

SURVEILLANCE BAN IS CALLED CLOSER

Civil Liberties Union Hails
4 U.S. Court Decisions

By FRED FERRETTI

The American Civil Liberties Union and the New York Civil Liberties Union have called four Federal court decisions handed down last week "the first major breakthrough in the legal battle against government surveillance."

The decisions were directed against the Army, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the House Internal Security Committee and the police in New Rochelle, N. Y.

Aryeh Neier, executive director of the A.C.L.U., said the decisions added up to "a bad week for governmental gumshoes." Ira Glasser, executive director of the N.Y.C.L.U., said the decisions, taken together, "indicate that the courts are saying they're not going to let governmental surveillance go unchecked."

Three of the four cases cited were: Alro Tatum v. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, the Fifth Avenue Peace Parade Committee v. J. Edgar Hoover, and the Progressive Labor Party v. the House Internal Security Committee.

The fourth case involved surveillance by the New Rochelle Bureau of Special Services, according to Mr. Neier. On Tuesday Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley directed the preparation of a consent order by lawyers for the New Rochelle police.

In the Tatum-Laird case the United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia held that the Federal District Court must hold a full hearing to de-

termine the nature and procedures of the Army's domestic surveillance system. The suit was brought by Mr. Tatum, of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, and argued in part by Melvin Wulf, a lawyer of the A.C.L.U..

The Fifth Avenue Peace Parade Committee had sought to have returned and/or destroyed bank records that identified participants in the November, 1969, Moratorium. On Wednesday the United States District Court denied a government motion to dismiss the suit and ruled that that suit raised significant First Amendment questions.

The Fifth Avenue Peace Parade Committee is an antiwar group from whom some 15,000 people bought tickets for bus rides to Washington for the peace marches there during the

Nov. 14, 1969, weekend.

The suit charges the Federal Bureau of Investigation with obtaining names of those persons from the bank where the Peace Parade Committee deposited their checks and with photographing the demonstrators as they boarded the buses.

The suit of the Progressive Labor party against the House Committee on Internal Security asked that a permanent injunction be issued, prohibiting the Amalgamated Bank of New York from complying with three committee subpoenas of records of the party. The United States District Court issued a preliminary injunction Thursday.

The Progressive Labor party is a militant left-wing political party that has run candidates in several elections.