

Man Who Says He Saw 2 in Ryder Truck Testifies Panel Continues Probe into Claims of Wider Bomb Plot

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OKLAHOMA CITY - A former tire shop employee who previously has said two men in a Ryder truck asked him for directions to the federal building testified Monday before a county grand jury investigating allegations of a larger conspiracy in the Oklahoma City bombing.

At least six people are expected to testify this week before the panel, which is expected to meet for at least four days.

A man who identified himself as Mike Moroz was the first of at least three witnesses Monday. A woman who wouldn't identify herself spent three hours on the stand, and a woman identified as the real estate agent who sold Terry Nichols his home in Herington, Kan., went before the grand jury at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Moroz testified for about an hour but declined to discuss his testimony with reporters.

Mr. Moroz, a former worker at an Oklahoma City tire shop, has said two men in a Ryder truck asked him for directions to the federal building minutes before the explosion. Mr. Moroz identified one of the men as convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and was one of four witnesses asked by FBI agents to try to pick Mr. McVeigh out of a lineup.

First Assistant District Attorney Pat Morgan, who is directing the grand jury probe, said no decision has been made on whether the grand jury will recess during the upcoming trial of bombing defendant Nichols, 42. Mr. Nichols' trial begins Sept. 29 in Denver.

Mr. McVeigh, 29, was convicted June 2 after a federal trial and sentenced to die. The April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building resulted in 168 deaths.

Georgia Rucker, a Herington, Kan., real estate agent who sold Mr. Nichols his house in Herington, has reported seeing a yellow Ryder truck at Geary Lake between Junction City and Herington.

A former Oklahoma City television reporter who did not want to testify also is supposed to appear before the grand jury.

Jayna Davis, formerly with KFOR-TV, aired a report linking an Iraqi man then living in Oklahoma City with the bombing.

Retired Brig. Gen. Benton K. Partin is expected to tell grand jurors he believes more than one bomb was used to blow up the federal building.

Gen. Partin, who said he has 25 years' experience in weapons development, has said the damage to the building's reinforced concrete superstructure could not have occurred unless charges had been attached to its columns.