

## Prospective juror says McVeigh needed help in building huge bomb

By The Associated Press

DENVER — A prospective juror said Tuesday he believes Terry Nichols is guilty because it probably took more than one person to build the bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building.

The man, an explosives expert with detailed knowledge of ammonium nitrate-fuel oil bombs, said he tried to learn as much as possible about the bombing because of his work.

But flaws in his knowledge of the case showed when he said Nichols accompanied Timothy McVeigh when McVeigh was arrested and likely was with McVeigh when he rented the Ryder truck that carried the bomb.

McVeigh was alone when he was arrested on an unrelated gun charge. Authorities have ruled Nichols out as the man seen with McVeigh when the truck was rented.

Defense attorney Ron Woods became angered and slammed his ju-

ry folder down on the table when U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch cut short his probing questions about the man's belief that more than one person was needed to build the bomb.

The man eventually acknowledged one person could have built the bomb "with some difficulty."

Six candidates were questioned Tuesday, including a retired postal service carrier and a United Parcel Service employee. Thirty-nine prospects have been questioned since the trial began. One man was excused Tuesday because he was a part-time student.

The judge and lawyers spent more than an hour questioning another prospect, a young house painter who said two people convicted of the same crime deserve the same penalty, a notion unfavorable to the defense given McVeigh's death sentence.

He also was disturbed by the deaths of children.

"That kind of bothered me, innocent children dying," he said. "There's no need for that."

Earlier, a mother of two young children began crying and wiped her eyes as she recalled the children who died in the explosion. Asked what she felt when she saw the first televised images of the devastation, she replied: "Overwhelming grief."

Nichols, 42, could get the death penalty if convicted of murder and conspiracy in the 1995 bombing that killed 168 people and injured hundreds of others. McVeigh was convicted of the same charges in June and sentenced to die.

