

SF EXAMINER

17 JUN 70

New FBI Building --Costliest of All

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The price of the most expensive government building ever — a new headquarters for the FBI — has gone up by \$5 million. Meanwhile, all that is visible at the site is a massive hole.

The General Services Administration, the federal government's housekeeping agency, acknowledges it has revised its estimate of the building's cost to \$102.5 million.

Cost of the 11-story structure, scheduled for completion in late 1973 or early 1974, originally was set at \$97.2 million. The next most expensive government building in the nation is the 4 year old, \$87 million Rayburn House Office Building.

Rising Costs

The FBI's new building, across Pennsylvania Avenue from its present headquarters in the Justice Department, has been subject to some of the same forces that hiked the Rayburn price —

rising construction costs and delays in letting contracts.

For example, a GSA spokesman said, original plans called for completing the block-square building's substructure to ground level by November or December of this year.

Instead, a bid for that phase has not yet been let and revised plans call for completion to ground level in February or March of 1971, he said.

Excavation

Excavation of the site was begun in late 1967 by Norair Corp., of Washington, D.C., under a \$10.8 million contract calling for completion of half of the three underground floors.

As recently as last March, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told a House appropriations subcommittee the substructure would be complete through the floor of the second basement by May. Finishing touches were put on that phase last week.