

3 Reportedly Indicted in Bombings in Birmingham

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MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 27—The Alabama authorities were preparing today to obtain the arrest of at least two more individuals who, according to knowledgeable sources, have been indicted in connection with terrorist attacks against blacks in Birmingham in the late 1960's and 1960's.

A third man, Robert Chambliss, 73 years old, a retired automobile mechanic, remained in jail without bond after being arrested last night on a charge that he took part in the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young black girls were killed in the explosion.

Mr. Chambliss's attorney, Art Hanes Jr., of former Mayor of Birmingham said soon after the arrest that Mr. Chambliss "intends to plead not guilty."

Although state law does not permit the authorities to identify indicted persons until they have been arrested, well-placed sources said that one of the men indicted was J. B. Stoner, a lawyer living near Atlanta who has often represented the Ku Klux Klan in litigation. Mr. Stoner, 52, was said to have been indicted in connection with the bombing of the Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham in 1958. The pastor of the church at that time was the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a leader of the Birmingham civil rights movement, who now lives in Cincinnati.

Third indictment
The other person indicted, according to the sources, was Thomas Blanton Jr., 39, whose whereabouts are unknown. Mr. Blanton was said to have been indicted in connection with the 1963 bombing in which Mr. Chambliss was charged.

Any bombing that endangers human life is a capital offense in Alabama, whether it injures result or not, so that there is no statute of limitations.

Alabama authorities close to the case said that they expected a series of special grand jury sessions to be held in coming weeks in Birmingham to consider still other indictments connected with racial terrorism.

The indictments in the two bombings which were among at least 60 acts of terrorism against blacks over two decades, arose from an investigation of hearings by eight years headed by Alabama Attorney General William J. Baxley.

Mr. Baxley was out of the state today in connection with the investigation, although he was not in Georgia. One source said he was in Texas.

Mr. Baxley's investigation was greatly facilitated when the Federal Bureau of Investigation made its file on the case available to him in 1970. Until that time the F.B.I. was reluctant to share its information with Alabama state authorities out of fear that the identities of its informants in the Ku Klux Klan would be disclosed.

Polygraph Results
The information in the files included a report on a polygraph test given to Troy Ingram, a Birmingham man who is now dead. The test reportedly indicated that Mr. Ingram was lying when he denied that he had made a bomb in his home workshop that was later used in an incident of racial terrorism.

The files also reportedly contained information implicating Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Blanton and Mr. Blanton's father, Thomas Blanton Sr., who is also now dead, in the bombings. The group, according to the F.B.I. file, called themselves the Order of Young Mechanics, because most of them worked on automobiles.

The group had close connections with the National States Rights Party, an extremist political organization in which Mr. Stoner has long been active, according to the F.B.I. file.

Much of the information in both the Attorney General's investigation and the F.B.I. files was reported to have come from wives and girl friends of men involved in the terrorism.