

# Bombing Grand Juror Is Dismissed for Talking

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A grand juror who violated secrecy rules because he was angry that prosecutors presented no evidence of a larger conspiracy in the federal building bombing was thrown off the panel today and threatened with imprisonment if he speaks out again.

"I just want the truth out. I don't care if I have to go to jail," said Hoppy Heidelberg, 55.

Heidelberg, a horse breeder from Blanchard, said Chief U.S. District Judge David L. Russell dismissed him in a letter that threatened to hold him in contempt if he violates secrecy rules further. He could face up to six months if held in contempt.

The grand jury indicted Timothy James McVeigh and Terry Lynn Nichols in August on murder and conspiracy charges in the April 19 bombing that killed 169 people. The panel has since heard other cases, but it is expected to be disbanded soon.

The indictment accuses McVeigh and Nichols of acting with "others unknown" to plot the bombing.

"There's considerable evidence that there were more than two people involved, and that should have been presented," Heidelberg said.

Heidelberg especially objected to prosecutors' refusal to present evidence about John Doe No. 2, the man in FBI sketches released soon after the bombing. Authorities later admitted that the sketches resembled an innocent Army private, but the drawings were never withdrawn.

Though grand juries can vote to hear whatever evidence they deem necessary, in practice the panels are effectively controlled by prosecutors.

An anonymous interview with Heidelberg appeared in Media Bypass, a magazine with ties to anti-government militia groups, but Heidelberg said he thought the reporter would not print the material until the panel disbanded.

A phone call to the Evansville, Ind., office of Media Bypass was not answered.

Defense lawyers cited the article in their motion for dismissal of the indictment. However, Attorney General Janet Reno said today that authorities have "no reason to have concern about the integrity of the indictments."

McVeigh and Nichols both could face the death penalty if convicted.