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Law Agencies Discount McCord's Convention Fears

by Paul W. Valentine

James McCord's professed fear of antiwar violence and massive demonstrations against last summer's Republican National Convention in Miami Beach conflicts directly with intelligence estimates of law enforcement agencies assigned to convention security.

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McCord in his testimony [Before the Senate Watergate Committee] repeatedly referred to "violence-oriented" radical organizations but specified only one by name - the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW).

He testified the VVAW "was already saying in the spring of 1972 that they were going to cause destruction to life and property at the August Republican convention, using in their own words, their own bodies and weapons as the spearhead of the attack."

VVAW national leaders have vehemently denied the charges, contending such plans are contrary to the organization's purposes.

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The charges contrast with the observations of numerous federal officials that both leaders and rank-and-file of the VVAW have frequently acted to defuse potentially violent situations and isolate trouble makers in Miami last summer and at other demonstrations in previous years.
