# ld tharged With

The Securities and Exchange Commission sued one of the nation's major farm organizations Tuesday, charging it with fraud in the borrowing of more than \$7 million from its members.

The SEC said the National Farmers Organization had borrowed the money under

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false pretenses, failing to disclose fully its financial condition. The SEC contends that the NFO is insolvent, which the farm group denies.

The suit was filed in federal court in Des Moines, Iowa, and announced in Washington.

The NFO, one of the

country's more militant farm groups, has very few members in this area.

NFO spokesmen at its headquarters in Corning, Iowa, said they would have no comment until they had received a copy of the complaint.

The NFO's president, Oren Lee Staley, has suggested in a confidential letter to his members that the SEC's investigation is part of a government move to destroy the farm group.

He noted that former White House Counsel John W. Dean III has testified that NFO was on the White House "enemies list."

An SEC spokesman denied that the filing of the suit was related to politics. "The charges speak for themselves," the spokesman said. "I don't think it relates at

The suit was filed after more than three months of investigation and negotiations, during which the farm group launched an effort to collect several million dollars in back dues from its members as a



Oldest & Youngest at NEPPCO Egg School -

Arthur F. Martin (right above) marketing specialist for the Maryland Department of Agriculture and 23year veteran of the teaching staff of the NEPPCO Egg Quality School is

shown holding Susan Cracas, infant

daughter of Mrs. William Cracas, (left) who, with her husband, operates an egg farm at Chester Springs, Pa. The occasion was the 43rd NEPPCO school held June 9-12 at the Shawmut Inn, on the coast at Kennebunkport, Maine. Some 47 "students" from 11 northeastern states were enrolled. Both Mr. & Mrs. Cracas attended as "students". taking turns at in-class baby sitting. Young Susan was a good egg about it all, sleeping through most of the lectures.

means of showing that the group is financially sound. In filing the suit, SEC

lawyers brushed aside requests by the farm group for a fuller investigation and for an informal agreement to meet the commission's objections.

The suit alleges that the farm group made false statements about its financial condition and failed to disclose pertinent facts when it issued promissory notes to its members and officers for money borrowed from them.

The charges were brought under the fraud section of federal securities laws.

The suit seeks a court order to prevent the NFO from continuing its allegedly fraudulent practices.



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