

BAXLEY EXPECTING MORE INDICT

Grand jury digs into bombing

BY RON CASEY
News staff writer

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Beginning Monday, a Jefferson County grand jury is expected to hear evidence connecting several more people to the 1963 bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

The explosion killed four young black girls.

Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley said Friday he thinks investigators have enough evidence for several more indictments when the next grand jury is called into session. That jury will convene Monday and hear testimony throughout the week.

Last week a grand jury indictment charged Robert E. Chambliss of North

Birmingham with four counts of murder in connection with the bombing.

It was the first time in the 14-year history of the case that charges had been brought.

"We don't have a whole lot of spectacular new evidence," said Baxley. "It's just that over the last two years, we've been burning some shoe leather."

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again next week

With the help of the FBI and the Birmingham Police Department, we've been assimilating evidence and trying to tie it all together."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, who has been investigating the case since 1971, had praise for L.R. Kirkpatrick, FBI special agent in charge of the Bir-

mingham office, and Capt. Jack LeGrande of the Birmingham police.

"They've put in a lot of time with us on this in the last two years," he said. "The Birmingham police have really stuck to it."

Baxley said Friday that as many as 30 people may have been involved in
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the church blast and other bombings which rocked Birmingham during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

There had been some 20 racially motivated explosions in the city before the church was bombed on Sept. 15, 1963.

"There were about three different groups of people involved in these things," he said. "But members floated from one group to another."

"All the damage this small group of sick individuals did to the reputation of the people of Alabama and the City of Birmingham is unthinkable, when the overwhelming majority of people never condoned their actions."

Most of the people involved were in the Ku Klux Klan or "thought the Klan was too tame and formed their own organizations," said Baxley.

At the time of the bombings most of them were Birmingham or Alabama residents, but in the ensuing 14 years, several have moved out of the state, he said.

BAXLEY WOULD NOT disclose specifics of how the bombings were carried out, but said investigators have a pretty good idea.

"All those things will come out at the trial," he said. "I don't want to prejudice a case against anybody, so I won't comment on them."

He did say that in much of the recent publicity about the bombing cases several theories had been reported. Most of them, said Baxley, either contained errors or were "just plain wrong."