

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1968

10 ARE INDICTED IN BOMBING PLOT

Bowers Among the Whites Charged in Mississippi

Special to The New York Times

JACKSON, Miss., April 10—

Ten men, including a lawyer and a state official of the Ku Klux Klan, were indicted here today by the Hinds County grand jury in a racially connected bombing here last year.

Nine of the 10 men, among them Sam H. Bowers Jr. of Laurel, Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, were arrested this afternoon and were being held in \$10,000 bail.

Bowers was convicted last October in Federal court in Meridian for conspiracy in the slaying of three civil rights workers at Philadelphia in 1964.

He has also been indicted by the state and Federal Government on charges arising out of the fire-bombing death in 1966 of Vernon Dahmer, a Negro leader in Hattiesburg.

All of the 10 men face prosecution under a state law of 1947 that provides a maximum penalty of death for the unlawful use of explosives to bomb a building that is normally occupied by individuals.

A Rumor Circulated

The state indictments charged the 10 with bombing of the Blackwell Real Estate office here during the night of March 7 after rumors were circulated that the real-estate operator had sold homes in a white neighborhood to Negroes.

Later last year, night rider bombings also damaged a synagogue here, the home of the

rabbi, and the home of a leader in biracial church programs. Nobody was injured in the bombings.

After the indictments were announced today, the Hinds County sheriff's office confirmed that officers accompanied by four demolition experts brought in from Fort Rucker, Ala., had gone to a farm site near here to find a large cache of dynamite. The explosives were reportedly on the property of a relative of the indicted men.

District Attorney Jack Travis attributed the indictments to a combined Federal-state effort. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was known, had been working closely with the Jackson police and the Hinds County sheriff's office on the series of bombings.

Among the men indicted were J. L. Harper, 24 years old, a self-employed painter who last year was arrested and charged with possession of 115 sticks of dynamite; Daniel Hawkins, 24, also a painter; Harry Lee Kelley, 34, a lawyer; Burris Dunn Jr., a cash register company employe; L. E. Matthews, 44, an electrical contractor whom the F. B. I. identified as the former Province Giant of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan; William T. Pickle, 42, an employe of the State Highway Department, Jimmy G. Copeland, 33, a salesman, and William Henry Watkins, 38, a former circulation man for The Jackson Clarion-Ledger.

One of the 10 men named in the indictment had not been arrested as of late this afternoon.

Upstate Atom Plant Proposed

The New York State Electric and Gas Corporation has applied to the Atomic Energy Commission for a permit to build a nuclear power plant on a 900-acre site 13 miles northwest of Ithaca.