

BOMBINGS ON RISE OVER THE NATION

Police Say Most Are Caused by Left-Wing Militants, Both Black and White

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, March 12—

The mysterious bombings that have shaken New York and Maryland this week are only the latest in what appears to be a rising wave of such incidents across the nation.

The bombings have been a problem for at least a year, but they appear to have accelerated in recent weeks, causing sharp concern among citizens and investigative agencies in widely scattered cities throughout the country.

In Seattle, for instance, there were 32 bombings in the last year, with more than two-thirds of them coming in the last four months. The damage in Seattle alone was estimated by investigative agencies at more than \$600,000.

In San Francisco, the police report 62 bombings in the last year, with the pace increasing in the last month. On Feb. 16 a bomb exploded inside a police station, killing one officer and wounding five others. Five days earlier a bomb detonated in the parking lot of a police station in Berkeley, injuring two po-

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licemen and demolishing three cars.

In Chicago, a large dynamite charge was found last September in a telephone booth in the Civic Center, housing court and local government offices. On Oct. 6, a bomb destroyed a statue erected in the memory of several policemen killed in the Haymarket Square riot of 1886.

There are just a portion of the hundreds of incidents in many cases the bombers have never been caught. According to the police, however, most of the attacks have been planned by youthful left-wing militants, white and black; a few, the police say, have been the work of right-wingers, including foreign exiles.

The targets have tended to be symbols of the "establishment" and the Vietnam war—corporate offices, police stations, Reserve Officer Training Corps headquarters and other buildings associated with the military.

Law enforcement officials generally agree that the bombings are the work of a very small fraction of the young people who describe themselves as "radical." Moreover, the attackers tend to be highly disorganized and fragmented.

'A Crazy Mixed Bag'

"These are the far-out, violent revolutionaries of the ultra-New Left. We've got a crazy mixed bag," said Charles O'Brien, Deputy Attorney General of California. "I wish they would form a conspiracy, they would be much easier to keep track of and deal with."

The rash of bombings burst into prominence last week when two young people were killed in a blast in a Greenwich Village townhouse, apparently while working with explosives. On Tuesday, two associates of H. Rap Brown, the black militant leader, were killed when explosives ignited in a car they were driving in Maryland.

The next day a bomb exploded in a courthouse in Cambridge, Md., the original site of Mr. Brown's pending trial for inciting to riot. Last night, bombs exploded in three Man-

hattan headquarters of large corporations.

Bombings are not a new phenomenon in this country. Throughout the 1950's and '60's, Negro civil rights workers were frequent targets. The home of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and several black churches were bombed in Montgomery, Ala., in 1956.

On Sept. 15, 1963, a church in Birmingham was bombed, killing five little girls who were attending Sunday school. Attacks were so common in the city that it was called "Bombingham."

Extreme right-wing groups such as the Minutemen have long distributed information to their members on how to make explosives, Mr. O'Brien said. In fact, he added, "It's clear that the ultra left has benefited from the experience and expertise of the right. Their manuals are obviously cribbed wholesale from right-wing pamphlets."

Right-wingers continue to be active. In Denver, recently, dynamite demolished 23 buses used in the city's school integration program. But most of the activity seems to be coming from the left, as these reports from correspondents of The New York Times indicate:

SAN FRANCISCO—In addition to the police attack, an unexploded bomb was found earlier this month in barracks at the Oakland Army Base housing soldiers bound for Vietnam. The same day a second bomb was discovered in a moving freight train headed for a large oil refinery in Martinez.

DENVER—In addition to the school buses, targets in Denver have included the houses of a district judge, a white conservative member of the school board and a Negro who brought a suit demanding school integration.

At the University of Colorado in Boulder, a university police car and a city police car were firebombed earlier this month. The headquarters of the R.O.T.C. was demolished and a Selective Service office in Colorado Springs was also firebombed.

TUCSON, Ariz.—A dynamite charge exploded last month on the sidewalk in front of a building containing four local draft boards. All the windows were broken.

DETROIT—Policemen estimate about 30 incidents in the last year, including dynamite attacks on two police stations. Two draft boards, an Army recruiter, and an Army vehicle were also hit, with little dam-

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age. Explosions also occurred at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in buildings containing the R.O.T.C., the Institute for Science and Technology and the Central Intelligence Agency.

MADISON, Wis. — Last September, \$25,000 of damage was done by a bomb planted in a National Guard armory. In December, several University of Wisconsin buildings were attacked, including a campus landmark — an old red brick gym that houses the R.O.T.C.

Dynamite was found last month outside a plant owned by the Wisconsin Power and Light Company. The incident followed probably the most spectacular attack of all, which occurred when unidentified persons stole a small plane and flew over the sprawling Badger Ammunition plant in Baraboo, 35 miles north of Madison. The plane

dropped two small jars filled with gunpowder but they landed in a snow bank and failed to ignite.

SEATTLE — Outside the university, the home of State Senator Fred Dore, who lived on the fringe of a largely black central district, was badly damaged last month. Senator Dore soon moved to another part of town. Stores throughout the black area have been attacked including one owned by a merchant who had shot an armed intruder.

NEW YORK — Ninety three explosions of various sorts were reported in 1969. In addition the police reported 19 unexploded devices and 2,587 threats. For 1968, the police reported 81 explosions, 1,094 threats and 10 unexploded devices.

Among the most serious 1969 incidents were explosions at the headquarters of the United Fruit Company, the Marine Midland Grace Trust Company and the Selective Service Center on Whitehall Street. Four white youths were arrested and charged with a total of eight bombings.

Twenty-one members of the Black Panthers were also seized on charges of planning the destruction of department stores, a police station, and the New Haven Railroad. Thirteen of the Panthers are now facing trial, and the home of Judge John M. Murtagh, the trial judge, was recently attacked with firebombs.

Students Cheer Fire

In other areas, R.O.T.C.

buildings were bombed at Texas A.&M., Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Oregon. Students at Washington cheered as the fire from a Molotov cocktail raged through the building, and booed when firemen brought the blaze under control.

Police and academic experts offer various reasons for the bombings, but many agree with Dr. John Spiegel of the Lemberg Center for the Study of Violence at Brandeis University, who said:

"The young people have had protests and riots and disorders — they've done everything one can do in the way of peaceful and unplanned protest, and not much has changed. To that degree there is an increasing sense of desperation, and a sense of vengefulness."

Among radical youths, talk of "armed struggle" has been common for some time. For most of them it remains just talk, but followers of the New Left are not terribly surprised that some extreme elements have started bombing.

'Valid Tactic' to Some

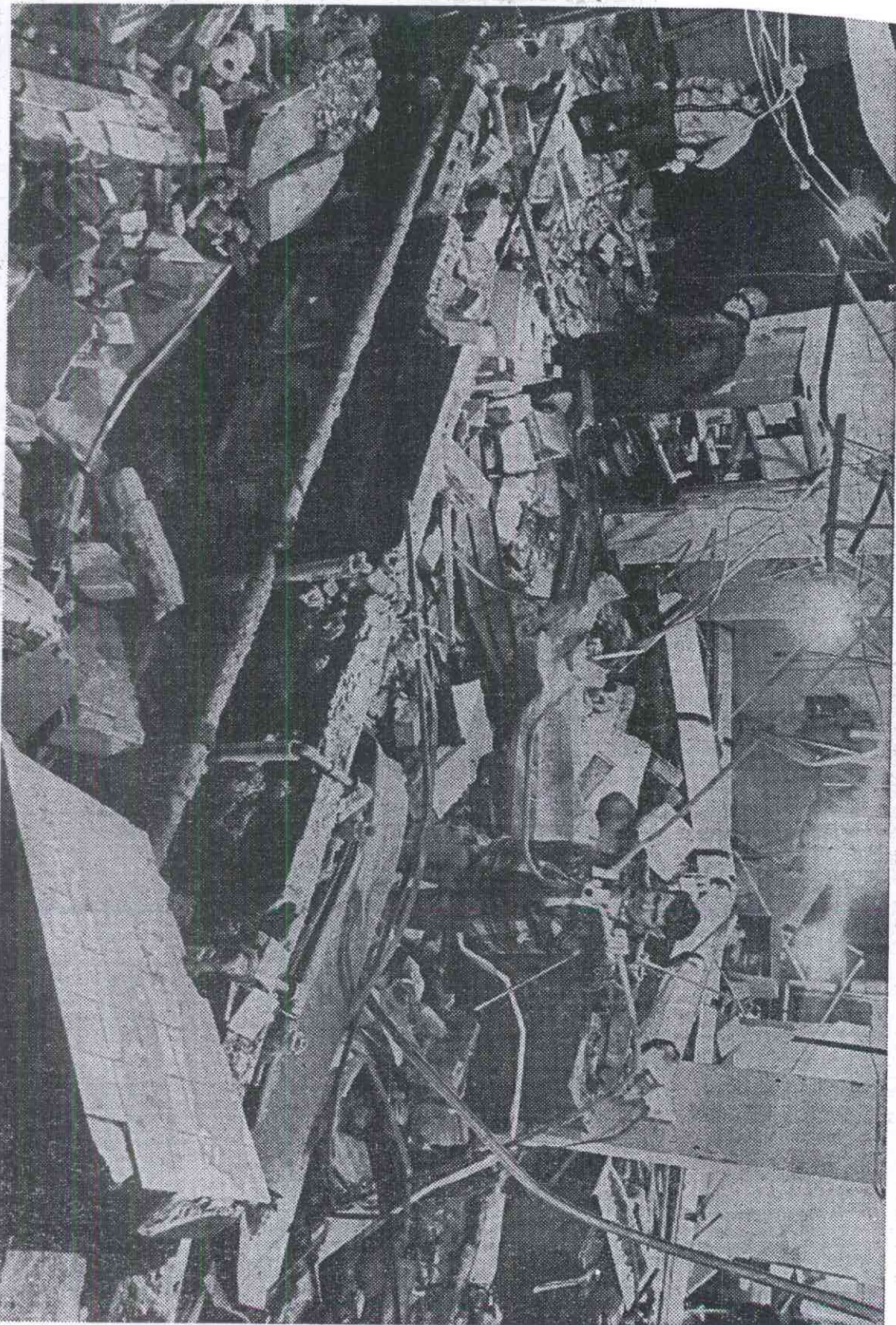
"It's the obvious next step in the escalation of violence," said one observer. Another said: "The bombings have to be seen as part of the climate of violence we've had in this country. Violence seems to be a valid tactic across the board."

Several observers also pointed out that bombings had a contagious effect. As Mr. O'Brien put it. "There is no question that one mad act begets another. Zealots tend to be among the more imitative of people. The attention that a successful explosion gets in the press is the source of envy on the part of many psychos who think, by God, that's the way to do it."

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AFTER IBM BLAST: Members of Police Department bomb squad and workmen search debris in men's room of company's regional office, 425 Park Ave.

The New York Times (by Patrick A. Burns)