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## DIAL 'B' FOR BOMBER

### Phone records link McVeigh to explosives suppliers

DALLAS (AP) — In the months leading up to the Oklahoma City bombing, suspect Timothy McVeigh made more than two dozen telephone calls to suppliers of bomb components, the Dallas Morning News reported today.

Citing records from prepaid phone calling cards, the newspaper said 22 of the calls were made during a three-day period of September 1994 to companies including racing fuel suppliers, chemical distributors and one of the nation's largest explosives manufacturers.

That wave of calls came just days before McVeigh and suspect Terry Nichols allegedly began buying tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, the same component used in the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people.

Records show the calls to bomb-component

companies continued in October 1994 from Kingman, Ariz., about the same time that the suspects allegedly drove there to hide stolen explosives, the newspaper said. Three of the Arizona calls were made from the home of Michael Fortier, whom McVeigh often visited.

Fortier, a former Army buddy of McVeigh's, has pleaded guilty to knowing about the bomb plot and doing nothing to stop it. He plans to testify for the government.

While Nichols' lawyer has said his client split with McVeigh in February 1995, government sources told the newspaper that the phone records will be used in court to show that the suspects stayed in close touch in the days before the explosion.

The records show that as McVeigh traveled around the country he exchanged several calls with Nichols, right up until the day

before the bombing, the newspaper reported. Among the calls McVeigh made, the newspaper said, was an April 14, 1995, call from a Junction City, Kan., bus station to a Ryder agency there that rented the truck used in the blast.

Lawyers on both sides declined to comment on the phone records.

The bombing indictment alleges both defendants used the card "as a means of concealing their true identities and as a means of preventing calls from being traced."

But within days of the bombing, Joel Soto, a marketing representative for a company formerly known as WCT Communications, which issued the card, said FBI agents came to the company's Santa Barbara, Calif., headquarters and obtained toll records for the 684 calls made on the card.

## Houston blacks urged to boycott white businesses

Organizers of the Coalition for a Black Agenda issued the call for a boycott lasting Fridays through May 17

HOUSTON (AP) — Black residents of Houston are being asked to spend money only at black-owned businesses on the next three Fridays.

A recently formed organization known as the Coalition for a Black Agenda held a news conference Wednesday to issue the call for blacks to patronize only black businesses on Friday, May 10 and May 17.

Organizers estimated there are 10,000 wholly black-owned businesses in Houston.

The Rev. William A. Lawson, pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, said the rights of blacks have steadily deteriorated since the election of Ronald Reagan as president in 1980.

He listed minority grievances that included the ouster of black judges from office here during the 1994 Republican election sweep, the recent halt of some affirmative action policies and efforts around the country to redraw congressional districts where blacks hold office.

"The 'angry white male' has protest-

ed that minorities and women have taken from him the power and control that is rightfully his, and we have watched a systematic dismantling of our human rights," Lawson said.

A list of people and organizations backing the coalition includes two city council members, a state representative and a state senator, two chambers of commerce, the president of Texas Southern University, the NAACP and many community associations.

That will lead up to a major town hall meeting on May 18 at a site to be determined, Lawson said Wednesday.

May 18 is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Plessy vs. Ferguson decision that held "separate but equal" public facilities for whites and blacks were compatible with the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

That decision, sanctioning a form of racial segregation that lasted for decades, has since faded into history, but not the memories of many black Americans.

## Health department probes 'date rape' pill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Health wants to know more about the "date-rape" pill.

David Collins, chairman of the department's regulatory committee, said Thursday that the department has received numerous complaints about misuse of the drug Rohypnol, manufactured by Roche HLR Services.

The committee will hold a hearing to discuss the drug on May 15.

Roche sells the tranquilizer in Mexico, South America, Europe and Asia as a sleeping aid.

### Misuse of the drug ... has included date rape and ritual use on college campuses.

Collins said misuse of the drug, brought into the United States through Mexico, has included date rape and ritual use on college campuses. People who combine the drug with alcohol have reported blackouts lasting up to 24 hours, the department said.

In March, U.S. Customs officials imposed a ban on bringing Rohypnol into the country. But Collins said he believes people still import it.

Before the ban, a University of Texas study showed up to 4,000 Rohypnol tablets being declared at the U.S.-Mexican border. Officials believed far more tablets were not being reported.

"The (health) board wants to act promptly to assess the extent of the problem and take whatever action is deemed prudent," Collins said.

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