

# THE FRONT

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### AFTERMATH: THE FIFTH ESTATE

"We must see how far our paranoia is justified," mumbled a "hint too drunk" Norman Mailer at a raucous Manhattan party nearly two years ago. The occasion: the macho scribe's 50th birthday and the birth of a new organization, the *Fifth Estate*, which would uncover the extent of the intelligence community's role in America. In fact, despite its shaky beginning, *Fifth Estate* did headquarter in Washington and did begin a quarterly magazine that only stopped publishing this year when funds ran low. Then the research arm of the group formed a separate non-profit group, the Intelligence Documentation Center, which has—through successful Freedom of Information Act requests—brought

you news recently of Navy Intelligence's spying on civilians and the military's quiet role handling the siege at Wounded Knee.

One of *Fifth Estate's* last acts was a brief inquiry into Marilyn Monroe's death. Mailer paid Washington researcher Doug Porter about \$1000 over a three-month period this year to gather material relevant to the film goddess' death. Porter says he broke no new ground, though he thinks Marilyn was involved "much more with Washington figures than anyone has ever talked about." And he shared a suspicion with other Marilyn buffs, who think a suburban Virginia widow has tapes of conversations between Marilyn Monroe and Robert Kennedy. The tapes were supposedly made by the woman's late husband who was allegedly hired by James Hoffa to wiretap his foe, Robert Kennedy.

Footnote: *Fifth Estate's* finances have improved and Porter says its magazine will reappear next month. On the group's board: Intelligence hounds Victor Marchetti, retired Col. Fletcher Prouty, Philip Agee, Marcus Raskin, Mark Lane and William Turner.