

## Suit to Allege Punishment

A former state crime laboratory serologist is expected to file a federal lawsuit today charging that four lab officials conspired to punish her for filing an earlier suit. The first, filed in October, alleged that she was denied a pay increase because she voiced concerns about "serious discrepancies" in lab procedures.

The new suit is expected to make claims similar to those in the earlier suit, which was dismissed when Regina K. Demas failed to file an answer to a motion by defendants. That action apparently was a maneuver to allow inclusion in the new suit of the allegation that four lab officials conspired to punish her.

Miss Demas, 25, claims that she learned of discrepancies in tests performed by Mary Jane Burton, her former boss, last May. Miss Demas took her concerns to officials and asked for corrective action, the earlier suit said.

However, no action was taken and steps were taken to conceal the discrepancies, the earlier suit said.

### No Moves to Halt

The suit also contended that "nothing was done to preclude their recurrence."

Mrs. Burton, chief serologist; Robert E. Edwards, assistant director of the foren-

sic science bureau; Warren G. Johnson, deputy director of the forensic science bureau; and Dr. A. W. Tiedemann Jr., director of consolidated laboratory services, are expected to be named as defendants. In the earlier suit all but Edwards were named as defendants.

Miss Demas is now working in the product testing bureau which performs work for the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Department. The new suit is expected to claim that she was transferred because of the earlier suit. She began work in February 1976 as a serologist.

If Miss Demas' claims are

proved true, it would raise the chance that new criminal trials would result for dozens of and possibly many more, persons who have been convicted.

Serologists conduct scientific tests on blood and other bodily secretions submitted by police in criminal investigations. The results of those tests often are critical in establishing guilt or innocence.

The new suit is expected to ask the U.S. District Court to award Miss Demas the pay increase, declare that her constitutional rights were violated and award her \$300,000 in damages.