

Bombing Grand Jury Awaiting FBI Testimony

Dallas Morning News, The (TX)

November 11, 1998 | Page: 24A | Section: NEWS

An Oklahoma County grand jury that is investigating a larger conspiracy in the Oklahoma City bombing has recessed until FBI agents involved in the federal inquiry are free to testify.

Grand jurors met Monday before recessing until Tuesday, when a ban on FBI testimony is expected to be lifted. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver lifted the ban on Oct. 5 and refused to reconsider on Nov. 3. A formal mandate is expected to be handed down this week.

Lawyers for convicted bombing conspirators Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols wanted the ban in case they won federal retrials, but the appellate court said their concerns were too speculative. In their federal trials, Mr. McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy and sentenced to death, and Mr. Nichols was convicted of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Oklahoma grand jury is looking for evidence of a larger conspiracy and an alleged government cover-up in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which killed 168 people and injured more than 500.

Federal authorities have said they doubt a larger conspiracy and deny any advance knowledge of the blast.

Since the grand jury first convened on June 30, 1997, it has heard from 116 witnesses, including 23 federal employees. One of the witnesses worked for the FBI.

The grand jury has not issued a report in the case.