

federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations legislation, called RICO.

The decision means:

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· Anti-abortion groups and individuals sued successfully over their conduct can be forced to pay tripled damages. The NOW lawsuit alleges criminal violations dating back to 1982.

• The leaders of anti-abortion groups may be sued successfully as conspirators, even if they are not physically present when illegal conduct occurs.

• Federal judges may invoke RICO to issue injunctions against anti-abortion activities.

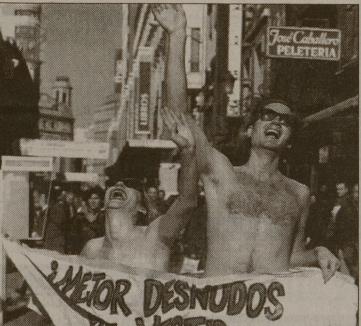
The court last year ruled abortion clinic operators cannot invoke the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 in suing those who block women's access to abortion clinwomen seeking abortions and of abortion clinic employees to be free from harassment, intimidation or other illegal conduct.

Anti-abortion leaders, such as Terry, call themselves civil rights activists and distance themselves from those responsible for such violent acts as the killing of Dr. David Gunn outside a Pensacola, Fla., clinic last year.

Monday's decision was hardly surprising. The court consistently has refused to narrow how the broadly worded RICO law is

applied. Enacted in 1970, RICO was aimed at organized crime. But increasingly it is used in lawsuits involving just about any business dispute.

Writing for the court, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said RICO can be invoked even when



That ruling led to an effort in Congress to provide more federal protection for women seeking abortions. The House and Senate have passed separate versions of the Freedom of Access to Clinics Act, and the legislation will be before a conference committee when **Congress** reconvenes

The court's new decision falls far short of resolving all legal issues surrounding anti-abortion activities. Just last Friday, the justices agreed to clarify how far courts and local governments

BREITLING

the alleged crimes have no economic motive.

RICO makes it a crime for "any person employed or associated with any enterprise in ... interstate or foreign commerce ... to participate in a pattern of racketeering activity," Rehnquist wrote.

In another action Monday, the court refused to use a case from Michigan to rein in the fees airports charge airlines for using runways, passenger terminals and other services. Those fees topped \$3 billion in 1991.



Two people from the United States brave sub-zero temperatures in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, wearing only their underwear, to protest the slaughtering of animals for the fur industry. Their banner reads, "Better naked than to wear fur!"

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