

# Blast Rips 3 State Offices

By Baron Muller  
and Jerry Belcher

Powerful time bombs ripped State offices in San Francisco, San Mateo and Sacramento early today in apparently coordinated terrorist attacks.

In San Francisco — where a bomb went off in the Department of Corrections office in the historic Ferry Building — an anonymous caller said the device was planted "in defense of Jackson."

A letter delivered to The Examiner this morning opened with a quotation from George Jackson, the "Solead Brother" shot to death in the abortive breakout from San Quentin Prison a week ago today.

### 'Racist Forces'

The letter said in part: "On Saturday, August 21, 1971, George Jackson, Black warrior, revolutionary leader, political prisoner, was shot dead by racist forces at San Quentin . . . Tonight the offices of the California prison system in San Francisco and Sacramento were attacked. One outraged response to the assassination of George Jackson."

The five-page letter went on to attack the prison system and list black grievances against "slave masters" and "colonialists."

The typewritten, photocopied document was signed: "Weather Underground."

### Weatherman Boast

In Sacramento, the radical Weatherman group claimed credit for the explosion

which blasted the Department of Corrections office in a 17-story tower near the State Capitol. The bomb in San Mateo — first in the series — exploded in the State Department of Rehabilitation office.

There were no injuries in any of the attacks, but extensive damage.

The San Mateo explosion was at 12:07 a.m. The Sacramento blast at 2:02 a.m. and the Ferry Building explosion at 2:09 a.m..

### Ferry Building

Damage on the second floor of the Ferry Building was estimated at more than

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\$50,000. No damage figures were immediately available from San Mateo or Sacramento.

In San Francisco, there were two warning calls at almost the same moment — just minutes before the bomb exploded. One came from a "very excited young man" and the other from "a calm woman."

The call from the woman was traced to a telephone booth in the parking lot of Ott's Drive In at Bay and Jones Streets. But no suspects have been apprehended either here or in San Mateo or Sacramento.

The Ferry Building blast demolished a psychiatric out-patient clinic for parolees operated by the Department of Corrections.

### False Ceiling

Inspector Don Hansen, the police bomb expert, said the device was planted in a three foot high crawl-way above the false acoustic tile ceiling.

He said the explosion destroyed all evidence of the bomb itself but he theorized that it was made of dynamite with some kind of timing device.

Hansen also theorized that it required at least two people to plant the bomb.  
TR 2d add

Although the main force of the explosion was downward, it was so powerful that it also caused damage to the third floor office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control, where it blew a door off a refrigerator.

### Newspaper Got Call

The call from the young man was made to Helen Garrick, switchboard operator at The Chronicle. She kept notes on what the caller said:

"There is a bomb in the Ferry Building. It will go off in 15 minutes. They are doing this in defense of Jackson. A written explanation of this will be received by you in the mail. It was dropped in the mailbox at 4th and Mission. Be sure and have the Harbor Police and The City police clear the area."

The other call was made by a woman and was received by operator Mary Putnik in Pacific Telephone's McCoppin Exchange building.

The "calm, deliberate" voice told her: "There is a bomb in the Ferry Building . . . have the Harbor Police and The City Police clear the area. It will go off in five to 10 minutes."

### Simultaneous

Both calls were logged at 1:52 a.m. Both operators immediately alerted police.

Lt. Bob Mucci, Sgt. Elmer Shenk and Officers Tom Horan and Kenneth Scalmanini of Central Station rushed to the Ferry Building.

No one was in the vicinity. The building itself had been locked up at midnight and the officers were trying to get keys from Harbor Police when, at 2:11 a.m., they heard the dull, muffled explosion.

The clinic and an adjoining office — located toward the rear of the building — were so thoroughly wrecked, Hansen said, that it was difficult to say what kind of equipment and fixtures it contained.

There was no fire following the explosion.

The explosion in San Mateo

guttled the ground floor of the two story Department of Rehabilitation offices at 450 Peninsula Ave. There was no warning before this bombing.

#### **Tallest Building**

In Sacramento the blast rocked the 17 floor tower — tallest State government building in the city. The blast demolished rest rooms adjacent to the sixth floor Department of Corrections office.

Water pipes were ruptured, cascading water down to offices on lower floors.

An anonymous caller phoned a warning minutes before the detonation. "This is a Weatherman," the caller said. "There's a large explosive device at 714 'P' Street. Don't move it."

A few hours after the explosion, police and State demolitions experts removed a box about 4 by 18 inches from the fifth floor and destroyed it. They refused to comment on what the box was or why they had searched the fifth floor.