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Agent found gun, knife in McVeigh's vehicle

DENVER (AP) — Timothy McVeigh had earplugs in his pocket, a loaded handgun in a shoulder holster and an envelope full of violent anti-government writings when he was pulled over for a traffic violation about 75 minutes after the Oklahoma City bombing, witnesses testified Monday.

Among the papers stuffed in an envelope was a page from the racist novel, "The Turner Diaries," with a passage about government bureaucrats: "We can still find them and kill them," according to an FBI agent who searched McVeigh's car.

The sealed envelope was labeled with the handwritten message "Obey the Constitution of the United States and we won't shoot you," and inside were also quotations from Samuel Adams and John Locke about the dangers of overzealous governments, said FBI agent William Eppright III.

The car was searched two days after it was impounded following McVeigh's arrest on gun violations unrelated to the bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City. The envelope was seen on the car seat at the time of McVeigh's arrest.

Offering a detailed account of the arrest, Oklahoma trooper Charles Hanger said McVeigh appeared relaxed, answering all questions, complying with orders,



AP photo

Randy Guzman, whose brother died in the Oklahoma City bombings, and Linda Crampton, whose apartment was destroyed by the blast, discuss the case Monday.

chatting about guns and even offering an explanation of where he had just been.

"He said he was in the process of moving to Arkansas and that he

had taken a load of his belongings down there," Hanger said.

Prosecutors contend McVeigh was fleeing the bombing when he was stopped, and have said explo-

sives residue was found on the earplugs, his clothing and the knife.

A few days after the arrest, Hanger cleaned out the squad car used to transport McVeigh, and found a business card from a military supply store with a handwritten message, "Dave (TNT at \$5 a stick) need more."

Just after Hanger identified McVeigh in court as the man wearing a blue shirt, the defendant whispered something to one of his lawyers and exchanged smiles with her.

Under cross-examination, Hanger agreed that McVeigh was cooperative. And McVeigh attorney Cheryl Ramsey tried to bolster the Arkansas move theory by pointing out that taking Interstate 40 and Interstate 35 from Arkansas to Kansas is the quickest route that does not involve paying tolls.

The defense also sought to show some of the writings in McVeigh's car were less inflammatory than those cited by the prosecution. Among the passages was one calling for a political — not violent — response to gun control legislation.

This testimony marked a change in the tone of the trial, with the focus moving from emotional accounts of the bombing to the actual evidence against McVeigh.

The 29-year-old Gulf War veteran could face the death penalty if convicted of federal murder and

conspiracy charges in the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil. The April 19, 1995, truck bombing of Oklahoma City's downtown federal building killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

Hanger said he pulled over McVeigh's yellow Mercury Marquis on Interstate 35 about 80 miles north of Oklahoma City because the car was missing a rear license plate.

A person driving the speed limit from the bomb site to the site of the arrest near Billings, Okla., would have made the 77.9-mile trip in 75 minutes and 15 seconds, he said. McVeigh was stopped at 10:17 a.m., 75 minutes after the bomb ripped through the federal building at 9:02 a.m. Hanger said he hid behind the door of his cruiser as McVeigh got out of the car and walked toward him. As McVeigh reached for his camouflage wallet, Hanger said he noticed a bulge under his light jacket.

"I told him to take both hands and slowly pull back his jacket," Hanger said. "He said, 'I have a gun.' I pulled my weapon and stuck it to the back of his head."

As Hanger searched and handcuffed him, McVeigh told the trooper he was also carrying a knife and a spare clip of ammunition.