



Recorded Message on Aug. 24: "Okay, Pig . . . Listen

## Voiceprinting Seeks to Identify Callers

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Voiceprinting is being used by the Madison Police Department in an attempt to identify phone callers making bomb threats or warnings, Chief Wilbur H. Emery revealed.

Use of the relatively new technology — with all incoming telephone calls to headquarters being tape recorded — started here with the voiceprint (shown above) on Aug. 24. It was taken of the person who phoned a warning less than five minutes before a blast that wrecked the University of Wisconsin Army Mathematics Research Center in Sterling Hall and killed one physicist and injured four other persons.

AN INTERNATIONAL search is continuing for four former UW students charged with the Sterling Hall bombing. The four, on the FBI's "most wanted" list are Madison brothers, Karleton, 24, and Dwight Armstrong, 19; David Fine, 18, from Wilmington, Del., and Leo Burt, 22, Havertown, Pa.

Emery said the only sections of recorded calls to headquarters being voiceprinted are those involving bomb reports or threats, obscene anonymous calls, or others relative to criminal investigations.

Emery urged any person, agency, or firm which tape records telephone calls containing bomb threats to turn the tapes over to his office for voiceprinting.

A VOICEPRINT file — like fingerprints — has been started by Madison police. Tapes from outside persons or agencies will

be used as investigative aids only with the givers' permission, the chief said.

The voiceprint technique, developed in 1962 by a United States physicist, Lawrence Kersta, is based on the principle that each individual's voice is as unique as his fingerprints.

Courts accept voiceprints as evidence of positive identification under the same legal standards as fingerprints are accepted.

EXPERTS contend that it is highly improbable that any two voices can be identical.

The reason, they say, is that the frequencies and energy distribution of the human voice are determined by the size and coupling of the nasal, throat, and oral cavities, and by the manner in which each person uses his articulators — the tongue, teeth, lips, soft palate, and jaw muscles.

THE BASIC voiceprint pattern cannot be changed by whispering, muffling the voice, changing its pitch, or even mimicking another voice, experts claim.

Telephone tapes by or through the Madison Police Department are analyzed and recorded on sound spectrographs by an expert voiceprinting firm in New Jersey, Chief Emery said.