

3 Wounded**Bizarre Battle
At Doorway of
Federal Building***By Drew McKillips*

The persons, including an FBI agent, a U.S. Senate Watergate investigator, and a Hunters Point youth, were wounded during a knife attack and shooting in front of the Federal Building here yesterday afternoon.

The bizarre incident was touched off by sheer accident when two men bumped into each other while going through one of the doors to the 20-story building at 450 Golden Gate avenue.

An argument broke out, and in the resulting knife attack and shooting, dozens of federal employees, returning from lunch, ducked for cover.

According to statements pieced together here by the FBI office and U.S. Attorney James L. Browning Jr., the incident began shortly before 1 p.m. when FBI agent Thomas R. Hopkins, 31, of San Rafael, was entering the building carrying a briefcase.

Hopkins said he held the door open to let two girls come out, and then started in. While going through the door Hopkins and George Edward Session, 18, of 309 Northridge street, Hunters Point, brushed against each other.

Investigators said at this point Hopkins said to Session: "Can't you say 'excuse me?'"

Session then struck Hopkins with his fist, the FBI said, and pulled out a razor blade knife and slashed him across the left side of the neck "narrowly missing the jugular vein."

Hopkins then pulled out his .38-caliber revolver, identified himself as an FBI agent, and told Session to "freeze."

Instead, the FBI said, Session made another attempt to attack Hopkins with the

knife and slashed Hopkins' necktie and shirt.

Hopkins then fired a single

Back Page Col. 5

From Page 1

shot, which creased Session across the chest and struck his left arm.

The bullet continued on and hit Carl Rizer, 57, in the right calf. Rizer is a special investigator for the U.S. Senate Commerce committee, stationed here in San Francisco. He is on loan to the Watergate investigating committee.

Two deputy U.S. marshals — Don Mahoney and Dick McCannon — rushed to Hopkins' aid and handcuffed Session.

Rizer was admitted to Marine General Hospital where he is in good condition.

Session is in satisfactory condition in Mission Emergency Hospital.

U.S. Magistrate Richard Goldsmith went to the hospital where he arraigned Session on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and assault on a federal officer. Bail was set at \$50,000 and a preliminary hearing set for December 14.

Hopkins was treated at Marine Memorial Hospital and released.

Rizer later told a reporter: "I was just coming back from lunch and was walking up the steps of the Federal Building, returning to my office, when I suddenly

heard a loud noise and felt a sharp pain. The next thing I knew I was on the ground and I looked over and there was this young black man also on the ground."