

Recording Disputes Delay on Bomb Alert

The recorded voice of the phone caller who warned Madison police at 3:40 a.m. Monday about a pre-dawn campus explosion was replayed Tuesday on Chief Wilbur H. Emery's orders to dispute anonymous claims of a 12-minute delay in clearing occupants from the building.

The call, taken and recorded by Dispatch Sgt. R. G. Birrenkott, warned:

"OKAY, PIGS, now listen and listen good. There's a bomb in the Army Math Research Center, the University, set to go off in five minutes. Clear the building. Get everyone out. Warn the hospital. This is no -----, man."

Sgt. Birrenkott, according to the police dispatcher tape, relayed the message to University Police headquarters in 1 minute and 12 seconds.

University Chief Ralph E. Hanson said his four campus officers were dispatched immediately to the Math-Research Building.

Officer Jack Schwichtenberg was at Lake St. and University Ave.; Herbert Hanson was in his car at the 100 N. Mills St. campus police headquarters,

and Officers Ray Ellis and Randolph Pilgreen were at Charter and Johnson Sts., all heading for the site when the explosion occurred, Hanson said.

The Madison police-recorded tape showed that a woman reported the bomb blast at 3:42, two and a half minutes after the anonymous warning call.

Madison fire records, also taped, showed that a woman reported the explosion to them at 3:43 a.m. Monday.

POSTERS AND HANDBILLS, signed only with the phrase "Life Above the Trees," were distributed in downtown Madison and on the campus Tuesday claiming that police had been given a "12-minute" warning about the bombing and failed to