

Bombings Here Reaching 'Gigantic' Proportions, Leary Tells Senators



United Press International

Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary, right, testifying yesterday in Washington. With him are Chief Inspector George P. McManus, center, and Lieut. Kenneth W. O'Neill, commander of police bomb section, who also testified. In front are mockups of explosives.

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WASHINGTON, July 16—New York City's Police Commissioner and three associates told the Senate today that a wave of bombings in New York had reached "gigantic" proportions.

Appearing before the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, Commissioner Howard R. Leary said there had been 368 bombings from January, 1969, through May of this year—more than twice as many as in the eight preceding years.

Commissioner Leary said that four deaths had occurred in the recent wave of bombings and that a large number of persons had been injured. He did not have figures for the number of injured or the amount of property damage.

Lieut. Kenneth W. O'Neill, commander of New York's 14-man bomb section, added to this testimony by disclosing that bomb threats in New York City had risen from approximately 3,300 in 1969 to more than 6,000 in the first six months of this year.

Mr. Leary said the dramatic rise in bombings had "functioned as their incompassionate designers intended" to spread fear and demonstrate the vul-

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nerability of the city to this type of terrorism.

Bombs and bombing threats have also been used increasingly against Federal buildings and agencies in leased private property, the subcommittee was told by an official of the General Services Administration.

Hart T. Mankin, general counsel of the agency that operates and protects 2,813 Federal properties throughout the United States, said that damage to Government properties increased 6,860 per cent in fiscal year 1970 over the preceding 12 months. Fiscal 1970 ended June 30.

He said that the damages had risen from \$10,455 in fiscal 1969 to \$729,219 in fiscal 1970, and that the cost of disruptions from bomb threats for the first six months of 1970 was estimated at \$2.25-million.

Controls Urged

In his testimony today, Commissioner Leary recommended a series of controls to limit access to high explosives.

These would include the licensing of all manufacturers, importers and users of explosives or their components; strict recording of sales and use of explosives; Federal and local inspection of these records, and tighter security to prevent thefts of explosives such as dynamite.

He also advocated the requirement of a coded, indestructible object inside explosives that could be recovered and used to trace the origins of a blast.

9 Cases Outlined

Testifying with the Commissioner was Frederick M. Lussen, chief of detectives. He outlined for the Senators nine cases in which bombings were involved.

Although he could not go into details because the cases were still pending, Chief Lussen did give enough facts on the organizations and the nearly 100 people allegedly involved to show that bombing conspiracies in New York City are carried out by both right-wing and left-wing groups.

"We know, and we can say that the present crop of explosive devices, in the main, represent distorted petitions for redress of grievance," Commissioner Leary said.

And he added that using bombs in this manner would probably increase in the future rather than decrease.

The Police Department's Chief Inspector, George P. McManus, told the Senators that it would be extremely difficult to conceal instructions on how to make a bomb.

He said that extremist organizations could get their information from such deverse sources as the Swiss Army manual or a Marine Corps guidebook on explosives.

Cruder designs and instructions for Molotov cocktails and simple "pipe bombs" are handed out at high schools and junior high schools as well as on college campuses, Chief McManus said.

Major Blasts Here

In addition to an explosion at Police Headquarters in which seven persons were injured, the police reported the following major bomb blasts here this year:

¶A March 6 explosion in a Greenwich Village townhouse being used as a bomb factory in which three persons lost their lives.

¶A March 29 blast in a Lower East Side apartment, also an illegal "bomb factory" in which one man died and another was critically injured.

¶Two separate explosions in two Bronx movie theaters on May 1 that injured 11 persons.

¶Three powerful blasts on March 12 in three midtown office buildings. No one was injured.

Other lesser explosions, some involving incendiary devices, occurred this year at military recruiting offices, in variety and department stores, at a number of bank offices and at the Haitian consulate. No one was injured in these incidents.