

Rights Panel Plans Suit in FBI Firings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union says it will sue to reinstate two FBI file clerks who claim they were forced to resign because of off-hours work for a peace group.

Philip J. Hirschkop, an ACLU attorney, said yesterday the suit will seek to enjoin FBI director J. Edgar Hoover from "interfering with the constitutional rights of any other employe."

HIRSCHKOP commented at a news conference where Linda Janca, 21, and Christine Hoomes, 18, said they were given an ultimatum last Friday to stop part-time volunteer work for the National Peace Action Coalition or quit the FBI.

The girls said they held nonsensitive jobs filing fingerprint cards in the FBI identification branch.

Hirschkop said a third girl, Janie Bush, 19, of Nunda, N.Y., had been given a similar ultimatum but her status is unclear.

The FBI declined comment on the assertion.

MISS JANCA, of Biloxi, Miss., and Miss Hoomes, of Woodbridge, Va., said they had worked for the peace group two or three nights a week for the past two months stuffing envelopes in preparation for peace demonstrations scheduled April 24 here and in San Francisco.

They said they were questioned by superiors March 31 about their off-hours work and their views on the war, then given the ultimatum Friday.

They said J. Allison Conely of the FBI's identification branch, told them regulations



—AP WIREPHOTO.

CLERICAL WORKERS WHO SAY they were asked to resign from their jobs with the FBI because they worked with an antiwar group in their off hours are, from left, JANICE BUSH of Nunda, N. Y.; LINDA JANCA, Biloxi, Miss., and CHRISTINE HOOMES, Woodbridge, Va.

prohibit political activity and indicated he thinks peace groups are antiadministration.

JERRY GORDON, coordinator of the peace group, said the FBI action was "an effort to coerce people not to come April 24 but we are going ahead."

The two girls said other employes of their FBI division are working for the coalition but declined to name them or say how many there are.

The incident comes at a time when Hoover is under increasing criticism, with some members of Congress calling on the 76-year-old director to resign.

"Mr. Hoover should think twice about firing any FBI employe at a time when there is a rising clamor in the nation that he be fired," Gordon said.