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McVeigh evidence withheld: What they're saying



May 11, 2001

Web posted at: 10:08 a.m. EDT (1408 GMT)

Stephen Jones, former McVeigh attorney:

"My guess is that he was elated because it embarrasses the government. It does in effect sort of defeat the government and there is egg on the face of FBI this morning, although one has to admit that they came forward and said they found this, so it could be nothing more than a 24-hour news item."

Patrick Ryan, McVeigh prosecutor:

"It's very unfortunate (but) one of the things that has been said over and over again since yesterday afternoon is that the government failed to turn these materials over to the defense, and the point has not been made that the FBI didn't turn these materials over to the prosecution either. These are not materials we're familiar with either."



Nathan Chambers, McVeigh attorney:

"It's troubling the documents that were ordered to be produced were not produced until six days before the scheduled execution. That's not the way the system was designed to work." (122 K/12 sec. AIFF or WAV sound)

Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating:

"All of us involved in the process will defer to a judge if a judge intervenes, but it is a period of great uncertainty and that's not any fun to be in this position so near (to the scheduled execution date)."

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Paul Howell, father of bombing victim:

"Well, first of all I kind of wondered if someone was trying to play a joke on us ... then when I found out it may be true, my next thought was -- Why in the world did they wait for six years to come up with this kind of evidence? Who are they trying to punish? The family members, or McVeigh, or what?" (1:10 107 K/10 sec. AIFF or WAV sound)

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Mindy Tucker, Justice Department spokeswoman:

"While the department is confident the documents do not in any way create any reasonable doubt about McVeigh's guilt and do not contradict his repeated confessions of guilt, the department is concerned that McVeigh's attorneys were not able to review them at the appropriate time."

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Paul Belzer, priest and friend to Timothy McVeigh:

"Timothy said that Uncle Sam was a big bully and this just says ... that he is right. I mean this is ridiculous." (1:11 122 K/11 sec. AIFF or WAV sound)

Sean Connelly, special attorney to the U.S. attorney general, in a letter to McVeigh's lawyers:

"We do not believe anything being produced is ... material bearing on the federal convictions or sentences of Timothy McVeigh or Terry Nichols. Similarly, we do not believe anything in the materials makes even a prima facie showing of either man's actual innocence."

**Paul Heath, bombing survivor:**

"I have every confidence in the world that Judge Matsch has the ability to wade through those documents and decide if they are significant enough to consider if the McVeigh team wants to ask for a stay. But even if the McVeigh team wants a stay, I am not confident that McVeigh would even allow a stay at this point." (1:14 193 K/17 sec. AIFF or WAV sound)

Doug Carr, McVeigh juror:

"The prosecution proved everything to me. If there was something left out that's in those files, I don't think it was that significant."

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