

Dirksen Discloses Threats Against Life

Everett Dirksen, the Senate Republican leader, conducted one of his frequent seminars in the Senate Press Gallery yesterday and talked about the perils of public life.

His own life, he said, has been threatened three times in recent months. On one occasion, said the leonine lawmaker, "I was supposed to have been assassinated in my office."

Dirksen then described his visit to Chicago last week during the Democratic National Convention and said he was guarded by agents of the FBI, the Secret Service, Chicago police and Cook County detectives.

There may have been some mistaken identity in Dirksen's account of the Chicago episode. Neither the Secret Service nor the FBI protects any member of Congress and did not do so in Dirksen's case.

"What happened," said a Federal security official, "was that we passed on some information to the Cook County Sheriff's Office and they provided some

people to look after the Senator."

(A Federal grand jury reported late last week that it found no evidence of an assassination plot against any political figure in Chicago during the Democratic convention.)

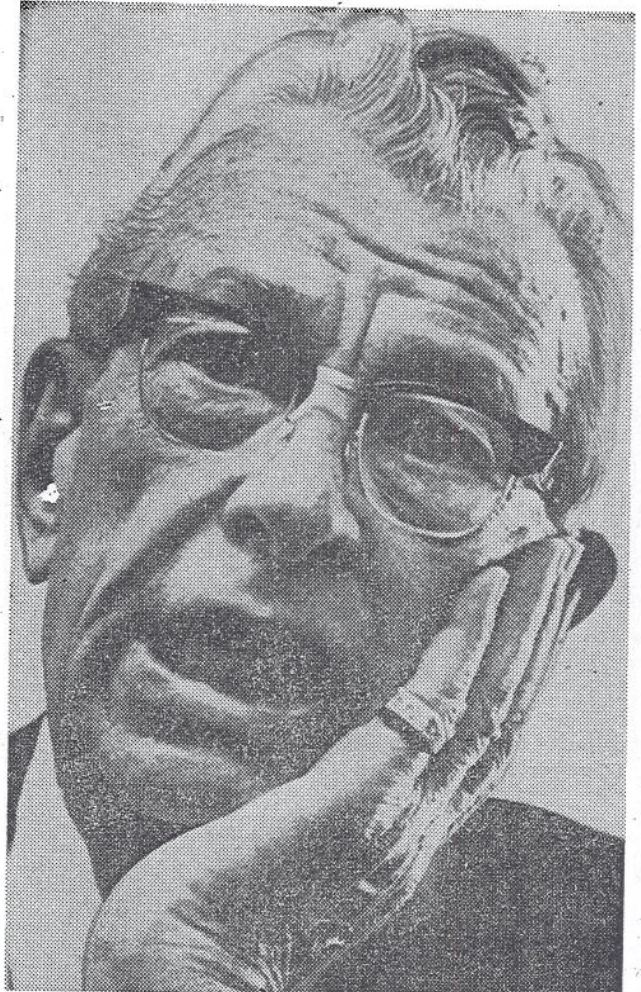
Another incident, Dirksen told his audience of reporters, occurred several weeks ago when the Sheriff in Loudon County, Va., where the Senator lives, passed on a warning that "a man wants to blow your head off with a shotgun."

The third incident, said Dirksen, occurred at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where the Senator said he was told by a Military policeman, "There is a man who wants to kill you."

Of the Virginia incident, Dirksen commented: "I didn't want anybody to blow my head off because the flowers were in bloom and they need me."

At the time of the Walter Reed incident, he said, he told his guard:

"If I were going to be killed, I couldn't think of a better place to have it happen than a hospital."



United Press International

Senate GOP Leader Everett Dirksen tells newsmen he has been under intermittent police guard for the past six months because of assassination threats.