SAMUEL J. BYCK
... threat to President

BYCK, From A1

By Jim Landers
Washington Post Staff Writer

Samuel J. Byck, the 44-year-old Philadelphian who killed two persons and himself in yesterday's attempted hijacking, was arrested twice last year during a one-man picket campaign at the White House.

Byck, an unemployed tire salesman who described himself in a Philadelphia newspaper interview as a "manic depressive," was picketing for the impeachment of President Nixon.

According to a neighbor of the Byck family in Philadelphia, Byck also was investigated during the 1972 election campaign for allegedly making threats against the President's life.

"The FBI called people about it, and they (the FBI) called me," said the woman neighbor, who asked not to be identified. A spokesman for the FBI in Philadelphia said they had no knowledge of such an inquiry.

But Jack Warner, spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service, said last night that Byck "first came to our attention in October of 1972, when it came to our attention that he had made an alleged threat against the President." Warner said the investigation was resolved in January of last year, when the U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia declined to prosecute.

See BYCK, A10, Col. 1

BYCK, From Al

Byck after he was committed to Philadelphia General Hospital for mental observation.

Warner declined to comment on the nature of the threats allegedly made by Byck against the President.

"I can't get into that," he said.

According to an interview published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Nov. 30, 1973, Byck began picketing the White House last fall after reading a 1968 quote he attributed to Richard M. Nixon, who was then a private practice lawyer.

"I noticed the housewives have been protesting and picketing the supermarkets," Byck quoted Mr. Nixon as saying in 1966.

"The difficulty is that they are picketing the wrong place. They ought to be picketing the White House," said Ralph Temple, an ACLU lawyer, in the Inquirer interview.

"I've got a problem with picketing the White House," Byck told the Inquirer. "I decided to take my commander-in-chief's advice, I painted a sign. It was very obscene. It said, 'Please slow down inflation.' Then I went down to Washington to picket the White House without a permit.

"Sam Byck kind of wandered into this scenario from the sideline," said Temple.

"I decided to take my commander-in-chief's advice, I painted a sign. It was very obscene. It said, 'Please slow down inflation.' Then I went down to Washington to picket the White House without a permit.

"This was one act by a person, a man who obviously must have had a tremendous weight on his mind, if he wasn't mentally disturbed," said Thomas Farrow, FBI special agent for Baltimore, following yesterday's hijacking attempt.

The Maryland state medical examiner's office listed the cause of Byck's death as a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the right temple.

"He would have been a dead duck either way," said Farrow, referring to the two bullets fired by an Anne Arundel police officer that struck Byck in the chest.

For hours after the hijacking attempt was over, Byck was knoced out, the FBI only as a stocky, American caucasian—5 feet, 10 and weighing 250 pounds. He was fingerprinted, and the prints were sent to FBI headquarters here.

A second fingerprint check of military service records provided the name the agents were looking for: Samuel J. Byck, a native of Philadelphia, who had enlisted in the Army in 1954.

His fingerprints matched those of the dead gunman.

Contributing to this story were Washington Post staff writer B. D. Coles and special correspondent Aaron Epstein.