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Suit Here Calls for Destruction Of Secret Passport Office File

A suit filed yesterday calls for prohibiting and destroying a secret surveillance file of 243, 135 names in the State Department Passport Office.

The file is attacked as potential "political blacklisting" in the suit in Federal District Court here, started by four individuals and the Socialist Workers party.

The individuals were Corliss Lamont, chairman of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, whose organization is supporting the suit; Arnold Johnson, public relations director of the Communist party, which is often at odds with the Socialist Workers, a Trotskyite group; and Sidney Gluck and Bernard Brightman, businessmen members of the executive committee of the civil liberties group.

The complaint, presented by Victor Rabinowitz as acting general counsel for the civil liberties committee, charges that maintaining the file violated the First, Fifth and Ninth Amendments to the Constitution. The suit contends that the Passport Office's action will inhibit "freedoms of speech, association, belief and travel" and usurps Congressional power to legislate.

The existence of the computerized file was disclosed Feb. 9 by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights. The State Department told him the largest group of names was of "known or suspected Communists or subversives," with persons of "doubtful citizenship" next.

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