

# Hearing Is Granted In CIA Funds Case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government, attempting to block a judicial examination of secrecy surrounding money spent by the Central Intelligence Agency, today was granted a hearing in the Supreme Court.

The high court agreed without comment or dissent to hear the government's plea that William B. Richardson of Greensburg, Pa., has no standing to sue in federal courts for exposure of CIA's appropriations.

THE U.S. CIRCUIT Court at Philadelphia ruled against the government last year, holding that Richardson could sue to determine if the 1949 law which exempts the CIA from disclosure violated the constitutional provision calling for

publication of "expenditures of all public money . . ."

The circuit court directed a three-judge court to hear Richardson's case, but it has not been empaneled pending action on the government's appeal.

Richardson also filed an appeal of the circuit court decision, asking the high court to settle the issue before it goes before the three-judge panel. The justices declined to hear Richardson's appeal without comment.

THE GOVERNMENT argued that the lower court's decision "is almost certain to spawn a significant increase in suits by taxpayers challenging a wide variety of government programs and a significant number of congressional statutes."

The circuit court held that a taxpayer may sue if he alleges any "injury in fact" done by an act of Congress which is claimed to be unconstitutional.

In other actions today, the court:

—Told lower courts in several states to reexamine their decisions on state law cases in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Estelle v. Gamble*.

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