

Surveillance System

Seek To Enjoin Army Spying On Civilians

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit on February 17 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia against Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, Army Secretary Resor, Chief of Staff General Westmoreland and Brig. General Blakefield of the U.S. Army Intelligence Command.

Injunctive Relief

The ACLU suit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief for more than a dozen plaintiffs, civilian individuals and organizations, who wish to exercise their rights under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution to engage in peaceful political protest, demonstrations, marches, rallies, church meetings and other forms of protected expression and assembly without surveillance by the Army agents and without becoming the subjects of dossiers, reports and files in the Army's data bank and intelligence network.

No Legitimate Purpose

Plaintiffs seek the protection of the Court for their lawful political activity; they claim the Army is engaged in surveillance and distribution of information about them which can serve no legitimate military purpose. The suit alleges that dossiers are acquired through the Army spy system by anonymous informants from the FBI, local and state police, and through the use of photographic and electronic equipment. It claims that such information is circulated regularly, widely and indiscriminately by the Army to every troop command in the form of weekly teletype reports.

Copies of the military teletype reports for March 13, 14 and 18, 1968 naming many of the plaintiffs are attached to the ACLU complaint as evidence.

'Blacklist'

The suit refers to an eight-by-ten glossy paperback booklet known in the Army intelligence circles as the "Blacklist" believed to contain profiles of individuals and organizations who, in the opinion of its compilers, "might cause trouble for the Army."

Much of the initial evidence against the Army Surveillance system is derived from an article published in the January 1970 issue of *Washington Monthly* entitled "CON US INTELLIGENCE: THE ARMY WATCHES CIVILIAN POLITICS" by Christopher H. Pyle. Mr. Pyle was present at the ACLU press conference announcing the suit.

List of Plaintiffs

The plaintiffs participating in the suit against the military intelligence system are as follows:
Arlo Tatum, Central Commit-

tee for Conscientious Objectors.
Women Strike for Peace.

Conrad Lynn, a black attorney from New York.

Chicago Area Women for Peace.

Vietnam Week Committee of the University of Pennsylvania, by its members: Richard M. Feigenberg, Lawrence R. Cohen, and Frederick W. Stanton, of Philadelphia.

Vietnam Education Group.

Rev. Albert B. Cleage, Jr. a Detroit Black Nationalist.

Veterans for Peace in Vietnam.

Benjamin N. Wyatt, Jr., a black attorney from Los Angeles.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and its Local 1733 in Memphis, Tenn.

Vietnam Moratorium Committee.

Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam.

War Resisters League.