

Neighbors of robbed Arkansas gun collector testify at Nichols' trial

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — An Arkansas gun collector told insurance agents "the feds" were behind a robbery that prosecutors say helped finance the Oklahoma City bombing, the agents testified Tuesday at bombing conspirator Terry Nichols' murder trial.

Prosecutors seeking the death penalty against Nichols allege he robbed collector Roger Moore on Nov. 5, 1994, to help finance the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. The bombing killed 168 people.

Defense attorneys have suggested the robbery was staged and that executed bomber Timothy McVeigh helped plan it.

Moore has testified a hooded gunman bound him and covered his eyes with duct tape, then took an estimated \$63,000 in weapons and other items during the robbery. Two days later, Moore re-

ported the robbery to insurance agents, who told him his loss was not fully covered, agent Jan Dies said.

"He was disappointed but he didn't express anger," Dies said. "He was very agitated. He said, 'The feds did it. The feds did it.' "

Moore's neighbor, Verda Mae Powell, said he appeared out of breath and a little nervous when he came to her door after the robbery. She said he made two or three telephone calls.

Her husband, Walt Powell, said Moore led him to where a phone line had been cut behind his house: "If he was all bound up ... how would he know where his phone wire had been cut?"

Nichols, 49, is serving a life sentence for the deaths of eight federal law enforcement officers in the bombing. In Oklahoma, Nichols faces 161 counts of murder for the

deaths of the other 160 victims and one victims' fetus.

Earlier Tuesday, James Rosencrans of Kingman, Ariz., a former neighbor of the prosecution's star witness Michael Fortier, said Fortier received a cache of weapons at his home before the bombing.

Rosencrans testified he watched Nichols unload duffel bags from McVeigh's car and carry them into Fortier's house. Prosecutors allege the duffel bags contained weapons robbed from Moore and sold to help finance the bomb plot.

Fortier said McVeigh told him during a telephone call that Nichols was involved in Moore's robbery. "He said Terry did Bob," Fortier said. Bob was an alias associated with Moore.

Rosencrans, whose long brown

hair hung below the shoulders of his black T-shirt, repeatedly covered his eyes and face as he was questioned by defense attorney Brian Hermanson about his contacts with McVeigh and Fortier.

The questioning was part of a defense strategy to show McVeigh tried to recruit others to the bomb plot. Fortier is serving a 12-year prison sentence for knowing about the plot and not telling authorities. McVeigh was convicted on federal murder charges for the bombing and executed in 2001.

Following the bombing, Rosencrans said Fortier asked him to hide hand grenades and other explosives and gave him two bags to get rid of. He said he didn't know the bags contained ammonium nitrate fertilizer until he opened them.