

Prisoner Predicted Blast Before His Execution



Chicago Sun-Times

July 2, 1995 | ALLAN LENGEL

In the days leading to the Oklahoma City disaster, a white supremacist on Arkansas' Death Row predicted there would be a major bombing, the Arkansas Department of Corrections said.

Richard Snell, 64, who was executed April 19, the same day as the bombing, repeatedly told guards and his minister about a pending bombing, said Alan Ables, a department spokesman.

"He said there was going to be a huge bombing, and not much more than that," Ables said. "He didn't give any impression that it would be a domestic bombing or something overseas. Just that there would be some confusion as to who did it and the United States was going to blame someone in the Mideast."

Prison records kept by guards observing Snell showed that he was "smiling and chuckling" as he watched news reports of the bombing. He was executed by lethal injection later that day. Snell's prison record has been turned over to the FBI.

"He commented at least once (in his last week) that he wished he wasn't leaving; he'd like to stick around a few more weeks because he wanted to watch what was going to happen" in regard to a bombing, Ables said.

Snell allegedly mentioned the possible bombing to his spiritual adviser, the Rev. Robert Millar, a white separatist and pastor in a remote religious community. Millar couldn't be reached.

Two weeks before the bombing, Millar got a call from McVeigh. Millar said someone else answered, and he never spoke to McVeigh. Millar said he didn't know who McVeigh was until the bombing.