Max Rosen, the court said a citizen has the right to know how his tax money is being spent.

The CIA Act of 1949 exempts the agency from "the provisions of law and regulations relating to the expenditures of government funds."