

Suburban housewife's life threatened

Doctor sex case

BY RUSS MARABITO

A BEAUTIFUL northwest suburban housewife, instrumental in the indictment of Dr. James Middleton for deviate sexual assault, was beaten and threatened with death if she testified at his trial.

She told police she was warned against further testimony and then slapped and kicked yesterday as she was about to get into her car in the parking lot of a motel in Franklin Park, where she was modeling at a fashion show.

The assault occurred the day the Cook County Grand Jury indicted the physician on two counts of deviate sexual assault and 24 hours after the woman had testified against him.

THE EXPERIENCE yesterday just reaffirms my decision to testify at his trial," she

told CHICAGO TODAY, "even if I have to stay under lock and key until then."

She said she was standing next to her auto when a heavy-set man about 40 stopped her and said:

"Do you remember yesterday? Any more statements like you made, and this is what your life will be worth."

He then tore a sheet of paper and let the pieces fall.

As she tried to get into the auto, the man slapped her across the mouth with an open palm and "kicked me in the kidney as I fell," she said.

"I GOT UP and ran as fast as I could, and wound up hiding behind a building about 10 blocks away. I must have stayed behind that building for a half hour. I don't know if I was in total shock or what was happen-

* Chicago today, Wednesday, February 10, 1971 5

witness beaten

ing to me, but after awhile I came out, walked back and didn't see anyone around, got into my car and left."

She said she told her husband about the assault and he contacted the Cook County Sheriff's Police in Niles.

The assailant was described as about 5 feet 11, about 220 pounds, with dark hair. He wore a dark blue suit.

"HE KNEW WHO I was and was obviously waiting for me," she said.

She said she had been threatened over the phone shortly after Middleton's office was raided by sheriff's police on Dec. 1.

The raid resulted from the testimony of five women patients who said Middleton drugged them when they visited his office at 959 Elmhurst Rd., Des Plaines, then sexually assaulted.

Police found erotic material, sex-enticing devices, guns, ammunition and homemade explosives in his office.

HE IS SCHEDULED to be arraigned Feb. 17 in Criminal Court.

"I hadn't been bothered by anyone between that first telephone threat and what occurred yesterday," the victim said. "The telephone caller merely said, 'We're going to get you,' and hung up. I don't know if it was a legitimate call or a crank."

"My impression of yesterday's attack," she said, "was to scare me pretty bad so I wouldn't testify. But if anyone thinks I'm going to change my mind, they're wrong."

She said, however, that until the case is over she deserves police protection.

"It's very dangerous," she said.