

Prisoner predicted big blast

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

Richard Wayne Snell, 64, who was executed for murder April 19, the same day as the Oklahoma attack, repeatedly told guards and his spiritual adviser 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."

Snell's name surfaced in a 1983 plot to blow up a federal building in Oklahoma City, using a truck filled with bombs. A fellow white supremacist testified about the plot in a 1988 trial in Fort Smith, Ark.

Snell was eventually acquitted along with 13 others.

The FBI recently obtained Snell's prison file from Warden Terry Campbell of the maximum security unit at Tucker, Ark., Ables said.

The agency secured the file as part of an effort to determine who or what organizations may have assisted in the plot, say those familiar with the investigation. To date, only Timothy McVeigh, 27, and Army buddy Terry Nichols, 40, have been charged in the Oklahoma bombing which killed 168.

Prison records kept by guards observing Snell before his execution showed that he was "smiling and chuckling" as he watched news reports of the bombing. He was executed by lethal injection later that day.

"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 Elohim City, a remote religious community in eastern Oklahoma. Millar couldn't be reached for comment.

Two weeks before the Oklahoma 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.

Millar was present when Snell was executed for the murder of a Texarkana, Ark., pawn-shop owner he mistakenly thought was Jewish.

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