

Howe's Facts Differ From Government's

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By David Harper

The prosecution's view of the facts in the Carol Howe case is considerably different from those recited by the former debutante and her lawyer.

The government does agree that Howe did serve as an informant for the ATF beginning in August 1994 and that she did have several tape-recorded meetings with Tulsan Dennis Mahon and others and took several trips to Elohim City.

ATF agent Angela Graham did acknowledge in an April 24 pretrial hearing that Howe had said that German national Andreas Strassmeir had threatened to bomb federal buildings, that Howe had taken a trip in early 1995 with Elohim City residents to Oklahoma City where they shot off a "potato gun" and that Howe had insisted from their first meeting that Graham read "The Turner Diaries," a novel which some see as the blueprint for the Oklahoma City bombing.

However, the government has not confirmed the more specific warnings that Howe's attorney, Clark O. Brewster, claims that Howe made. The issue of how's warnings about Oklahoma city never came up during the trial of Tulsan James Dodson Viefhaus, Jr. because Viefhaus' attorney, Craig Bryant, never got into the subject. Depending on the rulings of U. S. District Judge Michael Burrage, the topic could be in play during Howe's trial.

The government claims Howe never provided it with anything against Mahon or anyone else that was used in a successful prosecution.

Graham testified Friday at Viefhaus' trial that Howe was "deactivated" in March 1995 for "instability" after she was reportedly transported to a mental health facility with what Tulsa Police thought were self-inflicted cuts.

Graham said Howe, at her own request, was briefly reactivated after the Oklahoma City bombing because Howe thought she might be able to find John Doe No. 2. Graham testified Friday that she thought that Howe was "flaky" but that the government would have used anyone who might help it find all those responsible for the bombing.

Graham said Howe spent three days at Elohim City at the beginning of May 1995 under the auspices of the FBI and turned up no usable information. Graham said she tried to "deactivate" Howe again as an informant but that her superiors in Dallas refused because they wanted to preserve all their files and information about the Oklahoma City investigation.

Graham said her next conversation with Howe was not until March 1996 after Howe's name had been revealed in the Timothy McVeigh case. Graham said Howe was offered protection but that Howe had said she wasn't worried. Graham said Howe called her

once or twice after that, worried about "men in suits" wandering around near her residence but that Howe never mentioned Viefhaus, the National Socialist Alliance of Oklahoma, or gave any indication of her apparent Nazi activities.