

Court Hears Plea to Bar Army Spying on Civilians

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 (UPI)—An attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union argued today before a United States Court of Appeals that the Army had no business investigating civilian protest activities.

The lawyer, Frank Askin, represented 20 civilians whose names allegedly appear on an Army intelligence computer list of persons engaged in controversial political activity.

A Justice Department attorney, Robert Keuch, countered with the argument that civilian surveillance was part of the Army's function of preventing civilian disorder and protecting its own property.

The defendants are seeking an injunction to prohibit the Army from spying on nonmilitary activities.

The injunction petition was turned down by a Federal District Court judge last month. A ruling on the appeal is expected in the spring.