

## **Nichols' Brother Contends Bombing Evidence 'Made Up' - Informant's Report Just a Fabrication, Michigan Resident Says**

Kansas City Star, The (MO)

July 9, 1995 | Page: A8 | Section: NATIONAL/WORLD

OKLAHOMA CITY - The brother of bombing suspect Terry Nichols says the government is fabricating evidence to bolster its case.

``They're just grasping at straws. It's just totally made up," James Nichols told The Daily Oklahoman for today's editions. ``I can't believe how a federal agency can make up things ... and try to pull the wool over people's eyes."

James Nichols, 41, denies an FBI report that he once said a ``megabomb" would be capable of leveling a building and then sketched a diagram of the Oklahoma City building that was bombed.

The FBI in court papers quoted an informant as saying James Nichols made the comments in 1988.

``If you believe that, I have some oceanfront property in Arizona to sell you," James Nichols said from his farm in Decker, Mich.

The FBI in Oklahoma City did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press late Saturday.

Authorities arrested James Nichols after the April 19 bombing as a material witness, but he has not been charged in the attack, which killed 168 persons and injured more than 500.

He is no longer listed as a material witness but remains under investigation, U.S. Attorney Saul Green of Michigan has said.

Terry Nichols and Timothy McVeigh are the only ones charged in the bombing. Both are being held at the federal prison near El Reno, Okla.

James Nichols has been indicted on charges he helped his brother and McVeigh detonate small explosives on the Michigan farm. The charges are unrelated to the Oklahoma bombing.

Federal agents say the three experimented with various materials in making bombs. James Nichols said he didn't make any of them.

``I haven't damaged anybody's property, and I haven't hurt anybody," he said.

The FBI also said agents were told James Nichols and his brother are former members of the Michigan Militia, a right-wing organization that has engaged in extensive military training.

But James Nichols said he doesn't belong to any militia group and only attended a couple of meetings.

He also said he and his brother are innocent. About McVeigh, he is less certain.

``I don't know enough facts to make a judgment on Tim," he said.

``I don't think he's a baby killer from what I know of him. He got along with my son great. "