

1 REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE JANET RENO,
2 ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

3 AND

4 LOUIS J. FREEH,
5 DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 REGARDING OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING INDICTMENTS

7
8
9 Thursday, August 10, 1995

10 3:05 p.m.

11
12
13 Conference Room B

14 Department of Justice

15 10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

16 Washington, D.C.

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Today a Federal
3 grand jury in Oklahoma City has returned two
4 indictments. In the first, Timothy James McVeigh
5 and Terry Lynn Nichols are charged with the
6 April 19 bombing of the Murrah Building in
7 Oklahoma City. The indictment contains 11
8 counts. The first three are for conspiring to
9 use a weapon of mass destruction to kill persons
10 and destroy Federal property, for using a truck
11 bomb to kill people and for malicious destruction
12 of Federal property resulting in death. The
13 remaining eight counts are for violating a
14 Federal murder statute that punishes the killing
15 of Federal law enforcement officials -- one count
16 for each of the eight law enforcement officials
17 killed in the blast. The indictment lists by
18 name all of the persons who died inside the
19 building. The maximum penalty possible is
20 death.

21 In the second, separate indictment,
22 Michael J. Fortier, is charged with four crimes,
23 including having knowledge of McVeigh's and
24 Nichols' bombing plan and concealing it from law
25 enforcement officials as well as several weapons

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1 offenses. He faces a maximum of 23 years in
2 prison.

3 At the same time, the United States
4 Attorney in Detroit is today moving to dismiss
5 charges against James Nichols who was indicted
6 for possession of illegal destructive devices
7 four months ago.

8 The FBI will continue its investigation
9 to determine whether additional individuals aided
10 Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols in the
11 conspiracy alleged in the indictment.

12 I want to say that I am grateful and
13 very proud of the hundreds of men and woman of
14 the FBI, the ATF, state and local police, and
15 prosecutors, the United States Attorney's offices
16 and the Justice Department whose commitment and
17 professionalism contributed to the progress of
18 this case. By their hard work, they have assured
19 us that the rules of a civilized society will be
20 enforced. Director Freeh?

21 DIRECTOR FREEH: Thank you, Attorney
22 General. This action, of course, by the grand
23 jury in the Western District of Oklahoma takes
24 the case to a critical new and important stage.
25 And I just want to add my remarks to those of the

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1 Attorney General to basically thank the people of
2 Oklahoma City, the people of Oklahoma, the
3 hundreds and literally thousands of people around
4 the country who have provided direct assistance
5 during the long course of this intense
6 investigation, of course, to the rescue workers
7 and the other people who provided such valuable
8 and humane services during such a tragic event.

9 And finally, just to thank publicly all
10 of my colleagues in law enforcement. And I
11 include in that, dozens and dozens of local and
12 state departments, the ATF which is represented
13 here by Director Magaw, all of the other Federal
14 agencies that supported a very, very intensive
15 and very critical investigation for resolving it
16 professionally, for working in a cooperative
17 spirit which I think is the template of how
18 police should work towards a common good and to
19 solve a case of such great importance.

20 I also want to thank the Attorney
21 General for her leadership during every aspect of
22 the case. From the moment of the blast until
23 today, she has been very, very forceful in her
24 leadership in her direction of the investigation
25 and her support which we on the lines in law

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1 enforcement sincerely appreciate. Thank you.

2 QUESTION: Can you state definitively
3 whether Michael Fortier will testify for the
4 prosecution?

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, we
6 cannot comment. The matter should be handled in
7 court and we will let the progress in the court
8 speak for itself.

9 QUESTION: Ms. Reno, can you tell us
10 when Mr. Fortier will appear in court? Do you
11 know that yet?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know
13 what schedules exist, but we will have
14 information available from the prosecutors in
15 Oklahoma City as it is appropriate.

16 QUESTION: Ms. Reno, did you personally
17 approve the Fortier deal, and was that critical
18 to these indictments?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I would not
20 comment on the process or what has happened
21 except to say that the process as it unfolds in
22 court speaks for itself.

23 QUESTION: Why does the indictment name
24 just the eight Federal law enforcement officials
25 who died and not the other 160 people?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It names all of
2 them. There are specific counts for the Federal
3 law enforcement officials because that is a
4 specific Federal crime.

5 QUESTION: Ms. Reno, what happened to
6 the \$2 million reward? Will that be collected
7 or --

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: There are a
9 number of people who have made claims and that
10 process is now ongoing.

11 QUESTION: With regard to the death
12 penalty, are you deciding now that you will seek
13 the death penalty?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We will follow
15 the processes outlined in our Attorney General's
16 manual and consider the information as it comes
17 from Oklahoma City.

18 QUESTION: With respect to Mr. Fortier,
19 I just didn't quite understand. Does this mean
20 that you felt that he was not responsible for the
21 bombing itself and that you were earlier pointing
22 to anyone responsible to face the death
23 sentence?

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Mr. Fortier has
25 been charged with what the evidence showed that

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1 he did, with all of the evidence showed that he
2 did.

3 QUESTION: Did you speak to the mother
4 of the defendant?

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I would let the
6 indictments speak for themselves.

7 QUESTION: You say the investigation is
8 continuing, but at this point have you ruled out
9 a broader conspiracy involving militias?

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: What we will do
11 is pursue every lead based on the evidence, but
12 we have charged everyone involved that we have
13 evidence of at this point.

14 QUESTION: Well, at this point you have
15 no evidence of a broader conspiracy.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I have answered
17 the question in the best way that I can.

18 QUESTION: There were other Federal
19 officers killed besides law enforcement officers,
20 weren't there? Is that a Federal crime?

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: My
22 understanding is that we have specifically
23 charged the Federal law enforcement crime as a
24 specific statute.

25 QUESTION: Ms. Reno, what happened to

1 John Doe number 2?

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, we have
3 pursued all the evidence and the indictments
4 today speak for what the evidence showed.

5 QUESTION: With what you know now, can
6 you speak to why Oklahoma was chosen for this
7 attack?

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, I think
9 that this has to be spelled out as the trial
10 proceeds.

11 QUESTION: Is there a way to assess the
12 likelihood of future suspects, or is this pretty
13 much it?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, I think
15 it's important to be understood that as the
16 investigation continues we will act based on the
17 evidence. And I don't think people should
18 generalize.

19 QUESTION: What about the dedication?
20 Are you still dedicating a relative similar
21 amount of prosecution investigation?

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We will commit
23 during the course of the trial process whatever
24 resources are necessary. And we don't talk in
25 terms of cutting back or adding. We talk in

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1 terms of doing what is necessary. Obviously, the
2 efforts to pursue the leads around the country as
3 most of these leads have been pursued and
4 exhausted. But we will continue to pursue any
5 lead that is necessary.

6 QUESTION: Ms. Reno, do you have any
7 idea when the prosecution is going to be ready
8 for trial?

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That will be
10 established in Oklahoma City and the prosecutors
11 in Oklahoma City should speak to that issue when
12 it is appropriate.

13 QUESTION: Director Freeh, the FBI has
14 never officially withdrawn the composite
15 drawing. Are you withdrawing that composite
16 drawing?

17 DIRECTOR FREEH: No, we are not at this
18 time.

19 QUESTION: So he is still an active
20 suspect?

21 DIRECTOR FREEH: I wouldn't
22 characterize him as that. My answer is that we
23 haven't withdrawn the circular right now.

24 QUESTION: Mr. Freeh, are you able to
25 tell us in general what resources are currently

1 being devoted to this case from the FBI?

2 DIRECTOR FREEH: Every resource
3 necessary. There is not one aspect of this case
4 from an investigative point of view that's been
5 required where we haven't put immediately the
6 requisite resources and that will continue during
7 the trial.

8 QUESTION: Mr. Freeh, is it necessary
9 here to get Mr. Fortier's testimony with this
10 charge that is brought? Is he essential to the
11 Government's case?

12 DIRECTOR FREEH: I can't really comment
13 on that. I think you will have to let the
14 pretrial motions and the trial unfold to answer
15 those questions.

16 QUESTION: Do you feel that there is
17 less of a threat today against Federal buildings
18 as a result of your investigation, or how would
19 you characterize that?

20 DIRECTOR FREEH: I think the threat is
21 still present and still significant enough for
22 everyone to be concerned about it.

23 QUESTION: Do you think it's likely the
24 trial will be held in Oklahoma City, or do you
25 feel that it will be moved?

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1 DIRECTOR FREEH: That's up to the
2 judge.

3 QUESTION: Ms. Reno, can you comment on
4 why the charges against James Nichols were
5 dropped?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That is spelled
7 out in the statement that has been released. And
8 I would let the statement speak for itself.

9 (Whereupon, at 3:35 p.m., the press
10 conference adjourned.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, **CARLA A. ANDREWS**, hereby certify that I am the official court reporter who reported to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction the proceedings in the foregoing matter.

That I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this matter. I further certify that I am not a relative nor employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

Carla A. Andrews