

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1970

Cost of F.B.I.'s Unbuilt Center Rises by \$5-Million

WASHINGTON, June 22 (AP)—The price of the most expensive Government building ever—a new headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation—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. The cost of the 11-story structure, scheduled for completion in late 1973 or early 1974, was originally set at \$97.2-million.

The next most expensive government building in the nation is the four-year-old, \$87-million Rayburn House Office Building. That structure, ex-

clusive of the underground parking garage and furnishings that added millions more to the final costs, had been expected to cost \$64-million when commissioned in 1958.

The F.B.I.'s new building, across Pennsylvania Avenue from its present headquarters in the Justice Department, has been subject to some of the same forces that sent up the Rayburn price-rising construction costs and delays in letting contracts.

To Ground Level In '71

For example, a G.S.A. spokesman said, the 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 of the site was begun in late 1967 by the Norair Corporation of Washington under a \$10.8-million contract calling for completion of half of the three underground floors.

As recently as last March, J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. director, told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the substructure would be complete through the floor of the second basement by May. Finishing touches were put on that phase earlier this month.

The F.B.I. has not gone out of its way to publicize its new headquarters. Mr. Hoover's March testimony, given in secret and released several

months later, contained his first known public reference to a completion date for the building.

"While the G.S.A. has not given any estimated occupancy date for the building," Mr. Hoover said, "its schedule calls for the obtaining of funds for the above-ground portion with completion estimated as being in the calendar year 1974."