

Ex-Klansman Indicted in '63 Bombing That Killed 4

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ATLANTA, Sept. 26—A 73-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman was indicted today on four counts of first-degree murder in the bombing of a Birmingham church 14 years ago that killed four young black girls attending Sunday school. Robert Chambliss of Birmingham was being held without bond in Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham.

A second man was also indicted, but his name was being withheld pending his arrest. However, The New York Times learned that the second man was J.B. Stoner, an Atlanta lawyer affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan and other right-wing groups, but that he was indicted in a bombing other than the one that killed the four children in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on Sept. 15, 1963.

The indictments resulted from the reopening of the case by William Baxley, Attorney General of Alabama, in February 1976. Mr. Baxley and an Alabama grand jury are looking into 10 to 15 bombings of the more than 50 bombings that occurred in the state in the 1960's, all or most related to civil rights activity. It was also learned that the grand jury plans other indictments, but that none of them would be in connection with the Birmingham bombing.

Mr. Baxter first began looking into the

Birmingham bombing and others in the state shortly after taking office in 1971, and the investigations intensified in late 1975.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church had been used as a headquarters for massive civil rights demonstrations in the early 1960's, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On the Sunday of the bombing, the four girls who were killed, Denise McNair, 11, and Cynthia Wesley, Addie Mae Collins and Carol Robertson, all 14, were donning satin choir robes in a restroom near the stairwell where the bomb went off. The dynamite bomb exploded with such force that it threw chunks of concrete for more than a block. Nineteen other persons were injured.

State, city and Federal investigations at the time failed to result in any trials in the killings. Under Alabama law, there is no statute of limitations on murder or on the bombing of an inhabited dwelling, both of which were capital offenses in the state at the time.

Mr. Stoner, well-known in the South for his racial views, remained at his home in Marietta last night, and said that he would fight extradition proceedings to Alabama. He said it was "crazy" to be indicted for an incident "as far back as 1958."

It was learned that Mr. Stoner was

indicted for the bombing of the Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham in June 1958. No one was hurt in the bombing of the black church, which had earlier also served as a headquarters for the civil rights movement in Birmingham.

Mr. Stoner, who once referred to Adolph Hitler as "too moderate," has long been identified with virulent anti-black and anti-Jewish sentiment. Now 53 years old, he was inducted into the Ku Klux Klan in Chatanooga, Tenn., when he was 18 years old.

After World War II, he formed a Stoner Anti-Jewish Party, and said at that time that Jews were "too evil to be allowed to live." He later moved to Birmingham, where he formed a National States Rights Party, a neo-Nazi group, subsequently moving it to Marietta, near Atlanta.

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