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An ACLU Protest on FBI's Check Bugging

The American Civil Liberties Union here issued a statement yesterday protesting secret FBI surveillance of a Corte Madera man's checking account.

The federal snooping of the Wells Fargo Bank checking account of Richard Stark, 29, a wealthy artist who has donated money on occasion to left wing causes, was done without proper judicial authorization, the bank admitted last week.

Yesterday, Jay A. Miller, executive director of the ACLU of Northern California branded the FBI's actions "frightening."

"Needless to say such a gross invasion of privacy is

contrary to all constitutional democratic principles," Miller said in a prepared statement to news media.

The FBI has declined to comment on the matter.

Stark found out that his account was under FBI scrutiny when he discovered an official Wells Fargo memo authorizing the bureau's surveillance in his monthly account statement.