

# State Court Probing Cost of Courthouse

By Stephen Kurkjian, Globe Staff

The complete cost of construction of the Middlesex County courthouse project could reach "many millions more" than the already-mushroomed figure of \$45 million, the prime contractor said yesterday.

George Ungar, president of Geyvn Construction Corp. of Mamaroneck, N.Y., said at a Boston press conference that the \$45 million figure covers only construction of the 18-story courthouse building.

Construction of the planned six-story Probate Court and Registry of Deeds building and an underground garage for 450 cars is not included in the \$45 million, Ungar said.

Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court began its investigation into the affair.

The court instructed its executive secretary, Richard D. Gerould, to "assemble data in connection with the construction of the new Middlesex County courthouse and report to the court."

The one-sentence announcement was made after the justices conferred for more than an hour in a special session.

Shortly after the justices' announcement, Philip L. Sisk, president of the Massachusetts Bar Assn., said a three-man team from the association will begin immediately to investigate the tangled situation.

Sisk said he had appointed Atty. Richard K. Donahue to head the three-man panel which will report to the association Wednesday night.

Original estimate for cost of the project in 1963 was \$16 million.

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# Courthouse cost continues to zoom

## ★ COURTHOUSE

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The three Middlesex County commissioners said in a press conference Thursday that the \$45 million figure is for all three phases of the courthouse complex, including the Probate Court and Registry of Deeds building and the garage.

But Unger said yesterday that he has not even seen the plans for reconstruction of phases two and three. Asked if the costs of these phases could be in the millions of dollars, he said: "Many millions more, yes." Unger refused to give a more definite figure.

The one-sentence announcement was made after the justices conferred for more than an hour in a special session.

Unger and John J. Dever Jr., chairman of the Middlesex County commissioners, yesterday said separately that they would welcome the Supreme Court's investigation.

"Let it start now," Dever said. "We'll produce all the records."

Appearing at the press conference with his wife, Evelyn, and Atty. Frederick W. Roche, Unger said construction of the courthouse in Cambridge has turned into a "million dollar fiasco."

In his statement, Unger said he was suing Middlesex County for \$9.4 million for "unlawfully" breaching

its building contract with him.

The lawsuit, Unger said, was based on "misrepresentations, faulty drawings, and inadequate county funds in conjunction with inept and irresponsible contract management by disinterested county commissioners and their inexperienced architect."

"Completion will now be postponed until at the earliest the middle of 1972 on this multi-million dollar fiasco," Unger said.

Unger's firm, which was awarded the contract in 1967 to construct the courthouse, was fired by the county commissioners last May 27, the commissioners said, because of "inadequacy, inability or unwillingness of Gevyn to perform its contract."

Atty. Roche said that Unger was unable to answer many questions raised at the press conference due to the pending litigation and arbitration between Unger's firm and Middlesex County.

In East Cambridge District Court yesterday, the Gevyn Corp. pleaded innocent on a complaint charging it with failure to comply with safety regulations in the construction project.

State Safety Inspector Joseph R. Sousa testified that the construction company had failed to put safety barriers in front of stairways and elevator shafts last Nov. 12. Judge Haven Parker continued case until Sept. 30.