

**James Bond in Chicago**

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# Snoop Shop Is an Empty Office Full of People

By Larry Green

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CHICAGO—Brown, butcher

paper covered the glass on the door.

There was no name stenciled on the glass.

A visitor looked inside the room at Navy Pier.

A few men stood around a table talking in whispers. They examined a roll of film. One wore sunglasses and carried a baseball bat. Guns bulged on their hips.

Could this room, shielded from the real world with butcher paper, be the home of Mid-Continent Import-Export Co.—the alleged "cover" name

for the Chicago Police Department's super-secret subversive unit called "the Red Squad?"

"What are you lookin' for?" asked a tough-looking guy with an American flag patch sewed on the sleeve of his jacket.

"Mid-Continent Import-Export Co.," the visitor said. "They moved five months ago," tough said. "Who are you anyway?"

"A reporter," "Just a minute. You wait here," tough said and walked into the room where he and the men whispered.

"Yes, sir," the guy with the baseball bat said. "Can we help you?"

"I'm looking for Mid-Continent Import-Export Co."

"Never heard of them," baseball bat said. "Some people, of course, have heard of them."

Included are newsmen, double agents who have infiltrated various groups and reported their findings to authorities in the room with butcher paper on the windows, the telephone company and attorneys for the "conspiracy torneys" for the "seven."

The attorneys have tried to subpoena the records of Mid-Continent for use in defending their clients now on trial in U.S. District Court for conspiring to cross state lines to

riot at the Democratic National Convention.

The subpoena was served on Mid-Continent recently and was accepted by a "Miss Hamilton" at the Navy Pier office.

City attorneys are now fighting the subpoena in federal court, which means they, too, have heard about Mid-Continent.

But others say they haven't heard of the "spy-novel" operation.

Among them is Capt. John Manley, director of the Chicago port facilities and manager of the Navy Pier building. "The name sounds familiar but as far as I know they have

never had an office here," he said. "If they did, I certainly would know about it," insisted Manley, whose son is a policeman.

Neither the Illinois secretary of state nor the county clerk's office, which keep a list of all companies and agencies with assumed names, have heard of Mid-Continent.

Police officials won't comment.

And the telephone directory, which lists the firm and gives the Navy Pier address, was obviously misinformed. When the number is dialed it rings at the Columbia Drill Co. Officials there have never heard of the Import firm.