

2 Socialist Groups Sue Nixon and Aides Over 'Harassment'

7/19/73
By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

The Socialist Workers party filed a lawsuit in Federal court here yesterday, seeking more than \$27-million in damages from President Nixon and other Government officials on charges of violating the party's constitutional rights with illegal activities related to the Watergate affair.

Linda Jenness, the party's 1972 Presidential candidate, said that the lawsuit was part of a drive to expose and end what she termed "the use of secret police and other police-state measures against those groups and individuals that the rulers of this country consider to be enemies."

"We have been 'Watergated' for at least 25 years, as our suit explains," she added. "We have been subjected to bombing, bugging, burglaries and sustained F.B.I. harassment."

The suit by the party, the Young Socialist Alliance and several members contended that the Government had engaged in a "systematic campaign of excessive interrogation, employment discrimination and other harassment" that impaired the party's ability to participate effectively in Federal, state and local elections.

A permanent injunction is sought to restrain the Government from "interrogating, surveilling, threatening, enticing or affecting the employment of Socialist Workers party members or supporters" because of their party affiliation or support.

The suit, which also seeks to enjoin wiretapping, monitoring of mail and breaking into party offices, requests an order to strike the Socialist Workers party from the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations.