

INVESTIGATIONS

The "East Coast Conspiracy"

With rare exceptions, J. Edgar Hoover maintains tight silence about the FBI's investigations in process. Last week he broke that silence before a Senate appropriations subcommittee to tell of a terrorist "conspiracy" involving radical Catholic priests and nuns.

Hoover told the committee, which was considering an appropriation to expand the FBI, that followers of Philip and Daniel Berrigan, the priests now jailed for destroying draft records (TIME, Aug. 24), planned to "kidnap a highly placed Government official. The name of a White House staff member has been mentioned as a possible victim."

The ransom was to be "an end to United States bombing operations in Southeast Asia and the release of all political prisoners." The organization, "East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives," also intended to blow up underground electrical lines and steam pipes in Washington, Hoover said, "in order to disrupt Federal Government operations."

Then Hoover turned to the Black Panther Party, warning that the newly opened Panther office in Algiers was a symbol of growing ties between the radical group and Arab terrorists. Hoover

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HOOVER AFTER HEARING
A plot or an appropriation?