Here are the outlines of the story that they're working on. I was flatly told that it might never run because it is not well sourced at this point:

According to sources they do have -- and one in particular, who has a "cosmic view" and has been their best source throughout -- a dirty tricks department was set up back in 1969. It was run by Mitchell and Mardian and was manned mostly by ex-FBI types, most of whom were very clever.

Among their alleged activities:

-- Phone taps of the press, WH staff, and others; usually done in the guise of national security when in fact it was often unrelated. *

-- Possible break-ins (in one conversation, he was specific about this; in a second he backed away, saying he couldn't identify any particular break-ins)

-- Infiltration and spying on a number of radical and fringe groups (Hasn't the government always done that?)

-- Efforts to discredit liberals (not specific as to acts).
They have no information which indicates that the dirty tricks team was used for political purposes in the 1970 elections. They do have one source who says that the Watergate taps were authorized at Justice for national security purposes.

What evidence exists on paper? They say it's all been destroyed—probably.

According to their sources, many of those who participated in this ring either left in 1970-1971 or decided they couldn't take on some of the assignments. At this point, Hunt and Liddy were recruited. They proved to be rank amateurs, real bunglers—but they also soon acquired a reputation as the "WH burglars" after they came over.

At some point—time unspecified—Mitchell met with HRH and proposed that Hunt and Liddy be moved to 1701 for campaign purposes. HRH said no, but Mitchell did it anyway.

Let me re-emphasize that this is only a sketchy story in their minds, but I know they've been pursuing it for several days. There is no allegation so far of involvement by RN.

* * *
Len, I continue to feel that we ought to know more about the plumbers operation because there is probably more there. As you will recall, they said that one source had named Walt Minnick as the fellow who helped move the 8 boxes out of Hunt's office they moved Sunday after Watergate. As Minnick worked for Krogh, those boxes could conceivably contain a lot of answers.

Dave