

THE NATION

AMERICAN NOTES

Stand at Isla Vista

"At some time and in some place, Americans must decide as to whether they intend to have their decisions, indeed their lives, ruled by a violent minority. We are but one bank, but we have decided to take our stand in Isla Vista."

That determined declaration by one of the nation's usually faceless financiers, Bank of America Chairman Louis B. Lundborg, may not rank historically with Martin Luther's challenge at the Diet of Worms: "Here I stand—I cannot do otherwise, God help me." It does indicate, however, that society is growing grimmer as it confronts youthful radicals and rioting students. The bank's \$275,000 Isla Vista branch was burned to the ground last month during a rampage that began on the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California. Bank officials fear that they may smell smoke again. Nonetheless, they decided not to be intimidated, and workmen erected a \$55,000 prefabricated building next to the rubble. Last week the branch was back in business, which is, ironically, mainly that of serving students at the university. So that they can stay in school, some 1,600 students have taken \$1,500,000 in loans from the bank.

Questions in Technicolor

It sounded like a supermarket sweepstakes, the jackpot being \$20,000 a year, \$260 a month toward the rent and use of a credit card. But California's Republican Senator George Murphy did

not have to fill in a lucky coupon, much less tell why he liked a detergent. Technicolor, Inc., his old employer, was content merely that he serve as its public relations consultant after he went to the Senate five years ago.

Unethical? Apparently not. Senator John Stennis, chairman of the Senate's Select Committee on Standards and Conduct, gave Murphy's arrangement his approval without even referring the matter to the members. Many men in Congress, after all, have outside sources of income, particularly from the practice of law. Still, few have such a direct connection, and probably no other legislator is the employee of a company whose chairman, like Technicolor's Patrick Frawley Jr., is a militant advocate of right-wing causes.

Question: What would Stennis, a conservative from Mississippi, have said if Murphy's boss were the N.A.A.C.P.? Or the Black Panthers? Second question: What exactly does the Senator do as a public relations consultant?

Potato Bake in Idaho

U.S. agriculture is still one of the world's wonders—and its economics is still a mess. Amid spectacular farm production and surpluses, some 15 million Americans go underfed. Last week, in an attempt to drive the price of prize Idaho potatoes up from about \$2.50 a hundredweight to \$3.50, farmers burned 5,000,000 lbs. of them in eastern Idaho in giant bonfires fueled by straw and kerosene. If the price does not rise promptly, say the farmers, they will destroy another 5,000,000 lbs.



IBM OFFICES IN



MANHATTAN AFTER BLAST

Bombing: A Way of

ONLY nine months ago, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence was able to report that the U.S. "has experienced almost none of the chronic revolutionary conspiracy and terrorism that plagues dozens of other nations." To be sure, plots and skirmishes have footnoted American history, and bomb blasts sometimes provided the punctuation. But they were usually isolated cases tied to a specific labor dispute, racial confrontation or criminal feud. For many decades, the specter of the political bomber has been as alien and anachronistic as the caricature of the bearded anarchist heaving a bomb the size and shape of a bowling ball. Last week that specter took on ominous substance as the nation was shaken by a series of bombings that highlighted a fearsome new brand of terrorism.

Corrupt and Doomed. Taking their cue from right-wing racists who used to keep blacks down with TNT, whites and blacks of the lunatic left have begun using explosives to produce sound effects and shock waves in their campaign to unnerve a society that they regard as corrupt and doomed. Schools, department stores, office buildings, police stations, military facilities, private homes—all have become targets. So far, miraculously, fatalities have been relatively few. One small slip, however—or one bloodthirsty bomber—could run up a death toll that could easily rival a week's total in Viet Nam. If the bomb threat continues, that is almost certain to occur.

Protest and Death

How slight is the margin of error has been demonstrated by the most recent bomb episodes. Two weeks ago, three explosions destroyed an elegant town house on Greenwich Village's West 11th Street. The basement had apparently been used as a factory for jerry-built bombs, one of which seemed to have accidentally exploded. Last week police found in the ruins the body of a young radical leader, a headless female torso, the remains of a third person so mangled that gender was still uncertain at week's end, and an arsenal of dynamite and homemade bombs (see box, page 10).

As demolition experts continued to probe the 11th Street wreckage for more explosives—and perhaps more bodies—bombs exploded at the Manhattan headquarters of Mobil Oil, IBM and General Telephone and Electronics. An organization that styled itself "Revolutionary Force 9" claimed responsibility. No one was hurt in the early-morning blasts, which were strikingly similar to three blasts in several New York office buildings last Nov. 11, but during the following two days news of the explosions triggered an outbreak of more than 600 phony bomb scares in a jittery New York. Three Molotov cocktails exploded in a Manhattan high school. There were scattered bomb threats elsewhere in the country, even at the Justice Department in Washington. One of them obliged Secretary of State William Rogers to leave his office. Mysterious nighttime explosions rocked a Pittsburgh shopping mall and a Washington nightclub. Another blast

hit the Michigan State University's School of Police Administration, and someone threw a Molotov cocktail in an Appleton, Wis., high school.

Like Tarzan. Two black militants were killed when their car was blasted to bits while they were riding on a highway south of Bel Air, Md. The dead were Ralph Featherstone, 30, and William ("Che") Payne, 26. Featherstone, a former speech therapist, was well known as a civil rights field organizer and, more recently, as manager of the Afro-American bookstore, the Drum & Spear, in Washington. Both were friends of H. Rap Brown, whose trial on charges of arson and incitement to riot was scheduled to begin last week in Bel Air. Reconstruction of the car's speedometer indicates it was traveling about 55 miles an hour when it blew up.

Police believed that Payne had been carrying a dynamite bomb on the floor between his legs and that it accidentally exploded. A preliminary FBI investigation supported that theory. Friends of the dead men contended that white extremists had either ambushed the pair or booby-trapped their car, perhaps trying to kill Brown. But police pointed out that Featherstone and Payne had driven in from Washington without notice, cruised around Bel Air briefly and seemed to be headed back. That assassins could plot and move so quickly defies belief.

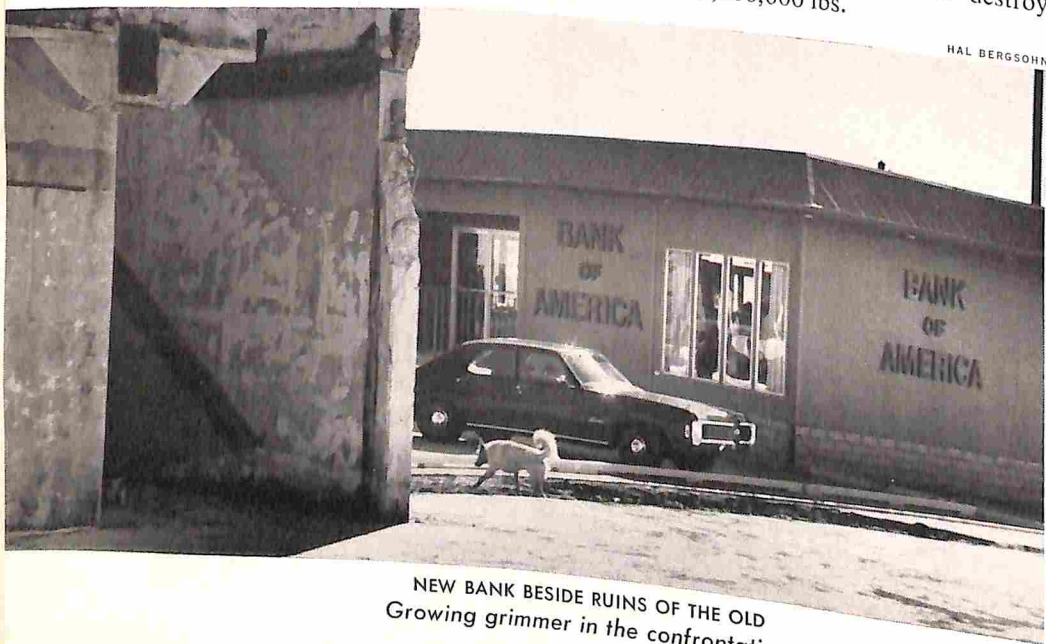
Although Featherstone had not been known as an extremist, friends said that he had grown markedly more bitter in the past year. Police cited a crudely spelled typewritten statement found on his body: "To Amerika: I'm playing heads-up murder. When the deal goes down I'm gon be standing on your chest screaming like Tarzan. Dynamite is my response to your justice." Brown, meanwhile, was nowhere to be found.

The night after the Bel Air incident, a blast ripped a 30-ft. hole in the side of the Dorchester County courthouse in Cambridge, where Brown allegedly incited the 1967 riot and where his trial was originally scheduled. No one was hurt in the blast, which occurred just 100 miles from Bel Air. Police were seeking a young white woman seen at the courthouse before the blast.

Haymarket Again. Last week's violence was only the latest in a frightening trend. Though the upswing in bombing is far from nationwide, it has occurred in widely separated parts of the country. New York and San Francisco, both areas of left-wing extremist activity, have been particularly hard hit, but so have less electric cities, including Seattle, Denver and Madison, Wis.

In New York, there were 93 bomb explosions in 1969, police say, and another 19 bombs did not explode. Half the 93 are classed as political, a category that was virtually nonexistent ten

* The Germanic spelling, which is used by some radicals to indicate America's control by "fascists."



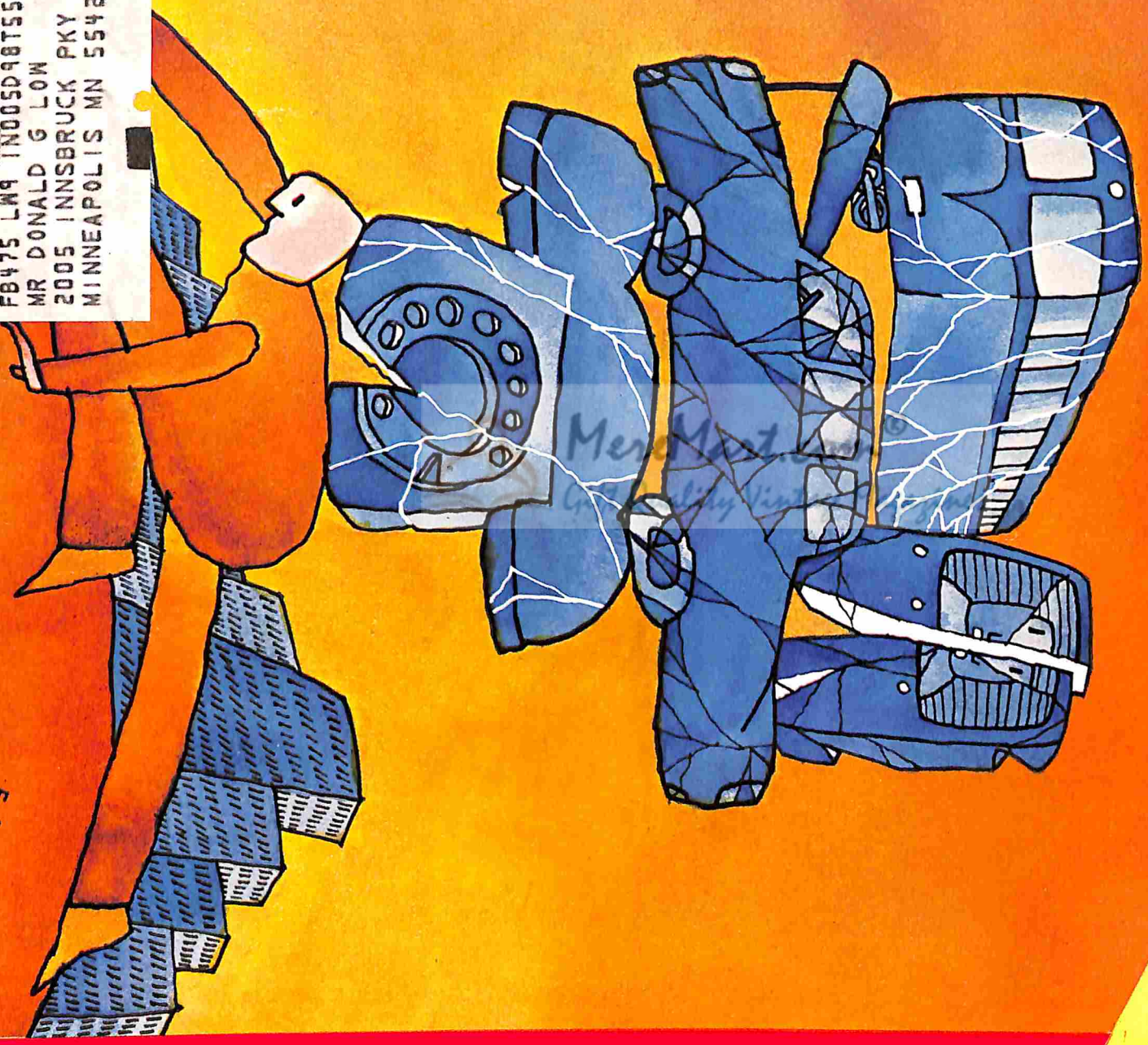
NEW BANK BESIDE RUINS OF THE OLD
Growing grimmer in the confrontation.

FIFTY CENTS

MARCH 23, 1970

TIME

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