

Karl Admits Bomb Charge

SEP 29 1973

FROM PAGE 1

would go along with the bargain, although he is not bound by it.

MINUTES AFTER the state court proceedings ended, Armstrong pleaded guilty before Federal Judge James Doyle to reduced charges stemming from the AMRC bombing and a Jan. 1, 1970, air-bombing at the Badger Army plant in Baraboo.

In both incidents, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges. However, he refused to admit that the conspiracy included three other persons who were indicted on the charges along with him.

The three are still at large. They include Karleton's younger brother, Dwight, and Leo Burt and David Fine, both former University of Wisconsin students.

The appearances in the two courts wrapped up all outstanding charges against Armstrong. In state court, several charges were dismissed, and the original charge of first-degree murder was reduced to second. In federal court, a charge of depriving Fassnacht of his civil liberties by killing him was also dismissed.

Atty. Gen. Robert Warren issued a statement Friday saying the state murder charge was reduced because "there was some question as to whether or not prosecutors could prove beyond a reasonable doubt that (Armstrong) intended to kill Dr. Fassnacht.

"THE DOUBT was balanced against the anticipation of some three months of trial costing between \$25,000 and \$50,000. The cost to the citizens of the state in monetary and emotional terms already has been extremely high," the statement said.

Armstrong's appearance in federal court was the result of last minute arrangements including a waiver of extradition he signed, which was hand-delivered to Canadian authorities Thursday.

The waiver was necessary because Armstrong, who was including a waiver of extradition he signed, which was hand-delivered to Canadian authorities Thursday.

its weaponry, and the failure of peaceful protest.

State prosecutors, Asst. Attys. Gen. Michael Zaleski and Douglas Haag, and federal prosecutor Olson both told their respective courts what they intended to prove at trial and the evidence was pretty much the same.

WHAT IS generally conceded to be one of the best and most vigorously investigated criminal cases the state had produced was also considered practically airtight.

Two star witnesses were expected to have been an ex-roommate of Armstrong's when he lived on the UW campus, and a former girl friend, both of whom were to have testified that Armstrong admitted the firebombings and said he was planning to bomb the AMRC.

Prosecutors said they also would prove that the bomb was constructed in Greenfield Township, Sauk County, after Armstrong had rented a U-Haul in which he put four 55-gallon drums that were partially filled with fuel oil he bought at a Middleton service station.

Using the name "George Reed" Armstrong allegedly bought 1,700 pounds of am-

Using the name "George Reed" Armstrong allegedly bought 1,700 pounds of am-

monium nitrate fertilizer at a farmer's cooperative in Baraboo. The bomb consisted of a mixture of the ammonium nitrate and the fuel oil.

EVIDENCE also allegedly showed that in a Madison apartment a notebook was found containing Armstrong's fingerprints as well as a sketch of Sterling Hall, and a log of traffic in the area during the hours of 3 and 4 a.m.

A witness would have testified that about 2 a.m. on Aug. 24, a stolen white Ford van, which allegedly contained the bomb, and a 1966 Corvair, which allegedly was registered to Armstrong's father, were seen on E. Johnson St. "proceeding in an extremely careful manner."

At 3:30 a.m. the Madison Police Dept. got a call warning of the bomb, and urging that the building be cleared in five minutes. The explosion occurred three minutes later.

In the event prosecutors would have tried to prove first-degree (premeditated) murder, they would allegedly have shown that the placement of the van was within feet of a ground-floor window in which Fassnacht was working with the lights on, and that they could not have helped but notice him.

ARMSTRONG has been represented throughout his extensive court proceedings by Madison Atty. Melvin Greenberg, and a Canadian attorney, Robert Kellermann, who also worked on Armstrong's extradition fight. New York Atty. William Kunstler is expected to show up for the sentencing hearing.

The court proceedings Friday occurred more than three years after the actual bombing, and a year and a half after Armstrong's arrest in a Canadian rooming house.

ing, and a year and a half after Armstrong's arrest in a Canadian rooming house.