

Ex-Klansman says white supremacist called for bombing

Former grand dragon says aide talked about blasting federal buildings

By The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A reformed Klansman tried to implicate a Tulsa white supremacist Tuesday in the Oklahoma City bombing, claiming the man discussed blowing up federal buildings several times between 1988 and 1991.

The Rev. Johnny Lee Clary, a former grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and a former leader of the White Aryan Resistance, said he accused Dennis Mahon, his former right-hand man, in testimony before a grand jury investigating allegations of a larger conspiracy and a government cover-up.

"Dennis Mahon is a very dangerous individual," said Clary, who left the Klan in 1993 to become a minister. "He has talked to me several times about blowing up federal buildings.

Mahon, a leader in the White Aryan Resistance who runs a Dial-a-Racist hotline, condemned Clary as a liar.

"I have never, ever said anything like this," said Mahon, who denied any involvement in the bombing that killed 168 people. Mahon said he was at his parents' farm in Illinois on the morning of April 19, 1995.

"Johnny always needs attention," Mahon said in a telephone interview from his home in Tulsa. "He'll do anything for the lime-light."

Clary conceded he has no information linking Mahon directly to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

"I never had any specific information that he ever said the Mur-

rah building," Clary said. "He did say he was going to blow up federal buildings."

Clary also conceded that he had not heard Mahon make such a threat since 1991, four years before the bombing.

"He made the statements in '88. He made the statements in '89, '90. He made the statements again in 1991," Clary said.

Another witness who testified before the grand jury, Oklahoma City warehouse worker David Snider, says he saw Mahon with Timothy McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the morning of the bombing. Snider had his sister draw a picture from his description and presented the sketch to the grand jury.

The sketch depicts a long-haired man with large sunglasses. Mahon wears his hair shorter.

"It looks like Dennis Mahon in one of his Mexican disguises," Clary said Tuesday.

Another witness testified for more than two hours Tuesday afternoon, an unidentified woman in dark sunglasses and a baseball cap. She refused to speak with reporters except to say she was not from Oklahoma.

Clary's testimony sets the stage for the Carol Howe, a former federal informant who is expected to testify before the grand jury on Wednesday.

Howe has said she overheard Mahon and German national Andreas Strassmeir discuss blowing up federal buildings before the bombing.

Howe, a former Tulsa debutante, was acquitted on federal conspiracy and bomb threat charges in an unrelated case this summer.

A government agent testified that Howe was dropped as an informant in March 1995 because of questions about her mental stability. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI briefly reactivated her after the bombing, but said she provided no useful information and was no longer used as an informant.

The grand jury convened on June 30 after a petition drive by state Rep. Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City, and Glenn Wilburn, an Oklahoma City accountant who lost two young grandsons in the bombing. Wilburn died of pancreatic cancer shortly after the panel convened.

