

U.S. Postal Employee Testifies for Grand Jury TV Reporter Disavows Conspiracy

By Judy Kuhlman, Diana Baldwin | The Oklahoman | September 20th, 1997

NOTE: Staff writer Ed Godfrey contributed to this report.

A U.S. Postal Service employee, who may have seen convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh and another man two days before the Oklahoma City bombing, appeared before the Oklahoma County grand jury Friday.

Raymond M. Klish, 42, a clerk at the post office on NW 5 when the bombing occurred, was expected to testify about an alleged sighting of McVeigh and John Doe 2 in the post office.

Klish worked with Debbie Nakanashi, another postal clerk, who previously testified before the grand jury.

Nakanashi told The Oklahoman a co-worker called her the Sunday after the bombing and jogged her memory of the two men who had come into the post office looking for a federal job.

"He (the co-worker) didn't mention what they looked like or anything like that. It was kind of like a tape running in my head. And as soon as I saw it, I said, 'Oh, my God, what are we going to do?'" Nakanashi told The Oklahoman in July.

Klish spent less than an hour with the grand jury that was impaneled June 30 to investigate larger conspiracy theories in the bombing.

Klish refused to answer reporters' questions as he left the Oklahoma County jail where the jury has been meeting in secret.

"No comment. Ya'll have a good morning. OK?" Klish said. Shortly after he left, Jayna Davis, formerly of KFOR-TV, returned to finish her testimony.

The jury has heard from 32 witnesses and is set to reconvene Oct. 6. They are set to meet 13 days in October.

State Rep. Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City, and the late Glenn Wilburn, who lost two grandsons in the bombing, led the effort to call the grand jury.

Key contends the government had prior knowledge about the bombing and hid the identities of others involved. Key presented the grand jury a list of 39 people he wanted to be called as witnesses.

The grand jury has called most of Key's potential witnesses except for those who have been subpoenaed in the federal trials.

McVeigh, 29, was convicted June 2 of destroying the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building with a single, massive truck bomb on April 19, 1995. He was sentenced to die. The explosion resulted in the deaths of 168 people.

McVeigh's Army buddy, Terry Nichols, 42, is set to go to trial Sept. 29 in Denver.

Grand jurors have been told about John Doe 2 sightings before and after the bombing. The descriptions vary in height, build and complexion. The sightings were in downtown Oklahoma City and Kansas.

On Sept. 9, Nakanashi told the grand jury about seeing McVeigh and John Doe 2 on Monday before the bombing.

She said she picked McVeigh out of a line-up and later spent eight hours with an FBI sketch artist who drew a picture of the man she saw with McVeigh.

Federal prosecutors said the FBI sketch of the dark-haired, muscular suspect actually depicted an innocent Army private and was drawn from information provided by Tom Kessinger, a mechanic at Eldon's Body Shop in Junction City, Kan., where the truck was rented.

Through her attorney, Tim McCoy, former KFOR reporter Davis disavowed some of the bombing conspiracy theories that have been reported.

"She also wants to make it perfectly clear that after her two-year exhaustive investigation, she has turned up no credible evidence that supports the theory that the federal government had sufficient prior warnings to prevent the bombing," McCoy said.

KFOR-TV aired several reports by Davis suggesting an Iraqi busboy then living in Oklahoma City was involved in the Murrah Building bombing. Al Hussaini-Hussain sued Davis and KFOR, accusing the television station of fingering him as John Doe 2, but he dropped the lawsuit earlier this year.

Hussain's attorneys claimed the FBI never considered him a suspect. A FBI agent, speaking at a newspaper publishers conference in 1995, said the KFOR report was untrue. The FBI never officially commented on the broadcasts.