

# \$16 million Middlesex court cost now \$40 million, says builder

*Boston Globe (1960-1979); Jul 9, 1970;*  
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The former chief contractor for the new Middlesex County courthouse in Cambridge will charge at a press conference tomorrow that the structure will cost two and one-half times the original estimate, he reported last night.

George Ungar, president of the Gevyn Construction Corp. of Mamaroneck, N.Y., has scheduled a press conference for 11 a.m. at the office of his attorney, Fred Roche, at One Center Plaza in Boston's Government Center.

Construction on the building has been stalled since May when the Mid-

dlesex County commissioners fired Ungar's firm.

In 1963, Gov. Endicott Peabody signed a bill for the construction of a \$16 million Middlesex County Courthouse. The *Globe* learned that Ungar will charge tomorrow that the structure, when completed, will cost \$40 million, possibly more if the work stoppage continues.

As reasons for the increase, Ungar will cite, among other things, an estimated 3500 changes that have been made to the original plans, which originally called for an 18-story

building to be completed by mid-1967.

Similarly, he will state that 150 of the 158 architectural drawings for the structure had to be revised.

One of the biggest of these changes in plans was the addition of three more stories to house the East Cambridge District Court in the building.

In addition, he will cite a series of alleged "broken promises," errors and blunders that have thwarted the progress of the construction.

Specifically, Ungar will maintain that a contractor

— not Gevyn — built a foundation that was not suited for the building, thereby causing a one-year delay in construction.

Gevyn's contract, according to the county commissioners, was terminated "for failure to perform the work required."

Ungar, however, will charge that he suspended work because the commissioners had stopped payments last March for work performed.

Ungar says that his contract was for \$24.8 million, but that the commissioners agreed to \$23,776,807.

The *Globe* learned that

Ungar maintains that the commissioners had broken a written promise to remedy about \$5.4 million in claims filed against the county.

Sources close to Ungar said last night he will pre-

sent photostatic copies of these written promises at the press conference tomorrow.

The claims, Ungar says, were made by 25 sub-contractors because of the

various delays in the construction and are said to re-

flect rising construction costs.