
Call Nixon

Richard Nixon should be called as a witness in Civil Service Commission hearings on the firing of A. Ernest Fitzgerald, the ACLU Fund of the National Capital Area has told the Commission. The U.S. Court of Appeals recently ordered the Commission to hold the hearings, as the result of CLU litigation. Fitzgerald was fired from the Air Force after testifying to Congress on a concealed \$2 billion overrun on an Air Force project. The CLU says he was fired for exposing Pentagon mismanagement; the Air Force says his job was eliminated as an economy measure. Nixon publicly announced Jan. 31 that he personally had made the decision to fire Fitzgerald. Therefore, the CLU says, his testimony is indispensable to resolve the conflict. "If the President cannot appear before the Civil Service Commission because of the press of other duties, counsel for Mr. Fitzgerald are amenable to an arrangement whereby the testimony of the President would be taken by way of deposition at the White House," the CLU wrote the Commission. The letter pointed out that this procedure was used to obtain the testimony of President Jefferson in the case of Aaron Burr.