

C-R Activist Linked To Bel Air Explosion

F.P.W. 3/13/70
CAMBRIDGE, Md. (AP) — The Maryland State Police said Thursday that the description of a young white woman sought in connection with the explosion in the Cambridge courthouse is similar to that of an East Coast civil rights activist known to the FBI.

A description circulating among Cambridge officials indicated that the young woman seen around the courthouse after it closed for business Tues-

day afternoon wore a miniskirt, sunglasses, had long black hair, and had an Army-type satchel over her shoulder.

She was also reported to be driving a car with New York license plates.

Gov. Marvin Mandel told his weekly news conference the state police knew the license numbers.

Col. Thomas Smith of the State Police said the woman's description is similar to one re-

ceived from the FBI of a New York activist who had lived in Baltimore and was the subject of an FBI flyer last year.

In an other development, the police reported that 7,000 dynamite detonators were stolen earlier this week from an ordnance company in North East, Md., located between the sites of two explosions this week. State Police said they were looking for a Negro woman in the Wilmington, Del., area to question about the theft.

Smith said he did not believe "at this time" that the theft was related to the two bombing incidents.

A car explosion late Monday night near Bel Air took the lives of two friends of H. Rap Brown, the black militant on trial there for inciting to riot and arson in Cambridge in 1967.

One of the men has been identified as Ralph E. Featherstone, 31, an official of the Student National (formerly Non-violent) Coordinating Committee.

Further FBI evidence obtained Thursday has strengthened the tentative identification of the second man as William H. Payne, 26, a former S.N.C.C. worker and friend of both Brown and Featherstone, Smith said.

There has been some confusion concerning the FBI identification because Dr. Werner U. Spitz, deputy chief medical examiner for the state, maintained that the teeth of the dead man did not match those in Payne's Navy medical records. Spitz is waiting further Navy records for positive identification.

The tentative identification had been made from the little finger of part of a hand found at the car explosion scene. Dr. Spitz said the FBI also had confirmed Payne's fingerprint from a thumb.