

Taxpayer Wins Court Review of CIA's Secret Spending

Philadelphia

A Federal appeals court here will decide whether the Central Intelligence Agency should be allowed

to keep its spending habits secret.

A three-judge panel agreed last week to study a taxpayers suit by William B. Richardson of Greensburg, Pa.,

who challenged the constitutionality of the CIA's book-keeping.

Richardson, appealing the rejection of his suit by the United States district Court

in Pittsburgh, claimed Article 1 of the Constitution calls for periodic publication of a regular statement of accounting of public funds spent by public agencies.

Richardson, who is not an attorney, argued his own case and won praise from Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The judge told Rich-

ardson he "prepared a very thorough argument which you handled well."

Richardson said the CIA has spent so much money for so long that it is unable to

account for the expenditures, that its operations are so far-flung it cannot determine how much and where the money is being used.

He argued that under the

Constitution a taxpayer has the right to bring such a suit. The government held that Richardson had no standing.

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