

2d Bel Air Car-Bomb Victim

By Carl Bernstein
Washington Post Staff Writer

William Herman (Che) Payne, a field worker for the Student National Coordinating Committee, was identified yesterday as the second man killed in an automobile explosion near the courtroom where H. Rap Brown is to be tried.

The identification of Payne, 26, took more than 36 hours because of the mutilated condition of his body. Maryland state police said positive identification was made by the FBI on the basis of fingerprints.

Payne lost both arms, both legs, his jaw and part of his skull in the explosion Monday night that also killed Ralph E. Featherstone, 30, national program director of SNCC.

According to friends of both men here, the two had arranged with Brown, probably over the weekend, to meet in Bel Air, where the indicted SNCC national chairman is to be tried.

Then, the friends said yesterday, they were to drive Brown back to Washington until he had to appear in court, after providing for his safety in Bel Air.

Brown, described by associates as a close friend of both men killed in the explosion, has not been publicly heard from since Sunday afternoon, when, according to his wife, he left New York for Bel Air in a blue Mustang.

Featherstone, who lived at 1650 Harvard St. NW, and Payne both worked with Brown when Brown headed SNCC's Atlanta office and in Alabama, when he was state director of the committee there.

Like Brown, Featherstone and Payne were members of the group that ousted the original leadership of SNCC—claiming the organization maintained too many ties with whites—and installed Stokely Carmichael as chairman in May, 1966.

When Brown replaced Carmichael

named Featherstone national program chairman.

Though not as prominent in the SNCC hierarchy as Featherstone, Payne was known as one of Brown's primary lieutenants, according to friends, and often accompanied the SNCC chairman at public appearance.

A native of Covington, Ky, Payne attended the University of Kentucky and Xavier College in Cincinnati.

During his summers in college, friends said yesterday, he worked as an organizer for SNCC in Mississippi and Alabama, coordinating voting registration campaigns and black education programs.

After dropping out of Xavier in his junior year, Payne spent two years in the Navy, then returned to SNCC as a full-time field worker in the deep South.

Known in Washington for what one acquaintance described as a "general antipathy for whites," Payne became

Identified as SNCC Worker

a close friend of Stokely Carmichael's and often stayed at the former SNCC chairman's home here, according to associates.

Acquaintances recalled yesterday that during a demonstration here last year in which blacks "liberated" the District's Meridian Hill Park and renamed it "Malcolm X Park," Payne interrupted the speechmaking and urged: "Let's go home and get our guns—enough of this talking."

Yesterday, in Covington, Ky., Emma Payne, a hospital supply clerk said of the fourth of her eight children:

"He wasn't any more militant than any of the rest of them. Most young colored boys and girls are militant now. They're just not swallowing what the old folks swallowed."

According to Lester McKinnie Washington director of SNCC, Payne arrived here from Atlanta "a few days ago" in preparation for the Rap Brown trial.

On Monday, McKinnie said, Payne spent part of the day with Featherstone at the Drum and Spear, an Afro-American book store here managed by Featherstone.

Jean Wiley, a neighbor of Featherstone's at 1650 Harvard St., said he came to her apartment shortly after 2 p.m. and asked to borrow her car, a 1964 Dodge Dart.

Miss Wiley, former information secretary for SNCC, said Featherstone frequently borrowed her automobile and thus she did not ask where he was going.

Sometime around 8 p.m., according to McKinnie, Featherstone, accompanied by Payne, closed the Drum and Spear for the night.

Featherstone's father, who lives at 3525 10th St. NW, said his son visited him at home "about 8 o'clock" and then left alone in Miss Wiley's car. The explosion occurred at 11:42 p.m.

Maryland state police said yesterday they found a typewritten note, the

exact text of which follows, on Featherstone's body:

"To Amerika," police said the note began. "I'm playing head-up muder. And I'm playing for keeps cause when the deal goes down I'm gon be standing in your chest screaming like Tarzan, and the loser pays the cut. Dynamite is my response to your justice. Guns and bullets are my answers to your killers and oppressors and victory is my sermon in your death. For my people I'll chase you into pit of hell with both barrels smoking and may the best man win and God bless the loser."

"Power than peace."

Featherstone, who friends say was married several weeks ago, is survived by his wife, Charlotte; his parents; three brothers, and four sisters.

Funeral services for him are scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the Stewart Funeral Home, 4001 Benning Rd. NE, where friends may call after 6 p.m. today.