

Bomber May Have Used Weatherman Title in Blast

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By LES LEDBETTER

The possibility that those who say they bombed the Pentagon may not have a historical claim to the title "Weatherman," was raised yesterday by a number of long-time radicals.

These individuals, who declined to be identified, said that almost all current radical ideology insists that women be treated on an equal basis with men.

They pointed out that the radicals who took over remnants of the Students for a Democratic Society in June, 1969, under the name Weatherman, changed their group name to Weatherpeople in early 1971 and signed all subsequent communiques with that organizational name.

"This represented a belated recognition of the role women were playing in their organization," one nonviolent radical commented. "In fact, women were the backbone of it at one point."

Whether this latest bombing is the work of the Weatherpeople or the act of a new group or several individuals, none of the radicals interviewed would say.

Tactics Consistent

But what was made clear was that the target selection and the tactics employed were consistent with previous acts by various minorities in the radical left who have regularly advanced the theory that violence, not demonstrations, is the only way to change society.

Violence as a necessary means of increasing "the cost of empire" was the thesis advanced in June, 1969, by a tightly knit group of participants at the S.D.S. national convention in Ann Arbor, Mich.

They took their name from a line from a song by Bob Dylan, "Subterranean Homesick Blues," which states, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows" and issued a long position paper calling for overt action. They broke with moder-

ates and Maoists who believed in demonstrations and alignment with union workers.

Declaring themselves an "out-law vanguard" and apparently seeking to convince blacks, Puerto Ricans and white working class youths that they could be revolutionaries, Weatherman grabbed headlines in October of 1969 when local chapters, or collectives, spent four "Days of Rage" rampaging through downtown Chicago.

Struggles Within Group

A series of ideological struggles within the group, and the prompt attention of law enforcement agencies after this forced most of the collectives to go underground and act secretly and almost independently of each other.

During the last three years the Weatherpeople or Weather Underground have been indicted in Detroit on charges of conducting a bombing campaign in major American cities. They have been connected with a number of bombings across the nation and in New York City, including the June, 1970, bombing of police headquarters at 240 Centre Street.

Most of the bombings were attributed to the Weatherpeople because of notes or telephone calls from persons saying they speak for the organization or allied groups.

Then, on Jan. 19, 1971, Bernardine Dohrn, the 30-year-old fugitive who had been a spokeswoman for the militants, issued a statement suggesting that the Weatherpeople were considering tactics other than bombings and terrorism.

The statement said that the death of three young radicals in a Greenwich Village townhouse nine months earlier "forever destroyed our belief that armed struggle is the only real revolutionary struggle."

Calling for rallies and mass actions, Miss Dohrn, did not renounce violence but seemed to imply Weatherpeople no longer found that tactic productive.