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Suit Charges New Rochelle, N.Y., Spies, Keeps Records on Residents

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (AP)—A suit filed today in U.S. District Court accused the city of New Rochelle, N.Y., of spying on residents who engage in "peaceful political activity."

It also accused city police of maintaining dossiers, without legal justification, on persons involved in "constitutionally protected conduct."

The civil complaint, lodged in the name of 10 individuals and the Draft Counseling and Information Service of Westchester, asked the court to order New Rochelle authorities to "destroy all files and records of information obtained illegally by the unlawful acts, including observation

of plaintiffs in the lawful exercise of their right under the First Amendment."

The information-gathering serves "no lawful" purpose and is not kept confidential, the complaint claimed.

The plaintiffs, naming Mayor Stanley Church and other officials as defendants, charged that police "selectively maintained surveillance over persons who are publicly associated with groups in and around New Rochelle that engage in political activity" such as protesting racial discrimination in employment, U.S. involvement in the war in Indochina, and other aspects of social and economic life.

The court also was asked to enjoin the purported activity by police.