



BAPTIST PRESS
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December 18, 1972

**Bomb Threat Evacuates
Baptist Children's Home**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (BP)--A bomb threat was made against the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home near here, causing the evacuation of about 35 adult workers. All the children were in school at the time.

Police and fire department officials found a small electronic device attached to a bottle containing liquid resembling nitroglycerine, but there was no explosion.

Officials were not even sure it was a real bomb. The liquid was sent to Atlanta to verify whether or not it was indeed explosive.

"It all depends on the contents of the bottle," said Nashville police Sgt. Thomas Dozier. "Whoever built the device had the right idea about making a bomb," he added.

There was no apparent motive for the bomb threat.

At about 6:30 a.m., Robert E. Nelson of Franklin received a telephone call from a man speaking with a gruff voice, saying, "There's a bomb in the children's home." Apparently the caller thought Nelson was superintendent of the home, since the superintendent's name also is Bob Nelson.

Nelson reported the calls to the superintendent of the home, and the Franklin police and fire departments.

By the time police and fire department officials arrived to search the campus for the bomb, all the home's 70 children, ages five through 17, had left for public schools.

The small apparatus was found almost immediately in the basement boiler room by Brentwood fireman Don E. Stafford, who disconnected the device from an unused hot water tank and carried it outside the building.

"I was crying when I walked out the front door with it in my hand," Stafford said. "I knew I had to do something."

His action prompted Tennessee Highway Patrolman Mickey McGuire to comment, "that guy (Stafford) either is crazy or he has more guts than Jesse James."

Metro Nashville bomb squad members dismantled the apparatus outside. It was described as an electronic device with wires leading to the bottle, to small mercury-type batteries, and the hot water pipes. Observers said there apparently was no detonator, unless heat from the pipes could somehow have been a detonating trigger.

Officials said that if the liquid was nitroglycerine, it would have been enough explosive to destroy the entire administration building at the children's home.

NOTE TO EDITORS: During the next two weeks, Baptist Press mailings will be handled from the Nashville office, by Teena Andrews, while W.C. Fields and Jim Newton are out of the office. Fields is on vacation, and Newton is on assignment in Israel and Jordan, covering the visits of astronaut James Irwin with Prime Minister Golda Meir and King Hussein.

In their absence, Theo Sommerkamp of the SBC Annuity Board in Dallas will be assisting in editing Baptist Press material. If you have news releases to send to Baptist Press, please send a copy to Teena Andrews in Nashville, with a carbon to Theo Sommerkamp in Dallas.

The address in Nashville is 460 James Robertson Pky, Nashville, Tenn., 37219; the address in Dallas is 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Tex., 75201

Thank you for your assistance.

--Baptist Press



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