

*CIA is focal point of novel by newsmen* *F Post 10/11/80*

**THE SPIKE.** By Arnaud de Borchgrave & Robert Morse. Crown. 374 Pages. \$12.95.

This first novel by two top newsmen is a stinging indictment of those who engineered the purge of the Central Intelligence Agency in the wake of Watergate and those revelations of wiretapping by U.S. intelligence agencies.

The authors contend that as a result of this about face, the careers of many U.S. intelligence agents abroad were blown and the careers of veterans in the top echelons of the network were ruined.

The central figure in the book is Robert Hockney, a liberal young journalist who sets out enthusiastically on a career of destroying what remains of the CIA.

Hockney abets liberals in the government, media and the CIA itself in trying to bring down the remnants of the Old Guard in the agency.

Hockney's views change, however, when he finally talks with Nick Flowers, a CIA hardliner who is an arch foe of the liberals and who has been fired for his role in tampering with the mails and monitoring phone calls.

Flowers convinces Hockney that by emasculating the CIA these so-called idealists have only succeeded in increasing the scope of Soviet deception and penetration.

By denouncing the "police state" they claimed existed in America in the early 1970s and espousing "open government," says Flowers, these elements have been playing into the hands of the enemy.

Some of this liberal clique have acted in innocence, some knowingly aided the Soviet cause and still others stationed in key places in the U.S. capital were actually members of the KGB, Russia's intelligence arm.

Hockney is horrified to learn that a

lifelong friend belongs in the latter category.

As the time element in the novel shifts to the near future, Hockney decides to give his readers a glimpse of the other side of the coin. This earns him denunciations from his former liberal fans and costs him his job on the newspaper that made him famous.

The liberals try to brush Hockney off as a cold war warrior trying to bring back the McCarthy era, but their derision is suddenly silenced when a top KGB official, Col. Vikto Barisov, defects to the West and confirms Hockney's charges. Barisov goes a step further and identifies KGB agents entrenched in top posts in the U.S. government.

Some may feel that the book goes too far in depicting Washington as riddled with red plotters. But it does give pause for thought.

Tom Hoge  
Associated Press