

Bombs, Threats Jolt U.S. Cities

PM 3/14/70

Bomb threats in New York City reached the 400 mark yesterday, but there were no further explosions following those that ripped through three Manhattan skyscrapers Thursday morning.

In Pittsburgh, a heavy explosion demolished a jewelry store and shattered windows in 22 other stores in the East Liberty Mall. No injuries were reported.

Two high schools, one in New York and the other in Appleton, Wis., were damaged by bombs and a bomb threat delayed the Los Angeles departure of one of Trans World Airlines' new Boeing 747 jets. Another scare in Washington caused Secretary of State William P. Rogers to evacuate his office briefly.

New York Mayor John V. Lindsay met with fire and police officials as office buildings throughout his city were being emptied by thousands of workers fearful the threat might be real.

Characterizing the bombings as "repulsive and cowardly," the New York Mayor called for "very tough" state

and federal legislation to cope with the crisis.

A city official, fearful of mass panic, said the bombings were the work of a small group and not the signal of the start of urban guerrilla warfare.

Lindsay said the city has a strict law requiring a license before dynamite can be purchased, but he said he believes explosives are being purchased in rural areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The city is coping with false bomb threats at a rate of one every six minutes, New York officials reported.

The 50-story General Electric Building, headquarters for the firm, illustrated the headache that has plagued employes and city police bomb squad technicians in the bomb scare crisis.

The GE building contains 1,000 workers in the heart of New York City's bustling East Side. When a bomb threat was telephoned there yesterday, all 1,000 persons had to be evacuated from the 50 floors. Then technicians went in for a floor-by-floor search.

See SCARE, A7, Col. 5



Associated Press

Explosion wrecks stores in Pittsburgh shopping center.

SCARE, From A1

Meanwhile, busy Lexington Avenue was closed to traffic while the search was being conducted.

The villain turned out to be a cleaning device that a nervous tenant mistook for an explosive.

The GE incident was one of 30 in which office buildings had to be evacuated within a 24-hour period. In all, 30,000 persons had to troop out of the skyscrapers while the searches were made in vain for bombs. In addition, six New York courtrooms were emptied yesterday when a caller said a bomb would explode at 11 a.m.

City officials said they have not been able to make an accurate count this year of how many bomb threats have been made, but last year the city reported 2,587 threats, more than double the 1,094 of 1967.

The actual explosion is increasing in frequency and intensity in New York where, however, the situation is being handled.

Explosions destroyed the 21st floor of the Mobil Company building Thursday.

In Chicago, a police car was bombed Thursday, slightly damaging the cruiser. Another was hit by a cherry bomb.

Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio reported bomb scares as did Harrison, N.Y., the headquarters of International Business Machines. IBM was one of the firms whose New York

offices were hit by a bomb Thursday.

St. Patrick's Cathedral was also among the New York sites where bomb threats were reported.

Bomb Scare Empties All D.C. Schools

3/14/70
By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writer

All 190 public schools in Washington were evacuated for 35 minutes yesterday afternoon after school officials received more than a dozen telephone bomb threats.

"There were so many threats that we just couldn't ignore them," said acting Superintendent Benjamin J. Henley, who ordered the evacuation. "We're dealing with the lives of children."

There were no explosions and apparently no bombs had been planted, officials said. Virtually all students returned to classes afterwards.

In the morning, groups of Negro teen-agers and young adults visited at least five of the city's 11 regular high schools, urging a student boycott in honor of Ralph E. Featherstone, the 30-year-old black militant who was killed by an explosion in an automobile Monday night near Bel Air, Md.

See **SCHOOLS, A6, Col. 1**

SCHOOLS, From A1

Featherstone was a close associate of H. Rap Brown, who faces trial in Bel Air of inciting to riot and arson stemming from an incident in Cambridge, Md., in 1967.

Officials said attendance at all Washington schools was normal yesterday. Spot-checks by reporters confirmed official assertions that there were no walkouts, although a few high school students appeared to be mixed in with the crowd of about 500 at a mid-morning memorial service for Featherstone at D.C. Teachers College.

Classes at the Teachers College and at Howard University were held as usual. However, Federal City College, Washington's other mostly-black college, was closed.

A memo on the door of one City College building said Featherstone's death "has produced a time of mourning."

But students and teachers, interviewed at schools in several parts of the city, indi-

cated that there was little notice taken of Featherstone's death.

Principals were told by central office administrators that the citywide evacuation of schools was a "fire drill," apparently to avoid spreading panic.

While students were outside school buildings from 1:45 p.m. to 2:20 p.m., many played basketball and, in the elementary schools, games of tag and kickball.

"The fact is that 99 per cent of our kids do in fact want to go to school, and do in fact want to learn," School Board President Anita F. Allen commented later.

"It's possible that only one or two or a handful of people made these calls," she said. "But the whole city should be proud of the 99 per cent of the kids who did not walk out early and who went back to classes when they were told to."

The bomb threats appeared to center around the 13

schools west of Rock Creek Park, the only ones in the city with substantial white enrollments. However, officials said some threats received at school administration headquarters were general—just "a bomb is going to go off at a school"—and others were directed at all-black schools in Anacostia and Far Northeast Washington.

A few schools—including Deal Junior High at Fort Drive and Nebraska Avenue NW—were evacuated for bomb searches in the morning.

But, Henley said, "the threats seemed to be focusing on 2:05 p.m., and rather than take a chance we decided to have all of the schools cleared then."

Only a few schools were searched for bombs during the evacuation. However, a search was made at the school administration building, 415 12th St. NW, which was cleared for about 90 minutes.

Officials said both male and female callers made the tele-

phone threats and that some sounded young and some like adults.

No political statements accompanied the threats, police said.

The mimeographed leaflets passed out at high schools yesterday carried the exhortation:

"Aggression is the order of the day!! Disruption is the order of the day!! The same crackers who miseducate us are the same crackers who killed and murdered our brothers!! Close the schools and take care of business!!"

The same leaflets were passed out on Thursday at McKinley, Roosevelt, Wilson, Coolidge and Spingarn high schools, according to Vincent Reed, the school system's director of safety.

At McKinley, about three-quarters of the students walked out of a memorial assembly for Featherstone on Thursday while friends of the dead black militant gave vitriolic anti-

D.C. Night Club Is Rocked by Blast

An explosion apparently caused by a bomb severely damaged the Celebrity Room, a second-floor night club at 421 11th St. NW, early yesterday:

No injuries were reported, but the explosion collapsed part of the Celebrity Room ceiling, knocked out one wall, broke all second-floor windows, and overturned booths and tables.

Police refused to speculate on the cause of the blast.

However, it was learned yesterday that police recovered

fragments of a timing device and evidence of powerful explosives, perhaps several sticks of dynamite, in the debris after the explosion.

The night club is on the second floor of a three-story building, above a Chinese restaurant and below a store-room.

Samuel Schanker, manager of the night club, which employs striptease performers, said he had "no idea" why anyone would have put a bomb there.

He said the club closed "without incident" at 2:30 a.m.

yesterday and had had "no history of trouble of any kind."

The explosion occurred at 4:15 a.m., about two hours after the night club had closed and only minutes after Officer Kenneth D. Fagin, a first district patrolman, had made a routine check of the building. Police said Fagin was 15 feet from the front door when he heard the blast.

Investigators said it was apparently in the men's room of the Celebrity Room.

Police estimated the damage

at "several thousand dollars" and Schanker said it would be several days before the club could be reopened.

The Am-Chi Chinese restaurant on the first floor received only minor damage in its kitchen, which is underneath the second-floor men's room. Employees said the restaurant probably would be open for business today.

Police discounted the possibility of a gas explosion after two different sets of inspectors from Washington Gas Light Co. found the gas mains in order.

Another Tool for the Police?

The Attorney General has asked Congress to provide federal law enforcement officers with what he calls "a useful new tool for the investigation of criminal activity." This tool would empower the police, armed with a court order, to require anyone suspected of a crime "to submit to nontestimonial identification procedures." The identification would include "fingerprints, palmprints, footprints, measurements, blood specimens, urine specimens, saliva specimens, hair samples, handwriting exemplars, voice samples, photographs and lineups." Whew!

That these would be useful to the police seems beyond question; it is always more convenient to have evidence brought in on a silver platter than to be obliged to go out and collect it. That the furnishing of these forms of identification would be onerous to innocent persons must be equally evident upon a mere recital of the roster. The one consideration has to be weighed against the other.

Ordinarily, a suspect may be subjected to such identification procedures only after he has been validly arrested; and he may be arrested, the Fourth Amendment says, only if there is "probable cause" to believe him guilty of a crime. Under the Attorney General's proposal, the court order requiring "identification procedures" could be issued on the basis of nothing more than "reasonable grounds to suspect" that a person has committed an offense. This sounds to us very much like the "arrests for investigation" which used to be such a commonplace of police work and which were found to be constitutionally invalid and supposedly abandoned a few years ago.

The Attorney General's proposal grows out of some dicta in a Supreme Court opinion by Mr. Justice Brennan last year. Overturning a rape conviction because it was based upon fingerprint identification obtained through an arrest without probable cause, the court remarked that "we have no occasion in this case, however, to determine whether the requirements of the Fourth Amendment could be met by narrowly circumscribed procedures for obtaining, during the course of a criminal investigation, the fingerprints of individuals for whom there is no probable cause to arrest."

The Attorney General has enlarged that slight intimation into a wholesale invitation. Give him a fingerprint, it would seem, and he will take a whole body. What he seems entirely to have ignored, however, is the demand for "narrowly circumscribed procedures." Is the suspect to be allowed a

lawyer during the "identification?" Is a requirement to contribute to the procedure by, say, speaking or offering a sample of handwriting to be regarded as no different from fingerprinting and as entailing no element of self-incrimination? The Attorney General says that the suspect will be under no legal obligation to submit to any interrogation or to make any statement during the period of his appearance. But the police would be more than human if they did not, in such circumstances, "encourage" a suspect to ease his mind of guilt. Would such admissions be admissible as evidence? Can we be confident that when suspects are rounded up more or less at random and put into the custody of the police there will be no return to third degree methods of investigation?

We think the Attorney General is overweighting the scales of justice with police tools. He has gotten, or appears about to get, authorization from an agitated Congress—constitutionally questionable but authorization nonetheless—to tap telephones, bug bedrooms, break into houses without knocking, put people into lineups and interrogate them in police stations without lawyers. Let us catch our breath for a moment and see how these tools work. It may be that a statute to permit the fingerprinting of suspects can be sharpened in such a way as to serve a real law enforcement need without empowering the police to push people around incontinently. But this is not such an instrument.

Oppression usually has innocent origins. It grows out of small sacrifices of principle, out of seemingly slight relaxations of ancient rules. It is as difficult to discern the development of police supremacy in well-meant law enforcement shortcuts as to discern an avalanche in the accumulation of a few boulders and the silent slippage of a little snow on a mountainside in winter. Yet these elements can gather sudden momentum and irresistible force, sweeping aside in the end all the barriers contrived to contain them.

And this is why it seems imperative to challenge and scrutinize with unwearied persistence each assertion of a need for more official authority, each obeisance to expediency, each incursion into privacy undertaken in the name of safety. Power is inevitably self-aggrandizing; each grant of it serves as the justification of another until the accretion of seemingly harmless concessions produces a peril which there are no resources left to overcome. Law enforcement is certainly essential to a government of laws. But it would be folly to forget that the function of law is to assure liberty.

On the Life and Death of Ralph Featherstone

In the face of attempts on the part of law enforcement officers to subtly try Ralph Featherstone posthumously and find him guilty as a wild militant who was blown up by his own bomb, I must speak out in his defense.

In the first place, Ralph Featherstone was among the most dedicated and tireless fighters for the freedom and human dignity of black people that I have known in the civil rights movement. It was my privilege to know and work with him both in the Mississippi COFO Project in 1964 and the Voting Rights Campaign of 1965 in Selma, Alabama.

Persistent and unyielding racism in our country as reflected in the stubborn refusal of whites to grant black Americans freedom from economic exploitation and political injustice has alienated and turned off many of our finest black youth in this country. Ralph Featherstone, against the background of his bitter nonviolent struggle against that kind of racism, had every cause to be among the alienated.

But there is nothing in his background that I know of to suggest that he would resort to the feeble protest of planting a bomb in a building somewhere. His management of the Drum and Spear bookstore here in Washington suggests that his protest had taken a more constructive path of black pride and economic development.

Those who seek a conspiracy in the tragic events of the past two days may find more convincing evidence in circumstances that suggest that Ralph and his companion were murdered as a part of a plot which the perpetrators tried to cover up by bombing an empty courthouse in the middle of the night. It is difficult for me to understand how a blast that blew a car to pieces would leave intact so-called "inflammatory literature." And please, don't expect us to think that the so-called militants who some would have us believe blew the courthouse up would plan it in a fashion that no whites would be in the building at the time.

In recent months and years we have been subjected to tragic acts to kill off, buy off, harass into silence, or intimidate the leaders of the poor and the black so that the black and the poor may become leaderless and divided, confused and malleable, and even more victimized by the owners of capital in our country.

Black leadership will not stand idly by while these tactics of repression are directed at any of our fellow Americans, black or white. We share with the most radical of our youth the goal of freedom and human dignity for black and poor people. We have at times chosen different paths to that goal:

some, the path of violent means to achieve social change; I, the path of nonviolent revolution. I hope we reach our common goal by the path of nonviolence before the path of violence becomes the only alternative. I am painfully aware of the fact stated so eloquently by our assassinated President, John F. Kennedy, that those who make nonviolent revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable. Tactics of repression such as are now being employed against militant blacks can only make impossible the nonviolent revolution we seek and we will not remain silent in the face of it.

THE REV. WALTER E. FAUNTROY.
Washington.

This letter is written in reference to the article about Ralph Featherstone written by Carl Bernstein on Wednesday, March 11, entitled "Bomb Blast Victim Was a Bitter Rights Activist." The article not only misrepresented my feelings and misstated what I said but it was also designed to be divisive and to further divide and confuse the black community. When Bernstein talked to me on Tuesday I told him that I did not want to talk to him about the murder of Ralph Featherstone. He indicated that he didn't want to get into a political type discussion, only my feeling about Ralph as a person, as a human being. I told him that I thought Ralph was "one of the most dedicated, selfless and perceptive black dudes that I had ever met. Furthermore, he had freely given of himself for the liberation of black people." Bernstein then asked me if I thought that Ralph's attitude about the "establishment" had hardened since 1965. I informed him that anyone, including myself and a lot of other young black people who were working on behalf of black people, had to become more alienated and disenchanted because of the racism and the oppression heaped upon black people—even in 1970. Bernstein then asked if I thought that Ralph considered himself a revolutionary. "I don't want to get into that," I said, "but regardless of what Ralph considered himself, he was murdered. And besides I am tired of officials and reporters trying to make it appear as though Ralph was to blame rather than this racist society."

In reading the article, one would never have guessed that the conversation I had with Bernstein and what Bernstein reported were one and the same.

Finally, I hope that black people are not fooled by the irresponsible and racist reporting of Carl Bernstein.

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Washington.