

Bomb Threats Flood D.C., Md.; Rap Brown Said to Be in N.Y.

Offices Evacuated

By Peter A. Jay
Washington Post Staff Writer

Bomb threats in Washington and Maryland yesterday forced the evacuation of public buildings and prompted officials, concerned by two major explosions in as many days, to impose unusually tight security measures.

There were at least nine telephoned bomb warnings in the District of Columbia. In Baltimore police reported 10, and the Prince George's County courthouse was emptied for 90 minutes after a woman told police her husband was "going to blow the 'second floor to bits."

Police reported no progress in pinpointing the cause of the explosion that took the lives of two associates of H. Rap Brown in Bel Air, Md., on Monday night and forced postponement of Brown's trial.

Cambridge, Md., the scene of a blast that ripped open the Dorchester County courthouse early Wednesday, was quiet yesterday. Police appeared to have retreated from an earlier statement that they were seeking a young white woman as a suspect in the case. They said they simply wanted to question the woman.

Generally, police did not view the telephoned bomb threats with unusual alarm, although the occupants of each threatened building were notified and the premises searched. Lt. Col. Thomas S. Smith of the Maryland state police said the threats have become briefly "fashionable" and are expected to subside.

See **THREATS**, A9, Col. 1

Search Report Denied

By Phillip D. Carter
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A high federal official said yesterday he has been told that H. Rap Brown, whose whereabouts have been unaccounted for since at least Sunday, has returned to his Manhattan apartment.

There was no immediate confirmation.

Associates of Brown had either expressed fears for his safety or felt that he was in hiding, since Monday when he did not appear for the outset of a trial in Bel Air, Md.

The official's report came in a response to questions put to him after a Justice Department source said that the FBI has been trying in vain to find Brown for the past two weeks. The official and the FBI denied that report.

A few friends and family members say they have communicated with Brown within the last two weeks. Brown's attorney, William M. Kunstler, said Brown's wife reported that he left his Harlem apartment Sunday afternoon for a leisurely drive to Bel Air, where he is scheduled to stand trial next week.

But the mysterious disappearance of the controversial national chairman of the Student National Coordinating Committee had stirred speculation that he has fled to foreign exile, sought asylum in a foreign embassy, fallen victim to foul play—or has merely decided to drop out of sight until his trial opens.

Charged with inciting to riot and arson after a July, 1967, blaze in Cambridge, Md., Brown originally was expected to appear in Bel Air's Harford County courthouse Monday.

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BROWN, From A1

That night two of Brown's associates died near Bel Air in the massive explosion of a bomb in their automobile.

Maryland state police said they believed the two men were "transporting" the bomb when it exploded. Friends and associates of the two, Ralph Edward Featherstone, 30, of Washington and William Herman (Che) Payne, 26, of Covington, Ky., said they feared the bomb had been planted in the car in an attempt to kill Brown.

The next night, another bomb blew a 20-foot hole in a corner of the Dorchester County courthouse in Cambridge, where Brown's trial had first been scheduled.

But for at least a week before the Bel Air blast, the Justice Department source revealed yesterday, Brown already had been the subject of an unsuccessful nationwide search by the FBI.

The quiet federal investigation into Brown's whereabouts began shortly before March 2, the date a Federal court hearing was scheduled in New Or-

leans. The hearing was ordered in connection with Brown's 1968 conviction there for carrying an M-1 carbine onto an airliner while under indictment in the Cambridge case. Brown was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison and a \$2,000 fine, then released on bond pending appeal.

The hearing, ordered by the Supreme Court, was to examine the Justice Department's acknowledgement that it used wiretaps during its investigation of Brown.

With the Maryland case scheduled to begin March 9, New Orleans' Federal District Court Judge Lansing L. Mitchell conferred with Harford County Judge Harry E. Dyer Jr. and agreed to postpone the Louisiana hearing until after completion of the Bel Air trial.

Brown remains legally free under tight travel limitations imposed by the conditions of his bond in the New Orleans case.

In the Maryland case, he is covered by a \$10,000 appearance bond that he would forfeit if he failed to appear at

his trial. A bench warrant could then be issued for his arrest. Conditions of the \$15,000 Federal bond, by contrast, stipulate that he may not travel outside New York City without the permission of both New Orleans' Judge Mitchell and the U.S. Attorney there, Gerald E. Gallinghouse.

Yesterday both Judge Mitchell and a top assistant to Gallinghouse who is responsible for the Brown case declared that the missing black leader has not been heard from since Dec. 17. His most recent previous reported contact with the court was in July, 1969, when he was denied permission to travel to Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

On Dec. 17, records filed in

the office of the clerk of the New Orleans court show that Brown won official permission for a Christmas holiday visit to Baton Rouge, La. The visit was to last, the records show, from Dec. 20 to Jan. 2, and then Brown was to return directly to New York.

Since then, according to the records, Brown has not sought permission to leave New York City.

Reached yesterday, Judge Mitchell explained that permission for Brown to travel to Maryland for his scheduled court appearances is an "implicit" exception to the conditions of his bond. Thus, Brown could now be present only in Maryland or New York City without inviting arrest and forfeiture of his bond.

Judge Mitchell pointed out that Brown forfeited \$5,000 in bond money in 1968 after he was arrested for traveling to California without official permission. "When he goes somewhere without my permission, then he is liable for another forfeiture," the judge said.

Aside from the Bel Air case and the planned reopening, by Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, of the firearms case, Brown also faces trial for allegedly assaulting a black FBI agent in a New Orleans courtroom hallway during the firearms proceedings.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Horace (Buddy) Rowley III, who assisted in Brown's prosecution in New Orleans, confirmed that New Orleans authorities have not heard from

Brown since his trip to Baton Rouge.

The Associated Press reported yesterday that Kunstler, Brown's lawyer in the Bel Air case, said he had not talked to his client for 10 days.

A lawyer in the criminal division of the Justice Department, Michael Abbell, yesterday confirmed a report that he is "coordinating" the flow of federal information regarding the possibility that Brown has violated the terms of his federal parole.

He explained his role in terms of "a general interest in what's happened to Rap Brown . . . If they find that he's violated his bond, it would be subject to forfeiture and he'd be thrown in jail.

This is a normal situation for people who are on bond," Abbell said.

He refused to comment,

however, on the report that the FBI has unsuccessfully searched for Brown for the past two weeks.

THREATS, From AI

Special precautions were in evidence, however. In Cambridge and in Bel Air, where Brown's trial is expected to begin next week, additional police were on duty. In Annapolis, the State House was filled with extra troopers standing guard in doorways and searching parcels and large handbags carried by visitors.

Police also announced yesterday that 7,000 dynamite detonators were stolen early this week from Ordnance Products, Inc., a private firm in Cecil County, Md. The time of the theft was set at between 4:45 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Officials said they could find no connection "at this time" between the theft and the explosions in Bel Air and Cambridge.

The Bel Air explosion, at 11:42 p.m. Monday, took the lives of Ralph E. Featherstone, 30, of Washington, and William H. (Che) Payne, 26, of Covington, Ky., and Atlanta, as they drove a borrowed car toward Washington.

Although Smith said a full FBI report on the Bel Air explosion would not be ready for several days, police already have theorized that the explosive that shattered the car of Featherstone and Payne was not dynamite. The Cambridge blast also is still under investigation.

State Police Lt. Charles L. Andrew said his men were looking for a suspect in the theft of the dynamite detonators. The suspect was described as a Negro woman, in her 20s, who had been discharged from the ordnance firm but was believed to have kept a key.

While police worked to solve the bombing incidents, an intensive search was on for Brown, whose trial on charges of incitement to riot and to arson in Cambridge in 1967 was moved to Bel Air at the request of the state.

The Associated Press reported that Brown's attorney, William M. Kunstler, said he has not seen his client in 10 days. Kunstler scheduled a news conference here for yesterday afternoon and Brown's wife was to appear, but the attorney abruptly canceled the meeting.

At the same time, Kunstler

and his associates—who in the past have been more than willing to discuss Brown's case—issued a curt statement from their New York office saying they would make no further comment on the case until it reopens on Monday in Bel Air before Harford County Circuit Judge Harry E. Dyer Jr.

"We may have something to say at that time," said Kunstler, who has said regularly that he is worried about his client, the 26-year-old chairman of the Student National (formerly Nonviolent) Coordinating Committee.

Many Negroes, especially politically militant friends of Brown, have said they believe the bomb that killed Featherstone and Payne was planted in the car and was meant for Brown.

The student bar association at the Howard University Law School was sharply critical of police suggestions—never made officially—that Featherstone and Payne were deliberately carrying a bomb that exploded accidentally.

"Impartiality and objectivity," the association charged in a statement signed by its president, Samuel C. Hamilton, have been "conspicuously absent in the Brown case."

Elsewhere in Washington's black community, posters were put up telling visitors to the city for Featherstone's funeral where to find food and lodging. The services, which Kunstler has promised to attend, are scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

In Annapolis, Gov. Marvin

Mandel had legislation introduced in the General Assembly that would increase from six months to five years the maximum penalty for the illegal possession of explosives.

Life Sentence

The bill also would allow a judge to impose a life sentence on a person convicted of illegally blowing up buildings, automobiles or other objects. The governor said he did not know if the bill would have any effect, but declared that "if we can lock a few of them up . . . maybe it will."

At a news conference yesterday morning, Mandel also said he saw no reason why Brown's trial should not be continued. He criticized Kunstler—who opposed moving the proceedings to Bel Air from Cam-

bridge—for suggesting that further trouble can be expected.

"You're never going to have a trial in this country" if trials are canceled because of threatened or feared disturbances, Mandel said.

Commenting on the Cambridge bombing, Mandel said there was "no evidence" to show that extremist groups of any ideology were responsible for the blast.

Differing View

Dorchester County State's Attorney William Yates II, who is prosecuting Brown's case, disagreed. "I think all these cases are related," Yates told United Press International. "I think they are an attack on the judiciary, on court-houses as a symbol."

In Bel Air and Cambridge yesterday, extra police were on duty but observers reported no public apprehension. Local police were reported keeping a close watch on the Havre de Grace home of Judge Dyer, but this was described as a routine precaution.

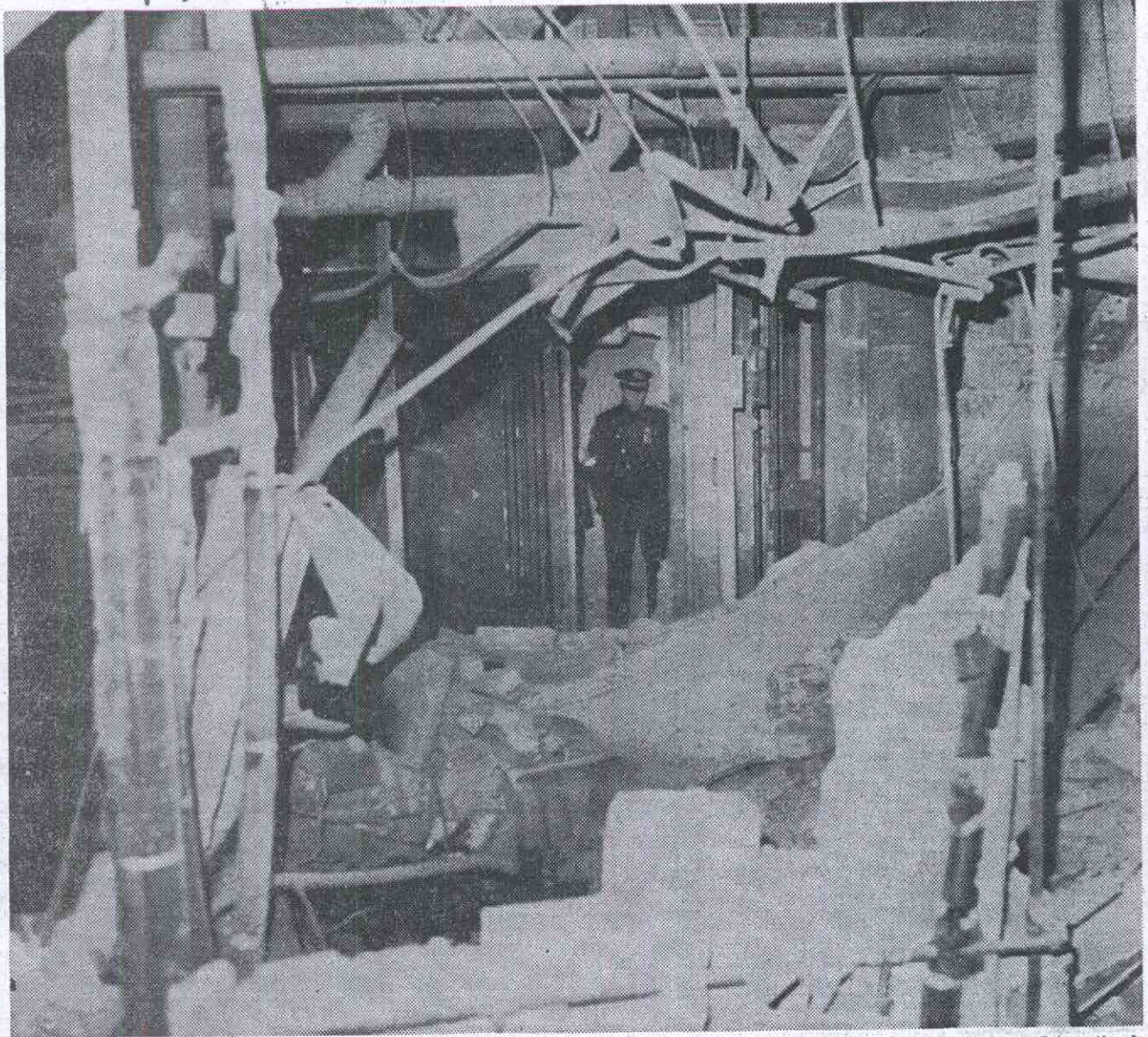
Dyer himself was in Baltimore yesterday afternoon and could not be reached for comment, but sources close to the judge said he has indicated that he expects the trial to go forward as scheduled on Monday.

Monday is reserved for argument on motions. On Tuesday, if Brown is present, selection of jurors is due to begin. Kunstler has maintained that in Harford County, which is 90 per cent white, it is impossible for Brown to receive a fair trial.

In another development, police rescinded suggestions made Wednesday that the suspect in the Cambridge bombing came from New York. This assumption was based on two out-of-state cars seen in the town on the day of the bombing, they said, but one turned out to belong to a visiting businessman and one to a reporter. Neither was implicated in the bombing, police said.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1970

Prot.



United Press International

New York policeman looks into bomb-damaged room in the Socony Building, one of three skyscrapers hit by blasts.

Bombs Rock 3 Manhattan Skyscrapers

From News Dispatches

NEW YORK, March 12—Bombs preceded by a warning phone call caused extensive damage to the Manhattan skyscraper offices of three giant corporations before dawn today, and a letter signed "Revolutionary Force 9" claimed responsibility.

No one was injured in the three explosions, which went off after about 100 night workers were evacuated.

The deep-voiced warning call to police at 1:06 a.m. said the bombs would go off at 1:40 a.m. in the offices of Mobil Oil Corp. on East 42d St., International Business Machines at Park Ave. and 55th St. and General Telephone & Electronics at Third Ave. and 45th.

At 1:40 a.m., the first bomb went off in a 34th floor men's room at Mobil, causing what firemen described as heavy structural damage.

The second explosion came at 1:55 a.m. on the 12th floor at IBM, blasting a 25-foot-square hole in the floor.

The third and most powerful went off at 2 a.m. at the Sylvania Electric division offices of General Telephone. Police said the 21st floor was "totally demolished"; glass from 14 shattered windows littered Third Avenue, and all telephone service above the tenth floor of the 41-story building was knocked out.

The blast came as night watchman Cal Cruz was re-entering the building with 20 night workers he had evacuated after police had relayed the telephoned warning.

The triple bombing recalled a similar series of three explosions last Nov. 11, which damaged the Manhattan offices of Standard Oil of New Jersey, Chase Manhattan Bank and General Motors Corp. Three persons are facing trial on conspiracy charges in connection with those and earlier bombings last fall.

Today's explosions were followed by a flurry of bomb scares in New York and across the nation. Police here reported checking out 137 warning calls by 4 p.m.

See BOMBINGS, A14, Col. 1

Bombs Rock 3 Buildings In New York

BOMBING, From A1

Grand Central Terminal, the New York Coliseum, federal court buildings in Brooklyn and Manhattan, subway trains, Bloomingdale's department store and offices of Litton Industries Corp. and the New York Times were among locations searched and in some cases evacuated.

The claim of responsibility was made in a letter delivered to the New York offices of United Press International. The letter, signed "Revolutionary Force 9," declared that "IBM, Mobile (sic) and GTE are enemies of all life.

"In 1969 IBM made \$250 million, Mobile \$150 million and GTE \$140 million for U.S. 'defense' contracts profits made from the suffering and deaths of human beings. All three profit not only from death in Vietnam but also from Amerikan (sic) imperialism in all of the Third World

In death-directed Amerika there is only one way to a life of love and freedom (to attack and destroy the forces of death and exploitation and to build a just society — revolution."

All three firms closed their offices for the day, although IBM instructed about 600 employees to report to work at an undisclosed location.

IBM also issued a statement calling the bombings deplorable, acknowledging that the Vietnam war "of course is a matter of great concern to everyone," but that "for a company to express its viewpoint by selling or refusing to sell products to our own government surely is wrong. A corporation cannot establish foreign policy . . ."