

SFCronicle JAN 30 1975

JAN 30 1975

# Stocks Up

Stock prices were broadly higher yesterday on the New York Stock Exchange, with the Dow Jones average closing at 705.96, up 11.19, the sixth gain in a row.  
Details on Page 48

# Oakland Bomb Exploded

## After a Dramatic Search

### Experts Find Device

### In 7th-Floor Ceiling

### --It Starts to Tick

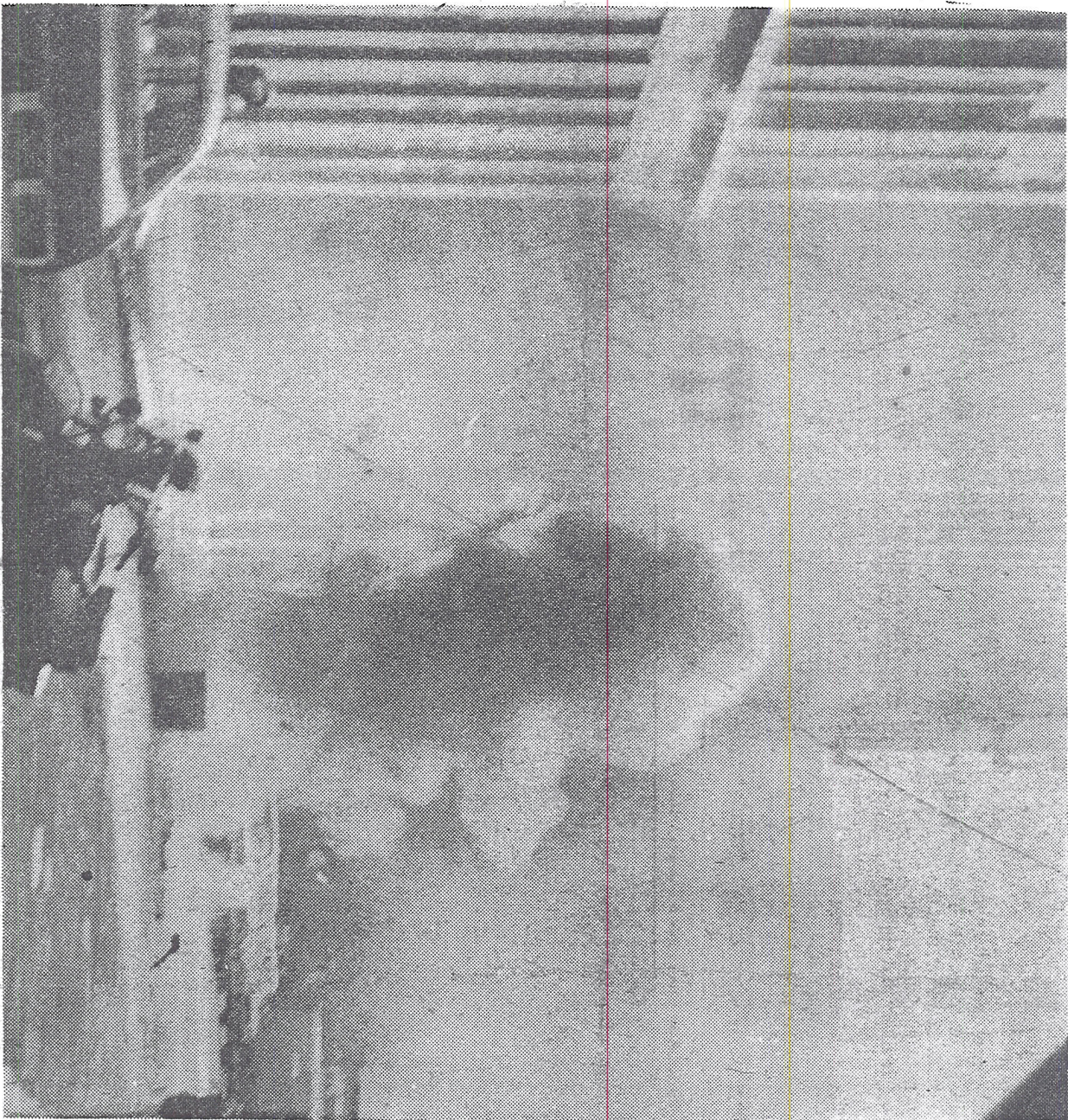
A powerful bomb, whose timing mechanism had failed, was found in a false ceiling in the Oakland Federal Building yesterday and was deliberately detonated on the street with loss of only a few shattered office windows.

The device had been secreted by the terrorist group known as the Weather Underground. It had been set to discharge simultaneously with the explosion that caused heavy damage to the State Department headquarters in Washington at 1 a.m., Washington time.

In telephone messages to the media Tuesday night in San Francisco, New York, Washington, Seattle and Los Angeles, callers said the two explosions were to protest America's policies in Southeast Asia.







*Photos by Clem Albers*

**Defonator was placed under tub with bomb (above) and set off with a tremendous blast**

One of the calls was received at The Chronicle. It came from a well-spoken young female, who said that a "political statement" by the Weather Underground would be found in a telephone booth at the service station at Fourth and Howard streets. Other copies were in phone booths at McAllister and Leavenworth streets and Post and Stockton streets.

"Tonight we attack AID (Agency for International Development) in the State Department in Washington, D.C., and the Department of Defense in Oakland, California," said the statement.

"Through them, the U.S. government continues to wage war against Vietnam and Cambodia. Unable to resolve the deepening crisis and suffering at home, the imperialists mobilize for further war."

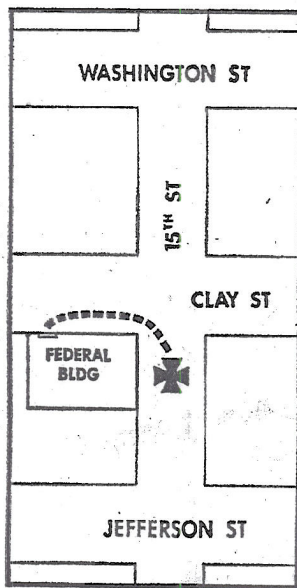
The bomb in Washington went off as scheduled, but there was no explosion at the Oakland Federal Building at 15th and Clay streets, focus of violent anti-draft riots in 1967.

Bomb experts of the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, and the Federal Protective Service that guards government buildings, decided on their own not to go through the Oakland structure until 6 a.m.

At 11:30 p.m., a woman

*Back Page Col. 2*





Route of the bomb squad as it left the building.

**From Page 1**

caller to a local television station said somewhat desperately: "For God's sakes, don't let anybody go in there. The bomb's still there. We don't know why it didn't go off. If it doesn't go off by 6 a.m., we'll call back."

At 5:45 a.m., a call to an Oakland newspaper said: "We don't know what happened. The bomb didn't go off. It is on a ledge across from room 728. It's very powerful."

But officials feared a pos-

**Bomb jitters in Washington, D.C. — see Page 9**

sible trap and began a careful search of the nine-story structure.

Squads of federal and local officers closed off streets for a block around, while bomb experts went to work.

With them was a German shepherd dog, Baron, belonging to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department and trained to detect explosives by smell.

The searchers methodically examined the building from the basement up. They had been dubious about the message that said the device was on the seventh floor, but when they approached the stationery storage room across from Room 728, Baron became agitated.

In the storage room, a member of the Naval Explosion Disposal Unit from Treasure Island raised a piece of sound-proofed ceiling and flashed a searchlight.

"He found a metal box about the size of an attache case," said Charles Nixon, a spokesman for the Navy division. "When he lifted it to take it to the floor, it began ticking."

The bomb was put in a covered metal tub that was suspended from poles by nylon netting so that no jarring would be transmitted to the tub.

Two men carried it to an elevator and as they started out the front door the suspending webbing either slipped or broke and the tub fell to the ground. The men ran for their lives, but in a few minutes returned to drag the container by rope to the center of the street.

The metal box in its plastic cover, containing the bomb was still ticking as it was placed on the pavement. A detonator was put beneath it and then a special blanket that muffles explosions was thrown over it.

The first attempt to set off the bomb resulted only in a small fire that burned the plastic cover. A second device was placed beneath the bomb, and this time there was a tremendous explosion.

"If it had gone off in the confined interior of the building, it could well have torn out a corner of the seventh floor," said Nixon. "It was very powerful."

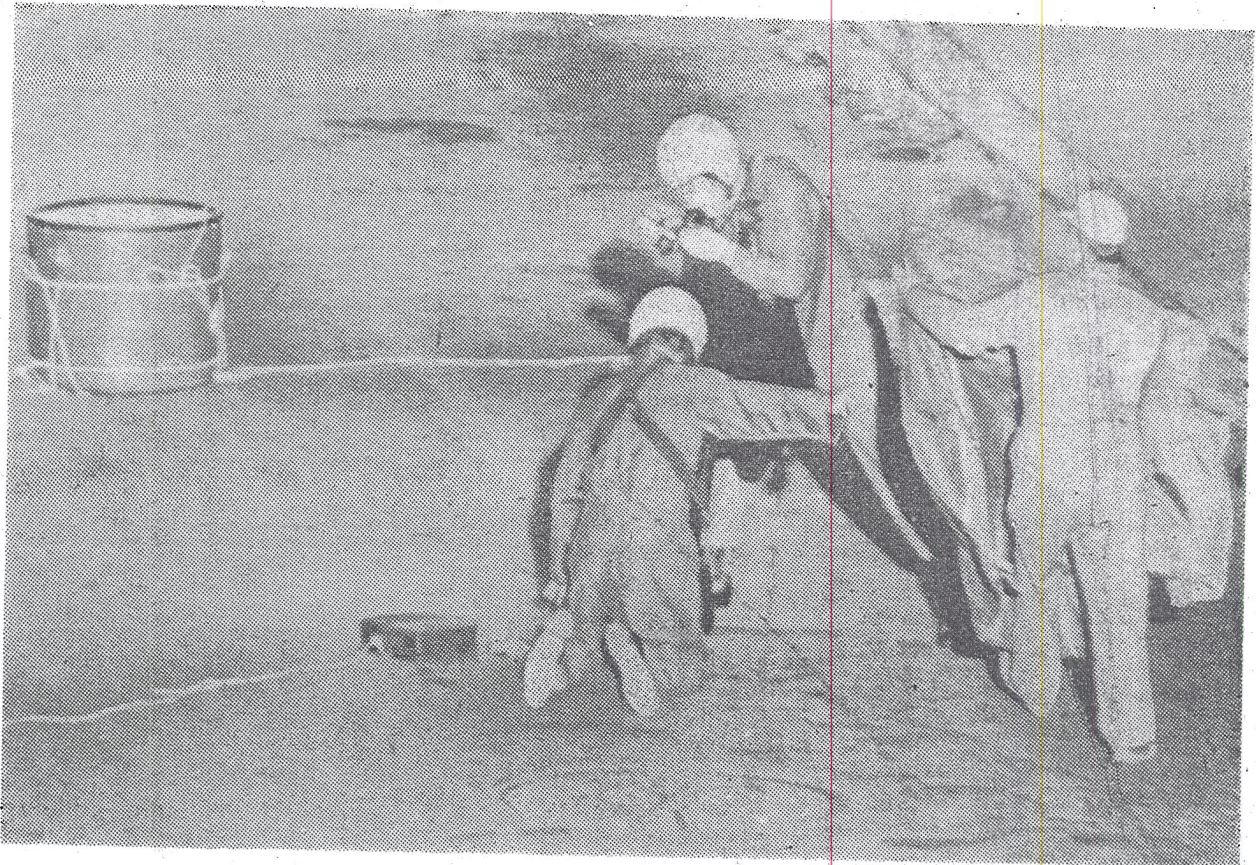
The only damage was a broken window on the second floor of the Federal Building and two shattered panes on the third floor of a private commercial building across Clay street.

The Weather Underground splintered from Students for a Democratic Society in the late 1960s. It was originally known as The Weatherman, a name taken from a line in a song by Bob Dylan, "Subterranean Homesick Blues," which says: "You don't have to be a weatherman to know which way the wind blows."

The FBI believes the group has no more than 30 members, most of them college-educated whites from upper middle-class families. They have been involved in at least five previous bombings throughout the country, including an explosion in the U.S. Capitol in 1971.

Three members of the organization died in a New York townhouse blast in 1970, apparently while fashioning bombs.

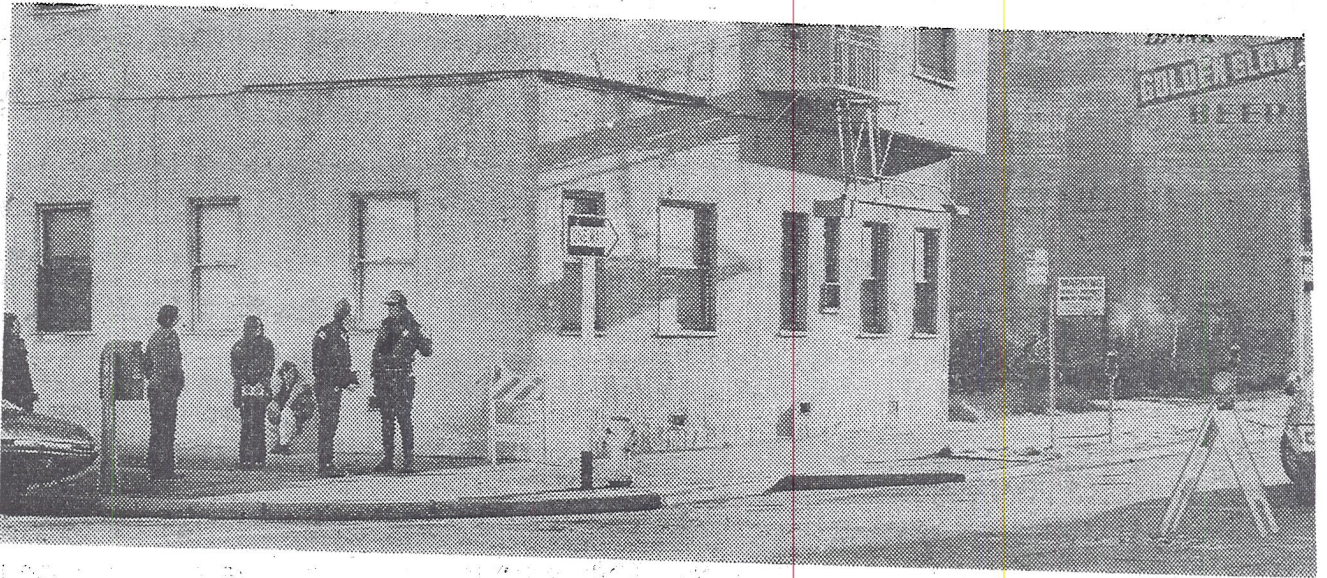




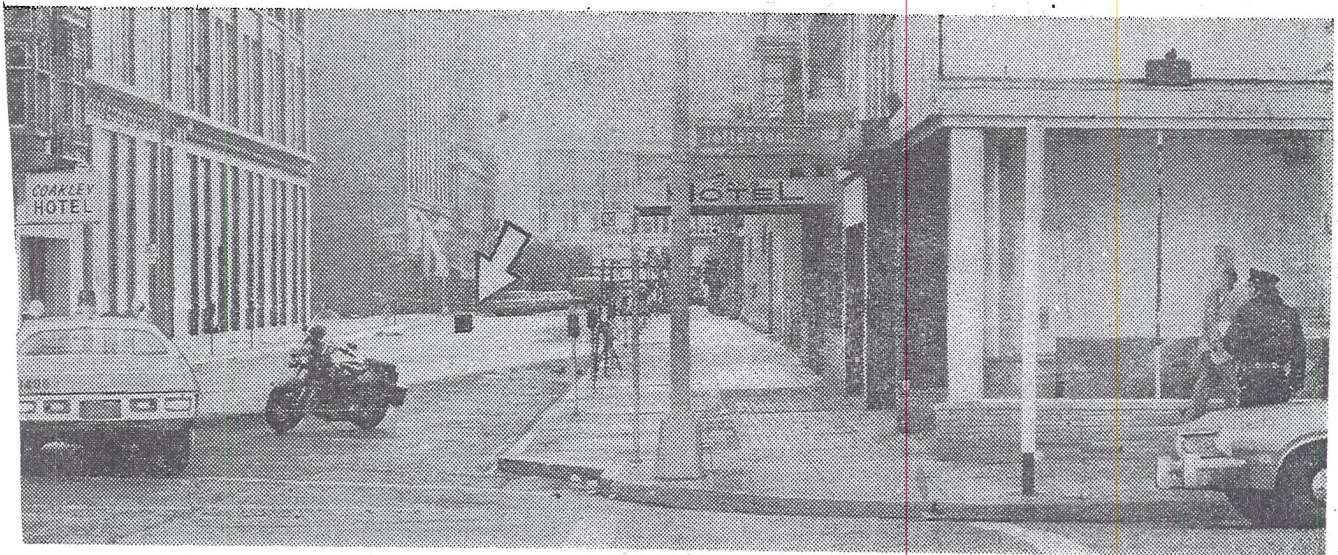
One member of the bomb squad photographed the device, another held a blast blanket

UPI Photo





Arrow shows the bomb in the tub before demolition experts detonated it.



The tub was in the middle of 15th street outside the Federal Building