

# Defense presents its case

■ Lawyers in Nichols case raise specter of different accomplice to McVeigh.

By **SANDY SHORE**  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Minutes after the prosecution completed its testimony against Terry Nichols on Tuesday, defense lawyers raised the specter of John Doe 2, a shadowy figure some people reported seeing with Timothy McVeigh before the Oklahoma City bombing.

Going immediately to a key part of their case, defense lawyers presented a sketch of John Doe 2 to a witness, trying to place an accomplice — someone other than Nichols — with the already convicted McVeigh.

Lea McGown, the owner of the Dreamland Motel in Junction City, Kan., rented McVeigh a room the weekend before the bombing and said she heard McVeigh speaking with one or possibly two other people in his room one night.

But she said she couldn't identify them. She also said she had never seen Nichols and couldn't identify the sketch of John Doe 2. She did remember seeing McVeigh with a large Ryder



Associated Press photo

Lea McGown, owner of the hotel that rented Timothy McVeigh a room, testified she heard him speak to one or two others in the room.

rental truck.

The sketch of John Doe 2 was created shortly after the bombing and purported to show

somebody seen with McVeigh when he rented the Ryder truck believed to be used in the bombing.

In McVeigh's trial, prosecutors said the man in the sketch was not involved in the bombing, but the defense contends that people other than McVeigh were involved.

Defense lawyers also called FBI chemist Steven Burmeister to ask a question they were prevented from asking on Monday when he testified for the prosecution: What was the bomb made of?

Burmeister said it was beyond his expertise to answer that question. He said ammonium nitrate was one ingredient, but there was no proof of blasting caps or nitromethane, which prosecutors cite as other bomb ingredients.

Prosecutors said Nichols worked with McVeigh for months on the bombing preparations, a plan hatched in retaliation for a government raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, in which about 80 people died.

Nichols is accused of stealing explosives from a Kansas quarry in the fall of 1994, robbing Arkansas gun collector Roger Moore of weapons to be sold to finance the bombing and purchasing two tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer — the key bomb ingredient.