

Suit Against CIA Is Barred

Washington

The Supreme Court rejected a move yesterday to compel the Central Intelligence Agency to make a public disclosure of how it spends tax money.

The court ruled 6 to 3 that William B. Richardson of Greensburg, Pa., had no standing to sue in federal courts for exposure of the agency's budget.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, speaking for the court, relied on a previous ruling of the court that a taxpayer may not "employ a federal court as a forum in which to air his generalized grievances about the conduct of government or the allocation of power in the federal system." He said Richardson had only a generalized grievance.

Justice Potter Stewart, in a dissent in which Justice Thurgood Marshall joined, said Richardson should have been allowed to pursue his suit because he was "seeking a determination that the government owes him a duty to supply the information he has requested."

Justice William O. Douglas, in a separate dissent, said: "The taxpayers in the present case . . . only want to know the amount of tax money exacted from them that goes into CIA activities. Secrecy of government acquires new sanctity when their claim is denied."

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