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# Banks Join Fight on Snooping

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The California Bankers Association, representing all the major banks in the state, charged yesterday that the Congressional act giving the government authority to pry into anyone's private bank account is unconstitutional.

The suit was brought in U.S. District Court here seeking to enjoin operation of the so-called Bank Secrecy Act, which is due to become effective July 1.

The new act requires that banks keep full or filmed records of each transaction in all checking and savings accounts. This information could, the suit claims, be obtained by any government agency.

In addition, the act requires that all transactions of more than \$5000 entering or leaving the country must be disclosed to the Treasury department, as well as each bank deposit or withdrawal exceeding \$10,000.

The California Bankers Association suit is a companion action to that filed earlier this month by the American Civil Liberties Union and Fortney H. Stark Jr., Democratic congressional candidate in the

Eighth District.

It charges that the act constitutes an invasion of privacy.

The bank action also charges that it will cost banks thousands and thousands of dollars to comply, in microfilming equipment, manpower, storage facilities and other expenses.

The action brought by the bankers association asked that it be heard simultaneously with that brought by the ACLU. Both have been given to U. S. District Judge William T. Sweigert.