

On Charges in Shooting Case

By AUDREY A. FECHT
 Newark Patrolman Henry Martinez yesterday filed a damage suit against the Congress of Racial Equality and several of its officials charging them with conspiracy to injure the patrolman's earning power and reputation.

The suit further charged that certain CORE officials were responsible for false and defamatory statements against the patrolman.

James Farmer, national director of CORE, was served with complaints in the suit last night. An Essex County sheriff's officer handed the papers to Farmer after a press conference in the Hotel Essex House prior to a demonstration urging the formation of a civilian police review board. He declined to comment on the suit.

Libelous and slanderous statements were made against Martinez, the suit alleged, in connection with the fatal shooting of Lester Long, 22, a Negro, on June 12.

Cleared by Jury

An Essex County Grand Jury cleared Martinez July 1 of any illegal acts in the shooting which occurred last fall when Martinez after allegedly slaying another patrolman.

Before the jury finished its probe Martinez was "technically" suspended from his post June 18. He was reinstated after fellow police officers picketed in protest for five days.

Ten individuals, including Farmer, were named as defendants in relation to separate allegations in the seven-count complaint. The suit was filed in the Essex County Court on behalf of Martinez by Edward G. D'Alessandro, Newark attorney.

Asked about the total damages sought, D'Alessandro said the law in New Jersey prohibits specifying the amount. "But," he added, "I feel the amount of damages should be more than the amount sought in the Gilligan suit in New York."

New York Police Lt. Thomas

R. Gilligan, exonerated of criminal liability in the fatal shooting of a 15-year-old Negro boy last July, is seeking \$3.75 million in a libel suit against Dr. Martin Luther King, Farmer and others. Gilligan claims the defendants damaged his name and reputation by printing and distributing leaflets depicting him as a murderer.

Another suit for \$1.5 million accuses Farmer and CORE of wrongfully saying that Gilligan "presently is in a mental institution receiving treatment."

The other defendants here are Robert Curvin, vice chairman of the northeastern region of CORE's National Action Council Fred Means, chairman of CORE's Newark-Essex Chapter; Rev. Boyd Cantrell, president of the Newark Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Thomas F. Edwards, business agent of Local 889, Asphalt Workers, and Arnold Harris, executive secretary of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County. Also listed as defendants were Andrew Washington, Charles A. Tuller, Dorothy Jones and M. I. Powell, Newark civil rights workers.

The first count of the complaint alleged that CORE "has never mentioned an accident which occurred with a patrolman conspiracy . . . maliciously and illegally" demanded the suspension of Martinez.

Cites Suspension

This action June 17 in the office of Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio constituted "malicious interference with the economic opportunity of Patrolman Martinez," according to the court papers. As a result, Martinez was wrongfully suspended the next day, the suit charged.

The patrolman suffered damage to his reputation and mental anguish requiring medical treatment, the complaint alleged, because of the publicity about his "illegal" suspension.

Individual defendants named in the first count of the suit were Farmer, Curvin and Means, acting as CORE repre-

sentatives and as individuals, and Mr. Cantrell, Harris, Edward and Washington.

The Congress of Racial Equality, incorporated in New York; the Newark-Essex Chapter of CORE, Farmer, Curvin and Means also allegedly conspired to publish two defamatory documents in reference to Martinez, the complaint charged.

Lists Document's

One document asserted, according to the suit: "Our neighbor Lester Long Jr., was murdered by a policeman . . ."

The other document allegedly stated: "POLICE BRUTALITY. A man was shot in the back of the head by a policeman last week in North Newark. This could happen to you . . . The cops say it was justified. We say it wasn't."

The complaint listed Curvin, Means, Dorothy Jones and M. L. Powell as the persons who allegedly delivered the documents for distribution.

Martinez, 29, a patrolman five years and the father of two children, had earned four departmental commendations prior to his technical suspension and reinstatement. The court papers