

Bombings Across U.S.

'Menacing'

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The Nixon administration said yesterday that terrorist bombings in the United States have reached "menacing proportions," especially on college campuses.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Eugene T. Rossides told the Senate Investigations Subcommittee that close to 5,000 bombings were reported across the country between Jan. 1, 1969, and mid-April of this year — less than 16 months.

Testifying simultaneously before a House Judiciary subcommittee, Assistant Attorney General Will Wilson indicated that legislation calling for federal regulation of the explosives industry will be submitted to Congress next week.

"We cannot tolerate the cost of this in lives, in fear or in dollars," Wilson said of the bombings.

Rossides said the bombings covered in the Treasury survey took more than 40 lives and caused more than \$21 million in property damage. He said that more than half of the cases that law enforcement agencies have been able to pinpoint stemmed from campus disorders.

Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) said he found the student proportion "the most shocking."

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Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) For many children of "affluent America," he said, college seems to feed the proposition that violence is the only way to effect social change.

Rossides agreed. He said he felt college administrators could do much more than they have to discourage such notions.

The Treasury survey, requested by the Senate subcommittee in April, showed 4,330 bombings since the start of 1969, another 1,475 attempted bombings, and 35,129 bomb scares.

Besides these, he said, police officials in Colorado and Southern California reported 1,264 bombings, 27 attempts and 3,445 threats since the start of 1968.

Out of the more than 40,000 bombings, bomb attempts and scares, Rossides said, 64 per cent are of unknown origin.

But for the remainder, he said, police departments blame 56 per cent on campus disturbances and student unrest, 19 per cent on black extremists, 14 per cent on

white extremists and eight per cent on criminal endeavors such as insurance fraud and extortion. He said the other 3 per cent could be traced to labor disputes and attacks on religious institutions.

The tag, "extremist," the Treasury spokesman added for several perplexed senators, is simply meant as a synonym for bomb thrower, whatever his politics.

"If a person is planting a bomb," he said, "I think it's awfully difficult not to call him an extremist."

Molotov cocktails and other incendiary devices accounted for most of the bombings, Rossides testified, but he said about 1,000 involved the far greater hazards of high explosives such as dynamite.

Rossides indicated that the proposals calling for federal controls over the manufacture and use of high explosives would be administered by the Interior Department's Bureau of Mines. The legislation has been developed by an interdepartmental task force under White House direction, he said.

Rossides also contended at

the hearing that the Treasury Department had been given a bum rap on inquiries by some agents at public libraries in three cities about the readers of certain books on explosives.

He called these "isolated instances of agents who may be overzealous in their duties," and said the Treasury Department was strongly opposed to any government scrutiny of the general public's reading habits.

Declaring that no such in-

quiries had been prompted by his subcommittee, Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) added that "a general snooping expedition would be condemned by any right-thinking person."

Rossides later told a reporter that Treasury was still trying to ascertain what prompted individual agents in the farflung cities—Atlanta, Milwaukee and San Francisco—to make the library checks around the same time.