

Around the Nation

Memphis Mayor Disbands Intelligence Unit of Police

MEMPHIS, Sept. 11 (AP)—The Memphis Police Department's intelligence unit has been disbanded by order of Mayor Wyeth Chandler, and its records have been burned.

The files were destroyed yesterday before attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union could obtain a Federal court restraining order.

"There will be no more domestic intelligence," Mayor Chandler said. He said that the whole operation had come about "because of the fear of the times" in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Although United States District Court Judge Robert M. McRae ordered that the files be preserved at the request of Bruce Kramer, an attorney for the A.C.L.U., the records were reportedly destroyed before word of the order was passed from Mayor Chandler to police officials.

The existence of the files came to light Wednesday when The Commercial Appeal reported that Police Chief W. O. Crumby had burned one file rather than show it to a former Vietnam War protester.

Eric Carter, 26 years old, a law student in Houston, had asked to see the file last month after learning that an associate in the Memphis Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War in the early 1970's had been an undercover police officer.