

# Who Are Weather People?—Ask FBI

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A Weatherman is hard to find. Just ask the FBI.

A year ago the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, told the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations that 22 members of the radical Weather People organization were federal fugitives. They still are.

No one seems to know how many Weather People there are, or if they exist as a cohesive terrorist group. Or, for that matter, no one seems to know if other radicals, unaffiliated with the Weather People, tag the more well known group with responsibility for such acts as the bombing at the Pentagon early yesterday.

"Weatherman Underground No. 12" was how a

man who called newspapers about the Pentagon bombing identified himself as he announced what had just happened at the Pentagon. Thus, it can only be presumed that the blasting of a women's restroom in the fourth floor of the Pentagon might be the work of a cell—cell number 12?—of the violent Weatherman group, which broke from the Students for a Democratic Society in 1969 and decided to bring the Vietnam war home with offensives on what they call "Amerikan" soil.

The group took its name from the line, "You don't need a weatherman to tell which way the wind blows," in the song, "Subterranean Homesick Blues" by Bob Dylan.

A year ago, letters signed "Weather Underground" were sent to the Associated Press and the New York Post claiming responsibility for the March, 1971, bombing of the U.S. Capitol Building.

Well know Weather People—a name adopted by the group after women members objected to the first name of the group, Weatherman—severed virtually all contact with others in the spring of 1970.

The older brother of one of the fugitive Weathermen said yesterday that his Weather brother visited his father and brother shortly after the "Days of Rage"—the street violence in Chi-

cago in October, 1969. Since then, said the brother, his brother has made no contact with his family.

"They've disappeared completely," said the brother, who has been living in Montreal for several years.

Given the closeness of the two brothers, the lack of contact between them probably indicates that the Weather People have gone deeply underground.

Some persons interviewed yesterday speculated that, given the Weather People's continual successful evasion of the FBI, they may have "gone under" by coming above—cutting their hair and getting straight jobs in straight society. Perhaps they even work in the Pentagon, suggested one person.

The Weather People organization was born out of sharp disagreement among radicals at the students for a Democratic Society convention in June, 1969.

Local collectives went to Chicago in October and battled with police in four "Days of Rage." Indictments followed—35 Weathermen were indicted on various charges, such as aggravated battery and resisting arrest, then 12 Weathermen were indicted for conspiring to cross state lines to incite the October, 1969, "riots."

As indictments were handed down in 1970 in Chicago, Detroit, Seattle, Cambridge and New York

against Weather People, the underground grew.

After a January, 1970, "war council" meeting of 400 Weathermen in Flint, Mich., Weathermen leaders advised members to forget national "offensives" and go home to build their party on the cell system.

An event that added to the underground population, and also killed three Weather People, was the explosion in a Greenwich Village town house in March, 1970. New York police said the town house was a Weather People bomb factory.

By the end of 1970, though, Weather Woman Bernadine Dohrn, indicted in the Chicago "Days of Rage" case, wrote from the underground that "we've called off the military error."

Referring to her own underground collective's decisions at that time about violence, she wrote, "We became aware that a group of outlaws who are isolated from the youth communities do not have a sense of what is going on, cannot develop strategies that grow to include large numbers of people..."

The Weather fugitives have so far thwarted the FBI. Currently seven of the 12 persons on the FBI's "ten most wanted" list are leftists charged with federal crimes. The list was expanded beyond 10, in 1970, to make room of the names of Weather People indicted in Chicago.