

Political Protesters**A Suit on Army's
'Civilian Spying'****Washington**

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the Secretary of Defense and ranking Army officials yesterday, charging military intelligence agents are spying on lawful civilian activity.

The ACLU asked United States District Court to declare that surveillance and storage of information on lawful political activities is unconstitutional.

The court has requested to order the destruction of all records, photographs, recordings and blacklists compiled by the military on legal civilian and political activities with the United States.

Army spokesmen declined to comment on the charges, saying it is military policy to maintain silence on court actions.

PLAINTIFFS

"Military spying on civilian activity might be acceptable in a South American military dictatorship but it has no place in the United States," said Frank Askin, the ACLU attorney handling the case.

Askin told newsmen the suit was filed on behalf of more than a dozen individuals and organizations cited in Army dossiers on civilians.

As evidence of such military surveillance, the ACLU disclosed military teletype reports transmitted by the Army Intelligence Command at Ft. Holabird, Md., at Baltimore.

"This is the beginning of a military state," said Dagmar Wilson, founder of Women Strike for Peace, who attended the news conference as one of the plaintiffs.

ARTICLE

Charges made by the ACLU were based on a magazine article written by Christopher H. Pyle of New York, a former Army intelligence officer, who said the Army has 1000 undercover agents keeping watch on civilian activities from anti-war protests at Harvard to Ku Klux Klan rallies in the South.

Plaintiffs in the suit charged their First Amendment rights were violated because military surveillance creates fear of harassment, intimidation and injury.

"Much of the information on lawful political activity in-

cluded in the Army's files and dossiers was acquired by defendants' agents surveillance of lawful and peaceful political activities by anonymous informants and through the use of photographic and electronic equipment," the suit said.

NETWORK

The ACLU said the intelligence data was transmitted on a network providing "every major Army troop command in the continental United States and military headquarters in Europe, Alaska, Hawaii and Panama with daily and weekly reports on virtually all political protests occurring anywhere within the United States."

The suit also charged the Army with publishing an eight-by-ten-inch glossy paperback booklet it said is known in intelligence circles as the "blacklist."

"This list is believed to be an encyclopedia of profiles of individuals and organizations who, in the opinion of its compilers, 'might cause trouble for the Army.'"

Associated Press