

Colbern Not Working Deal With FBI, Attorney Says

The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

May 27, 1995 | by Randy Ellis; Staff Writer | Page: 8 | Section: NEWS

Speculation that Steven Garrett Colbern has been working out a deal with Oklahoma City bombing investigators is flat wrong, his Arizona attorney said Friday.

"Based on everything I know about the case and the

investigation, he's not involved in any way in the Oklahoma City crime," said John Hannah, assistant federal public defender for the federal court in Phoenix.

Colbern, 35, did submit to one interview with investigators "to clear himself of suspicion concerning the Oklahoma City case, but that's all," Hannah said.

Colbern appeared in federal court in Phoenix Friday and was ordered returned to the central district of California where he is accused of skipping bail on a charge of possession of unregistered weapons.

Federal marshals made a dramatic arrest of Colbern in Oatman, Ariz., on May 12.

At that time, the FBI wanted Colbern for questioning in the Murrah Building bombing case.

Colbern's attorney said he has not returned telephone calls from reporters in the past, but did so Friday to clear the air.

"The reason I'm returning phone calls today where I haven't before is there's been a lot of speculation that he (Colbern) has been cooperating with authorities," Hannah said. "That puts him in danger in custody where he's going to be for awhile on these unrelated charges.

"So I want to make it clear that there's no agreement for him to testify or to turn state's evidence. ... I want people to stop speculating that there's something else going on behind the scenes because there's not."

Hannah said to the best of his knowledge, Colbern had no advance knowledge of the Oklahoma City bombing and did not participate in it.

He declined to say whether Colbern knew Oklahoma City bombing defendant Timothy McVeigh, who has been linked to Colbern in some news reports.

"I don't want to say the specifics of exactly what he said," Hannah said.

"Obviously, there was something that made the FBI interested in talking to

Colbern, but I don't want to talk about specifics. That'll have to come from the government's folks."

FBI spokesman Dan Vogel declined comment.