

Bombing Case Raises Name of Ex-KKK Leader Government Informant Provided Information Before the Explosion

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The name of a former Ku Klux Klan leader from the Kansas City area has surfaced in connection with the Oklahoma City bombing.

Stephen Jones, attorney for bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh, said a government informant gave authorities information about Dennis Mahon in the months before the April 19, 1995, explosion.

Mahon is a former Northmoor resident and imperial dragon of the White Knights of the KKK. He now lives in Tulsa, Okla., and is a consultant for the White Aryan Resistance.

Jones said that according to documents federal investigators allowed him to review, the informant - Carol Howe of Tulsa - was interviewed by federal agents before and after the bombing.

Howe, according to the documents, told investigators that Mahon and Andreas Strassmeir, a German national whom McVeigh tried to call before the bombing, had made three trips to Oklahoma City to check out the federal building.

Mahon denied the allegations. He said he met Howe in 1993 and introduced her to Elohim City, the white separatist compound in eastern Oklahoma but that he never talked about bombings with her.

"She's the one who talked about violence," Mahon said. "She begged me to go to her house and ... make her some live hand grenades." Strassmeir lived at Elohim City at the time of the bombing. Mahon was a frequent visitor there from 1992 to 1995.

Jones said Howe relayed the information to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms before the bombing and to the FBI afterward and that she had passed many lie-detector tests.

Authorities with both agencies have declined to comment. Efforts to reach Howe were unsuccessful.

Jones said Howe's information raises questions about whether the government had prior knowledge of the bombing plot - something prosecutors have denied in court.