

Civil Liberties
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BERTIES

Quakers

A federal court has ruled that Washington, D.C. and a city police inspector must pay damages for the "illegal and unreasonable" arrest of 123 Quakers during a 1971 prayer vigil in front of the White House. The Quakers had disobeyed a police order to disperse. The Court said, "The basic tenor of this demonstration was peaceful....there was no observation of any destruction of property or the blocking of the passage of pedestrians on the sidewalk." Therefore, the police inspector's conclusions that there was "imminent danger of property damage and personal injury" was without basis. The case was sponsored by the National Capital Area CLU.