

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

3 Criminal Action No. 96-CR-68

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

5 Plaintiff,

6 vs.

7 TIMOTHY JAMES McVEIGH and TERRY LYNN NICHOLS,

8 Defendants.

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT  
(HEARING ON MEDIA OBJECTIONS TO SEALING)

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12 Proceedings before the HONORABLE RICHARD P. MATSCH,

13 Judge, United States District Court for the District of

14 Colorado, commencing at 9:00 a.m., on the 3d day of January,

15 1997, in Courtroom C-203, United States Courthouse, Denver,

16 Colorado.

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24 Proceeding Recorded by Mechanical Stenography, Transcription  
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1 APPEARANCES

2 JOSEPH H. HARTZLER, SEAN CONNELLY, and BETH WILKINSON,  
3 Special Attorneys to the U.S. Attorney General, 1961 Stout  
4 Street, Suite 1200, Denver, Colorado, 80294, appearing for the  
5 plaintiff.

6 STEPHEN JONES and ROBERT NIGH, JR., Attorneys at Law,  
7 Jones, Wyatt & Roberts, 114 East Broadway, Suite 100, Post  
8 Office Box 472, Enid, Oklahoma, 73702-0472, and JERALYN  
9 MERRITT, 303 East 17th Avenue, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado,  
10 80203, appearing for Defendant McVeigh.

11 MICHAEL E. TIGAR, REID NEUREITER, and JANE TIGAR,  
12 Attorneys at Law, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1308, Denver,  
13 Colorado, 80203, appearing for Defendant Nichols.

14 THOMAS B. KELLEY, Attorney at Law, Faegre & Benson,  
15 L.L.P., 2500 Republic Plaza, 370 17th Street, Denver, Colorado,  
16 80202-4004, appearing for the media consortium.

17 PAUL C. WATLER and RACHEL BOEHM, Attorneys at Law,  
18 Jenkins & Gilchrist, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suit 3200, Dallas,  
19 Texas, 75202-2799, appearing for the Dallas Morning News.

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 THE COURT: Be seated, please.

3 We're convened in 96-CR-68, United States against  
4 Timothy James McVeigh and Terry Lynn Nichols, for the purpose  
5 of hearing objections filed December 19, 1996, by The Dallas  
6 Morning News to the sealing of documents and in camera

7 proceedings ordered in Scheduling Order No. 6. That was joined  
8 yesterday by The New York Times filing the same objection; and  
9 today the Dallas Morning News filed an additional objection to  
10 the sealing of what is called the "Brief of the United States  
11 Regarding Co-conspirator Statements."

12 This -- these objections I consider to be consistent  
13 with the opportunity for objections to be filed as provided in  
14 the order on media motions entered January 24 of last year.

15 So we'll take the appearances first for the parties.

16 MR. HARTZLER: Good morning, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Hartzler.

18 MR. HARTZLER: Joe Hartzler for the United States.  
19 I'm joined today by Mr. Sean Connelly and Beth Wilkinson.

20 You may recall Ms. Wilkinson had surgery yesterday, so  
21 I hope you will not call upon her, because she's trying not to  
22 speak at all.

23 THE COURT: All right. I'm glad you're out of the  
24 surgical arena and back in this one.

25 Mr. Jones . . .

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1 MR. JONES: Good morning, your Honor. Stephen Jones  
2 on behalf of Mr. McVeigh; and I'm joined by Mr. Nigh and  
3 Ms. Merritt.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 Mr. Tigar . . .

6 MR. TIGAR: Good morning, your Honor. Michael Tigar  
7 for Terry Lynn Nichols, joined by Reid Neureiter and Jane  
8 Tigar. Mr. Nichols is not here this morning. He has waived  
9 his appearance, and in any case we state for the record this is  
10 a Rule 43 situation that would not require his presence.

11 THE COURT: We've previously had a waiver of  
12 Mr. McVeigh's appearance; correct?

13 MR. JONES: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Now for the objectors, Mr. Kelley, I see  
15 you're present.

16 MR. KELLEY: Your Honor, for the media consortium, I'm  
17 here primarily to introduce Mr. Watler, who was admitted in the  
18 case while it was in an Oklahoma matter, has not been formally  
19 admitted here.

20 I would ask that he be permitted to appear and argue  
21 the objections that have been filed.

22 THE COURT: We'll recognize him and also a colleague  
23 from the same office. Ms. Boehm, is it?

24 MR. KELLEY: Rachel Boehm, your Honor.

25 And I'd state for the record that the consortium does

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1 object to the closure of these proceedings. We made an  
2 objection in open court during the last open court proceeding  
3 in November which your Honor overruled, and I don't want it to  
4 appear that the other media covering this trial aren't just as  
5 interested as The Dallas Morning News and New York Times in  
6 these closure issues. I have been contacted by the Denver  
7 Post, CBS, and others are attempting to contact me to see if  
8 it's necessary for them to file separate objections and --

9 THE COURT: Well, I hope you don't have a pager or  
10 something that's going to go off, or a cell phone.

11 MR. KELLEY: Absolutely not; and in a few minutes I'll  
12 just act like Ms. Wilkinson, or I'll try.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 MR. KELLEY: But your Honor, please understand that we

15 are dealing with what we understand to be some decisions or at  
16 least information being provided by the Court for purposes of  
17 decisions and wish to be on the record as objecting. And with  
18 that, I'm sure your Honor is tired of hearing from me on these  
19 issues; and I'll let the Court listen to a different voice.

20 THE COURT: All right. Have -- I assume that counsel  
21 for the papers has received the memorandum --

22 MR. WATLER: We have, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: -- from Mr. Tigar --

24 MR. WATLER: Yes, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: -- on behalf of Mr. Nichols.

1 I have a couple of comments to make before I hear from  
2 Counsel, because I've reviewed Scheduling Order No. 6 of  
3 November 22, 1996, and also the order that I earlier referred  
4 to on media motions which set out what I have established as  
5 the criteria for closure or sealing of documents and the five

7 But in reviewing the scheduling order, it's not, I  
8 think, as clear as I wish it had been; and perhaps some of the  
9 objections may be rooted in some uncertainty about what the  
10 Court intends with respect to further proceedings and what  
11 indeed is the nature of our meetings next week. And if you  
12 have a copy of that scheduling order, in the order part that

14 submitting to counsel for Defendant McVeigh materials related  
15 to proof of identification and the objections and the hearing,  
16 if necessary: Now, if a hearing on that is necessary, it will  
17 be in open court. It's not intended that the hearing be  
18 closed.

19 The second item, deposition, is not a matter, I think,  
20 that's in dispute. It's a discovery-type deposition.

21 The third item relates to this proffer of statements

22 under 801(d)(2)(E) of the Federal Rules of Evidence; and this  
23 is, as I understand it, the subject of the objection filed this  
24 morning. But I want to clarify my intention with respect to  
25 that as well.

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1 I directed that the proffer be filed so that there  
2 could be an evaluation of whether it will be necessary to hold  
3 a James hearing, "James hearing" as it's called in this circuit  
4 because of the James case in this circuit, before trial to  
5 determine whether statements are presumably going to be  
6 admissible under the provision regarding co-conspirator  
7 evidence or testimony.

8 Now, the proffer itself, it seems to me, is an  
9 appropriate matter to be sealed. If there were to be a James  
10 hearing, if there is to be a James hearing, that would be open  
11 because that's a part of the adjudicative process.

12 The fourth item that's listed, the review of -- well,  
13 that sets the meeting for January 7 and establishes that I wish  
14 to meet with counsel to review jury selection procedures, the  
15 proffer already referred to, to discuss whether there are going  
16 to be any fact stipulations and whether there will be motions  
17 to suppress some testimony that may be offered by deposition.  
18 With respect to the latter, a hearing on that issue, I would  
19 anticipate, would be in the open; but Mr. Tigar has indicated  
20 an objection to that in his papers filed in opposition to these  
21 objections.

22 Then what I'm doing is attempting to draw the  
23 distinction here that is not explicit in the Scheduling Order  
24 No. 6 between adjudicative hearings and these preliminary  
25 planning phases.

1 Now, the witness and exhibit lists -- I don't know if  
2 that -- well, I guess that is objected to; but the statute  
3 dealing with capital offense here requires the delivery of  
4 lists of witnesses three days before trial to the defendant.  
5 There is no provision in the statute of which I'm aware that  
6 requires that to be filed in court in a public record; and the  
7 same is true with the exhibit lists.

8 The seventh item as to whether there will be hearings  
9 necessary on forensic testimony, opinion testimony, referred to  
10 usually as "expert testimony": Here again, the discussion of  
11 that and the filings made or to be made are preliminary; and if  
12 there are hearings with respect to the forensics, those  
13 hearings are expected to be in open court.

14 And of course, the trial proceedings to begin March 31  
15 will be in open court.

16 Now, in my view, the sessions to be held next week  
17 scheduled thus far to be in camera by way of being in chambers  
18 and non public is that these are really trial planning  
19 conferences; and I would remind the objectors that Rule 17.1 of  
20 the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure provides for a pretrial  
21 conference. The rule says that the court either on motion or  
22 on its own initiative may hold one or more conferences to  
23 consider such matters as will promote a fair and expeditious  
24 trial, and that's exactly what I'm attempting to do.

25 One of the aspects of this is that I'm trying to, with

1 the help of counsel, get certain matters out of the way so that  
2 trial itself is not going to be delayed by interruptions with

3 side bar conferences or in chambers or, as sometimes called,  
4 "robing room motion hearings." And of course, there a is  
5 considerable amount of law that supports side bar conferences  
6 and conferences in chambers in the course of trial on matters  
7 that are non-public; and essentially what we're anticipating  
8 doing next week is very much along that line.

9       Additionally, these sealings, sealed papers filed thus  
10 far have included a considerable amount of discovery material;  
11 and in part, there is a reliance on a provision of 16(d)(1) in  
12 the discovery rules, which provide that the court may permit a  
13 party to make a showing for protective and modifying orders  
14 under discovery in camera by the submission of a written  
15 statement to be inspected by the judge alone. That even  
16 contemplates not only in camera but ex parte.

17       And under Rule 26.2(c), there is the same kind of  
18 provision for in camera and indeed ex parte submission of a  
19 statement -- witness statements, where there are redactions,  
20 for the court to review redactions. And that's also consistent  
21 with Section 3500 of Title 18 United States Code; and indeed,  
22 there are a number of case authorities for the Court actually  
23 requiring the court to consider in camera matters where there  
24 is a dispute as to whether a particular record or report or  
25 notation constitutes a statement under the act and the rule.

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1 And I can simply advise publicly that within this material that  
2 has been sealed under this scheduling order, there are some  
3 things that I think come under that category.

4       So I make these observations simply to assist in  
6 understanding of the objectors as to what's sealed and what I  
7 anticipate doing next week.

8 And of course, one of the things that I mentioned in  
9 the order a year ago, the order on media motions, was the  
10 timing as an aspect of disclosure, as the law clearly  
11 indicates, so that some of the things that are now sealed will

13 With that, I'll call on Mr. Watler or whoever is going  
14 to speak in support of these objections.

15 Mr. Watler?

16 MR. WATLER: Thank you, your Honor.

17 Thank you. Good morning.

18 THE COURT: Good morning.

20 MR. WATLER: I do appreciate the Court's comments, and  
21 I think they are very useful in narrowing the focus of what  
22 needs to be dealt with from our perspective this morning, your  
23 Honor.

24 I agree with the Court: I think there was some  
25 ambiguity and some uncertainty.

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1 THE COURT: I take responsibility for that. It was a  
2 pretty concise order.

3 MR. WATLER: And I appreciate that; but there was some  
4 question of whether or not there was going to be some  
5 adjudication, if you will, in chambers. And I think we  
6 certainly agree with what the Court observed, as I was  
7 listening to your comments just moment ago, that I think the  
8 basic line-drawing has to be and must be at the point between  
9 simply conferences between counsel that are aimed at efficient  
10 trial administration, and so forth, as the Court indicated, and  
11 the actual determination of issues that may affect the  
12 substantive rights of the parties, whether it's the Government  
13 or the defendants.

14 And I think clearly as to those type of proceedings,

15 the case law is clear that if there is going to be any kind of  
16 substantive determination/adjudication, the First Amendment  
17 right of access attaches, and all the analysis that goes with  
18 it has to be carried through in order to justify closure.

19 As I followed the Court in your comments, it appears  
20 that the only category that would apparently remain of whether  
21 or not there should be any closed in camera proceedings that  
22 may fall in that category would be the motion to suppress  
23 deposition testimony; and as the Court noted, apparently  
24 counsel for Defendant Nichols, at least, believes such a  
25 proceeding should not be in court.

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1 So I had really prepared my comments to more globally  
2 address these things; but I will try to focus on that  
3 particular issue, which I believe appears to be the main  
4 outstanding one, if you will.

5 THE COURT: And I might say in a little additional  
6 self-justification that I did not forget about the procedure  
7 that I established in the order a year ago that said if any  
8 hearing in the sense that we're now discussing is to be sealed,  
9 it has to be posted and an opportunity for objections for three  
10 days and all that sort of thing. And I didn't follow that  
11 procedure, because as I have now better explained, I hadn't  
12 intended to use Scheduling Order No. 6 as an order closing  
13 hearings.

14 MR. WATLER: Well, your Honor, I don't know if it may  
15 be premature. I mean, perhaps the Court contemplates this; but  
16 before there was a closed hearing on motions to suppress, for  
17 instance, that the Court would have notice --

18 THE COURT: I would, yes. And what I intend to do

19 with respect to this deposition that's shown as sealed -- the  
20 objections to it and so forth -- is to determine whether it's  
21 really necessary to hold a hearing.

22 MR. WATLER: Your Honor, it may be premature; and if  
23 the Court deems it so, obviously maybe this should be saved for  
24 another day, except I would point out we are here today and  
25 prepared to address that. If the parties consent to it being

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1 heard now, I certainly think it might be more efficient to  
2 proceed.

3 THE COURT: Go ahead. I have no problem with that. I  
4 may not rule on it today, but I'll take your views.

5 MR. WATLER: Your Honor, basically, I mean, we're  
6 talking about a motion to suppress deposition testimony.  
7 Clearly the U.S. Supreme Court --

8 THE COURT: Now, this, I'll make clear: This  
9 particular deposition testimony is, as I understand it,  
10 intended to be offered at trial.

11 MR. WATLER: Correct.

12 THE COURT: This is trial testimony, as compared with  
13 the discovery that I mentioned in the scheduling order.

14 MR. WATLER: All right. All the more so, I believe,  
15 given the fact that it's intended to be offered for trial in  
16 its determination of whether or not evidence will come into  
17 evidence at trial. I think it clearly falls within the  
18 classical suppression hearing which the U.S. Supreme Court has  
19 held in the Waller vs. Georgia case to be the type of hearing  
20 that the First Amendment right of access attaches to. The  
21 Waller case, as the Court probably knows, is a 1984 or '85  
22 decision that fell right in the midst of this line of U.S.  
23 Supreme Court cases dealing with the right of access.

24 That particular case dealt with the defendants'  
25 asserted right of -- to public trial, but it did concern a

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1 suppression hearing, importantly. And of course, the court  
2 held that a suppression hearing was part of the Sixth Amendment  
3 right to a public trial.

4 There is no case law that I'm aware of, your Honor --  
5 and we did look for some specifically dealing with motions to  
6 suppress deposition testimony; but I think in form and  
7 function, it's identical to any other type of motion to  
8 suppress. And we think Waller vs. Georgia indicates that the  
9 First Amendment right of access attaches to it.

10 So essentially, that takes us past, at least in my  
11 view, the first two prongs of the test that both this court has  
12 identified and the Press Enterprise case sets out: That's the  
13 so-called "test of experience and logic."

14 We next move on, your Honor, to whether or not in  
15 light of the fact that it's a qualified right of access --  
16 First Amendment right of access is qualified, which means it  
17 certainly can be overcome in certain instances. And what the  
18 U.S. Supreme Court has said and this court has recognized is it  
19 can be overcome if there is a countervailing interest of the  
20 highest order.

21 Certainly a defendant's fair trial rights are such a  
22 countervailing interest, and the case law well recognizes that.  
23 The case law is also well developed that where the right to a  
24 fair trial is the interest asserted to justify closure that  
25 there is a few more prongs of the test that have to be

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1 followed. And that's the substantial probabilities standard.  
2 There has to be showing of substantial -- of a substantial  
3 probability of prejudice flowing from the closed proceeding  
4 that closure would prevent. And I think there are several  
5 aspects of that that bear examining here in this context.

6 One is, as the Court alluded to in its comments,  
7 Defendant Nichols has submitted a packet of 11 articles, I  
8 believe, that have been published basically over the last three  
9 or four months, published here in the Denver area or available  
10 in the Denver area; and to my understanding, those are offered  
11 to show that there is prejudicial adverse publicity that has  
12 been associated with this case.

13 THE COURT: That's my understanding of the offer,  
14 yeah.

15 MR. WATLER: Your Honor, without delving into any  
16 great detail about those articles, my own view of them is that  
17 they are very representative of balanced, responsible,  
18 nonpartisan, non-inflammatory journalism; but even if they  
19 reasonably could be viewed as prejudicing any of the fair trial  
20 rights of the defendants, that -- the test does not stop there.  
21 It's not, in fact, whether or not there has been prior previous  
22 adverse publicity or prejudicial publicity. And at most those  
23 are offered for some evidence that there has been such  
24 publicity on prior occasions.

25 The test is is there going to be publicity flowing out

1 of the particular consideration -- particular issue under  
2 consideration, the particular proceeding sought to be closed.  
3 And we think not. We think that -- my understanding -- and I  
4 may be mistaken on the content of the motion to suppress that

5 deals with the deposition of Agent Whitehurst, and the Court  
6 may correct --

7 THE COURT: Actually, it doesn't. It's another  
8 witness. I don't know if Agent Whitehurst is a witness; but  
9 the person whose deposition is at issue here, the deposition  
10 was taken as a testimonial and it's not Whitehurst.

11 MR. WATLER: Your Honor, trying to read between the  
12 lines, if you will --

13 THE COURT: I'm not going to have a 20 Questions  
14 exercise here.

15 MR. WATLER: That's not my purpose; but I'll simply  
16 say that my reading of the Scheduling Order 6 led me to the  
17 inference, at least, that that might be the subject of it; but  
18 what is required, your Honor, is a showing that something that  
19 would transpire in a proceeding will result in prejudicial  
21 that.

22 I think obviously the record offered by Defendant  
23 Nichols shows -- no one disputes this -- that this case has  
24 been extensively covered by the media; that many, many aspects  
25 have been reported by the media. It's difficult to see how

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1 some incremental additional amount of publicity is suddenly  
2 going to tip the balance over to there being a finding of  
4 defendants' fair trial rights.

5 And I would point the Court to that consideration in  
6 large measure.

7 There also -- the other aspect of that substantial  
8 probability test requires not only that there is a substantial  
9 probability of prejudice but a showing that closure will  
10 prevent that; that closing the proceedings will prevent that.

11 And once again, I would point to the record that

12 Defendant Nichols has submitted to you. The Court needs no  
13 explanation here or detailed recital here. The Court has taken  
14 many steps towards closure. There is many pleadings have been  
15 sealed, and so forth; and that's well known and well  
16 documented.

17 Despite that closure that has already taken place, you  
18 have the reporting that the defendants submit or Defendant  
19 Nichols submits claimed to be prejudicial. I think their own  
20 submission shows that closure is not going to be effective;  
21 that you have -- you have media -- news media who are quite  
22 interested in these proceedings, who are enterprising, who are  
23 thorough; and in fact when -- I think there is a tendency when  
24 proceedings are closed to send them to find less reliable  
25 sources and less verifiable sources of information. So I think

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1 to some extent you have the phenomenon of creating or  
2 encouraging the creation of the very thing that the Court is  
3 trying to prevent, and that is unreliable reporting,  
4 information that may be inflammatory; that may not be reliable;  
5 that may not ever even come into evidence. And I think that is  
6 more likely to occur and not less likely to occur by closing  
7 proceedings of this kind.

8 Finally, even if all these tests that we've been  
9 talking about up to point are deemed to favor closure, there is  
10 still one final measure that has to be dealt with; and that is  
11 whether there are reasonable alternatives to closure, and I  
12 think clearly there are here.

13 The first and foremost of those, as the case law  
14 recognizes, is voir dire. In conjunction with that point, I  
15 would also point to part of the submission by Defendant  
16 Nichols, which was a news report of a public opinion poll that

17 shows that in this venue that half of those surveyed in this  
18 public opinion poll had reached no determination in their own  
19 minds of guilt or innocence, which means there must be several  
20 hundred thousand people in this area who have an open mind as  
21 to the defendants' guilt or innocence.

22 18 are needed to serve as jurors, 12 jurors and 6  
23 alternates. I think voir dire, particularly with skilled  
24 advocates, as the Court has the benefit of before it, and of  
25 course the Court's own long experience at the bench is a very

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1 effective remedy to root out and make sure that any prejudicial  
2 pretrial publicity does not influence any person who is chosen  
3 as a juror in this case or as an alternate. It's very  
4 efficacious; and I think it's certainly available, and there is  
5 no showing that it would not be so. In fact, there is really  
6 no attempt to make that showing here, as I understand it, on  
7 the part of the Defendant Nichols.

8 Other alternatives would also include admonitions to  
9 jurors once they are seated to decide the case only on the  
10 evidence. And I think there is both empirical and case law  
11 support that jurors do follow those admonitions. Jurors do  
12 take very seriously your Honor's instructions when they're  
13 given from the bench under the authority of the United States,  
14 and I think there is obviously here no showing that they would  
15 not do so here.

16 In sum, your Honor, as far as any hearing on the  
17 motion to suppress deposition testimony, we think clearly the  
18 public right of access would attach to that. We think there is  
19 not sufficient showing to overcome that right of access, and we  
20 would urge the Court to hold any such hearing in open court.

21 A few more comments. Perhaps there are not too many  
22 items, I don't think, outstanding, given the Court's comments.  
23 One thing I would point out, your Honor: The Court  
24 referred to the hearings next week, or the chambers conferences  
25 next week are aimed at trying to eliminate the necessity for

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1 side bars and mid-trial disruptions and delays. And a couple  
2 of comments here, your Honor: One is I think there is perhaps  
3 not explicitly recognized but there are certainly very salutary  
4 benefits of having side bars in mid trial, rather than as  
5 stand-alone procedures. And those are the fact that they occur  
6 mid trial; that those persons in attendance among the public  
7 and the press have some context for what is occurring in  
8 chambers.

9 Obviously, the Court has provided a great deal of that  
10 today with its comments that we didn't have before; but when  
11 a mid-trial bench conference or chambers conference occurs, the  
12 public has some understanding of the context in which it is  
13 occurring in. It has -- it can judge the duration of it,  
14 because typically the Court will convene into chambers and  
15 reconvene into open court, and the members of the public can  
16 judge who the participants are.

17 All that is lacking. All those salutary benefits of  
18 mid-trial bench conferences or chambers conferences are  
19 lacking. And I think that to the extent that you're looking at  
20 a tradition that bench conferences or robing room conferences  
21 may take place without regard to rights of access, I think it  
22 has to be born in mind that's the tradition. The tradition is  
23 that the public have that context and have those salutary  
24 benefits. And I think that is denied when there is just  
25 essentially a stand-alone proceeding that no one really knows

1 what's -- can have a context of what's going on or how long  
2 it's lasting or who the participants are.

3 Obviously, the Court is quite appropriately concerned  
4 with having expeditious proceedings and well ordered  
5 proceedings, and that is certainly a very appropriate goal.  
6 However, that is -- when it comes to consideration of the right  
7 of access, that cannot be the only consideration.

8 There also has to be consideration clearly of the  
9 First Amendment rights; and the mere fact that it will expedite  
10 proceedings, I think, standing alone, does not suffice. In  
11 fact, the test itself, as we just reviewed it, does not really  
12 determine or take into account whether or not the goal is to  
13 expedite proceedings.

14 Your Honor, frankly, we had considered that we would  
15 file objections at the time that any exhibit lists are  
16 submitted to the Court, whether there are fact witnesses or  
17 expert witnesses. We're certainly prepared if the Court wants  
18 to hear us on that today; but we, from our own viewpoint,  
19 didn't necessarily consider our objection to Scheduling Order 6  
20 to be specifically speaking to witness lists.

21 We do believe that there is a right of access to  
22 witness lists by virtue of the tradition that such lists are  
23 usually available for public inspection. There is no showing  
24 that they're not, and we would primarily rely on that and  
25 pretty much the same as far as any expert witness lists.

1 Essentially, that's my comments. I'd be happy to

2 address any questions the Court may have.

3 THE COURT: No. I understand your position. I'll  
4 hear from the parties.

5 MR. WATLER: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: For the Government, Mr. Connelly?

7 MR. CONNELLY: Good morning, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Good morning.

9 PLAINTIFF'S ARGUMENT

10 MR. CONNELLY: As Justice Department attorneys, we're  
11 required by Federal Regulation 28 C.F.R. Section 50.9 to oppose  
12 the closure of any judicial proceedings. There is an important  
13 exception to that, however, and it's consistent with this  
14 court's planning vs. adjudication exception; and that is we do  
15 not have to oppose and consent to closure of conferences  
16 traditionally held at the bench or in chambers. And I think  
17 this court's description of planning-type conferences fall  
18 comfortably within that; for example, discussions about fact  
19 stipulations or general jury selection procedure or scheduling,  
20 even with respect to suppression hearings or any other type  
21 hearings.

22 For example, as the Court held the trial scheduling  
23 conference, I think those are matters traditionally held in  
24 conference; and there is no presumptive right of public access  
25 under this court's media motions opinion back a year ago today

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1 or a year ago this month, I think. It doesn't satisfy the  
2 first test: Has that type of proceeding traditionally been  
3 open to the public? So we're very comfortable with this  
4 court's decision to hold planning-type conferences in chambers  
5 and not in public.

6 I think, though, as the Court has recognized, there is

7 an important distinction for adjudication-type conferences; and  
8 I think we would agree with the media this that motions to  
9 suppress under Waller and under Press Enterprise II are  
10 precisely the type of hearing that is presumptively open to the  
11 public and that there is a qualified First Amendment right of  
12 attendance. And we would support holding all those type  
13 hearings in the open; and in fact, we'd go a little further, I  
14 think, than that and say that motions to suppress are  
15 presumptively public.

16       These motions are the type of motions that precisely  
17 challenge the Government's conduct, so they're not motions that  
18 by design are intended to put the Government in a good light.  
19 By definition, every motion to suppress alleges some Government  
20 misconduct. That's true with respect to the deposition-type  
21 motion that's been filed. That's true with respect to, I  
22 presume, the eyewitness identification motions. Mr. Nichols  
23 filed a motion to suppress eyewitness identification testimony  
24 that was filed publicly. We believe that was appropriate, and  
25 we believe our response to that motion and to the forthcoming

24

1 motions by Mr. McVeigh should also be in public.

2       So I think the authority for that, or one line of  
3 authority for that, is The New York Times case, 828 F.2d 110,  
4 which involved a prosecution of Mario Biaggi and Meade  
5 Esposito. In that case, Judge Weinstein decided a motion to  
6 suppress Title III evidence without a hearing. Judge Weinstein  
7 found that the motion was to be decided on the papers; there  
8 was no need for an evidentiary type hearing, and therefore  
9 ordered that the papers themselves remain under seal,

10 particularly as they involved Title III type materials. The  
11 Second Circuit reversed that and said there is a presumptive  
12 public right of access to motions papers as well as the actual  
13 hearings themselves and in that case especially, because there  
14 was no hearing held; that there was the public right to know  
15 what the allegations were and what the court's rulings were and  
16 to evaluate that.

17 So we would submit that motions to suppress as well as  
18 the hearings themselves should be out in the open, and we would  
19 therefore seek the unsealing of the motion to suppress the  
20 deposition testimony and our response to that motion. And we  
21 would also support filing of the motions to suppress eyewitness  
22 testimony in public, so that not only the hearing will be held  
23 in public but also the motions papers, because that's the type  
24 of filing --

25 THE COURT: It's identification witnesses, isn't it?

25

1 MR. CONNELLY: Identification witnesses, right. Your  
2 Honor, that's right. They are not eye witnesses; they're  
3 people that would identify one defendant or the other. We  
4 expect that motions to suppress those identifications will be  
5 filed in the coming week; and Mr. Nichols in fact has already  
6 filed his, and as we say, appropriately so, we believe, in  
7 public. So that is the type of adjudicatory motions and  
8 hearings we believe should be held in public.

9 I think the closest case really is the proffer filed  
10 by the Government with respect to co-conspirator statements. I  
11 think since that is not directly seeking an adjudicatory  
12 proceeding, there is an argument that that can remain sealed.

13 I think it's a little bit of a close case, with all candor.

14 There is a case of the Third Circuit, United States  
15 vs. Smith, 776 F.2d, which held that a bill of particulars is  
16 presumptively open and in public; and I think --

17 THE COURT: Well, I wouldn't quarrel with that.  
18 That's almost like an amendment to the indictment.

19 MR. CONNELLY: Well in that case, the district court  
20 had sealed it, saying that it named eight -- I believe it was  
21 eight unindicted co-conspirators and was as a predicate in that  
22 case for supporting the co-conspirator hearsay exception. And  
23 the court -- district court found that it would possibly  
24 tarnish the reputation of these eight unindicted  
25 co-conspirators and sealed it for that reason. The court of

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1 appeals confirmed that and said that is the type of document  
2 that is presumptively open and public. There is something of a  
3 gray area there; but I think it is different in kind from  
4 motions to suppress, which we believe the papers and hearing  
5 should presumptively be open. We have filed those papers and  
6 otherwise our response under seal, because that's the Court's  
7 directive; but it's not that we are seeking to maintain them  
8 under seal. In fact, quite the contrary.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

10 MR. CONNELLY: Thank you your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Jones . . .

12 MR. JONES: May it please the Court.

13 THE COURT: Counsel.

14 DEFENDANT MCVEIGH'S ARGUMENT

15 MR. JONES: We have agreement with the position of the  
16 Government in some respects and with Mr. Tigar's position. I  
17 think it perhaps might be best for me first to state

18 specifically with respect to the issues before the Court this  
19 morning what our position is; and then with the Court's  
20 indulgence, I would like very briefly to discuss how this  
21 problem might be resolved in the future, or at least enhance  
22 the possibility of resolving it.

23 I agree with Mr. Connelly that the motion to suppress  
24 the deposition testimony should be unsealed. There are serious  
25 allegations made there on the papers of government influence of

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1 a witness and government misconduct by withholding exculpatory  
2 evidence from a defendant. It seems to me that those are  
3 precisely the type of allegations and evidence to support them  
4 that should be in the public domain, along with, of course, the  
5 Government's response; so to that extent, we agree.

6 With respect to the motions relating to suppression of  
7 identification testimony, I likewise agree with Mr. Connelly  
8 that our motions and the Government's response should be made  
9 public. And of course, we're all in agreement that if there  
10 are any hearings on either one of those two matters, those  
11 should be public.

12 With respect to the Government's statement and proffer  
13 of the co-conspirator statement, we agree with the Court's  
14 position that those papers are first to be sealed involving, as  
15 they do, discovery materials but that any hearing on the  
16 matter, specifically the James hearing, if the Court decides to  
17 conduct one, should be public.

18 But I want to come back and address the issue of the  
19 brief in a moment. With respect to the matters concerning the  
20 jury selection issue and the proposed stipulations, it seems  
21 clear to me that those are management issues -- excuse me --

22 involving necessary conferences between the Court and Counsel  
23 and that they clearly fall within the discretion of the Court  
24 to seal and close those proceedings with, of course, the  
25 understanding that any proposed stipulations that are finally

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1 agreed to become a matter of the public record because they are  
2 in effect evidence in the case. And the Court undoubtedly will  
3 enter the appropriate orders which would be public concerning  
4 some of, if not the entire, jury selection process. And even  
5 if the Court didn't enter a specific order, the matter in which  
6 it has been resolved, such as voir dire of the jury by counsel,  
7 would of course become obvious at the time of trial.

8 Mr. Tigar listed that there was one other matter that  
9 might come up at the hearing on the 7th, 8th and 9th, and that  
10 was the discovery matters concerning our motions with respect  
11 to national intelligence data. And I'm using that in a generic  
12 sense; and as the Court has previously indicated, there are  
13 some statutes and case law that specifically authorize ex parte  
14 and in camera or in camera proceedings, and clearly those  
15 matters are one that fall within that category. That is our  
16 position with respect to the specific matters that are before  
17 the Court on the 7th, 8th and 9th.

18 Having said that, however, I would like to bring to  
19 the Court's attention our concern that there is too much, if I  
20 could use the word, if there is such a word, "routinization" of  
21 filing sealed documents in this case. A couple of weeks ago,  
22 the Government filed a motion in limine concerning a certain  
23 procedure that it asked the Court to consider concerning  
24 identification of the deceased. That was filed under seal.

25 I reread it last night, and I can't imagine any

1 conceivable circumstance that would justify the filing of that  
2 particular document under seal.

3 THE COURT: Well, as I advised you earlier on  
4 December 19, I considered it in the nature of an offer to  
5 stipulate.

6 MR. JONES: Well, I thought from the way I read it  
7 that they had moved beyond that and were asking the Court  
8 under, I think, Rule 104 to adopt that particular procedure.

9 The only thing that I saw specifically attached to it  
10 was my letter to them, which, of course, that could have been  
11 sealed, although I didn't have any objection to it being made  
12 public. But the r, sum, of the witness -- the witness is well  
13 known; and certainly there was no discovery material inside the  
14 motion itself. And I understand that probably what is  
15 happening here is that counsel -- and that includes  
16 ourselves -- are erring on the side of caution. In other  
17 words, it's best first to file it under seal; and if the Court  
18 then decides it shouldn't be filed under seal, it can always be  
19 unsealed.

20 We've had one or two things, occasions --

21 THE COURT: It should be filed with a motion to seal  
22 and sealed until the motion is ruled on. That, I think, is the  
23 procedure established by the media order.

24 MR. JONES: I believe that's correct, your Honor.

25 With respect to the right of the media -- and

1 recognizing, of course, that the -- they do represent with rare  
2 exceptions a commercial enterprise, or at least designed to be

3 a commercial enterprise, and recognizing also that as The  
4 New York Times recently wrote in a front page story, there is  
5 intense media competition in the Denver market, certainly among  
6 the newspapers and, we all know, among the television stations  
7 and recognizing further, to be realistic, that the media  
8 increases its audience by the creation of controversy and  
9 tension, nevertheless, as Justice Douglas said one time, "It  
10 is, after all, the First Amendment"; and it was part of the  
11 great bargain made in 1789 to secure the ratification of the  
12 Constitution that the Bill of Rights would be passed limiting  
13 the powers of the Federal Government.

15 statement that life is not fair; that sometimes events occur  
16 which make us unhappy, and trying to mesh all of that into some  
17 balance, as I know the Court has done, I would like to suggest  
18 two or three possibilities that the Court might at least  
19 consider and also Counsel could consider. There was a period  
20 of time in this case, your Honor, when we filed matters under  
22 record. And we did that on some of the very types of motions  
23 that are involved here. And it seems to me that that is at  
24 least a start in the right direction to satisfy some of the  
25 very legitimate interests of the media and the press which the

1 First Amendment serves.

2 The other possibility that the Court could consider in  
3 addition to ordering the redacted versions is that on  
5 Government's submission to the Court concerning the 801 issue  
6 and the co-conspirators was egregiously out of balance; and  
7 Mr. Nigh will address some of that in his motion. But some of  
8 the very witnesses cited for certain propositions also made  
9 statements to the FBI that directly take away the  
10 representation made by the Government in its papers.

11 The problem with filing those in the public is this:  
12 He who wins the race first -- that is to say, he who files  
13 first -- can reasonably count on commanding a fair amount of  
14 public attention in this case, which translates into what  
15 people read or see and form opinions on, and the reply is on  
16 page 6. And that's just a reality of life.

17 Now, the Court could minimize that to the extent that  
18 the Court is even concerned about it by requiring that those  
19 types of documents be filed under seal; but then the Court  
20 could release them, if the Court decides they should be  
21 released, simultaneously, so that when they become available,  
22 both the Government's position, if it's the Government that  
23 filed first, and our position and Mr. Tigar's position, if he's  
24 there, are made available at the same time, which in itself  
25 works to achieve some type of balance in what is being

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1 presented.

2 I do agree with the Dallas -- Dallas Morning News  
3 counsel concerning the interpretation that could be made of the  
4 survey, which I believe was the Rocky Mountain News survey  
5 concerning the number of people that didn't have opinions in  
6 this case. But I --

7 MR. NEUREITER: Article 2.

8 MR. JONES: Article 2. Thank you.

9 But I would point out that the way the question was  
10 written, which they responded to, was, question: "Based on  
11 what you have read, heard, and seen about the Oklahoma City  
12 bombing, do you think Timothy McVeigh," and then later they  
13 have Terry Nichols, "is guilty or not guilty?"

14 Well, of course, that's our precise point: that they

15 are making this opinion based on what they have read, heard,  
16 and seen; and yet no evidence has been introduced in this case  
17 on the question of guilt or innocence, and the trial hasn't  
18 even started. But already 50 percent of the people have an  
19 opinion that our client is guilty and a slightly less percent  
20 have the opinion that Mr. Nichols is guilty.

21       It is true that those matters can be addressed at  
22 trial in the usual case by the very means suggested. But we  
23 cannot try this case indefinitely, and so to the extent we can  
24 take cautionary steps now and the old theory that an ounce of  
25 prevention is worth a pound of cure, then we assure the

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1 integrity of the fact-finding process.

2       Finally, having said all of that, I do want to bring  
3 to the Court's attention that it is very disturbing to me,  
4 deeply disturbing -- and these matters have been addressed  
5 before -- that the Court has entered two orders, a protective  
6 order concerning discovery material and other material and has  
7 also entered an order concerning extra-judicial statements.  
8 And the Court denied Mr. McVeigh's right -- and I'm putting  
9 quotations around the word "right," since the Court in its  
10 sound discretion said he didn't have a right to have a media  
11 interview. And yet even though discovery materials cannot be  
12 filed in the public record, one of the Government's experts in  
13 this case wrote an article -- and the Court is probably  
14 familiar with the one that I'm talking about -- which appeared  
15 in a recent publication specifically discussing evidence in  
16 this case, specifically discounting defense theories, and  
17 explaining why those theories are not valid under scientific  
18 principles.

19       Now, it's a little difficult for me to understand why

20 this particular magazine, which I will admit is a scholarly  
21 magazine but nevertheless is available at most large book  
22 stores, can run a Government's expert's version of the evidence  
23 but these ladies and gentlemen behind me and others that are  
24 not here are not.  
25 And in addition to that, another Government expert who

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1 was initially listed as a witness and taken off and another  
2 witness from the same company put on, has been going around the  
3 country giving public workshops on the very issue that she was  
4 going to testify to in this proceeding. Specifically on  
5 September 4, 1955; September 27 -- I'm sorry -- September 25,  
6 1995; November 4 through the 9 of 1995, and November 11, 1995.

7 In addition, there is a motion pending before the  
8 Court that we be given, the report from this company and we  
9 were told that there is no report. Well, there most certainly  
10 is. It's on the internet. And along with some rather  
11 interesting graphs and conclusions.

12 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Jones, I'm not here to hear a  
13 motion that there is a violation of the extra-judicial  
14 statements order.

15 MR. JONES: I understand that.

16 THE COURT: If there is, you can file one.

17 MR. JONES: I am; but I would ask the Court to  
18 consider, so that there is no question about it, although I  
19 think it is clear that the extra judicial statement order  
20 applies to witnesses and experts in this case. And my point is  
21 that -- and the reason I think that it is relevant to consider  
22 on this issue is that we don't have a blanket prohibition here.  
23 Matters come out, and what we have to achieve is some type of

24 balance so that the integrity of the fact-finding process is  
25 preserved. And when there are those types of disclosures about

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1 matters that go to the heart of a case, it's difficult to argue  
2 and sustain the position that other matters cannot also be  
3 released; and that's my concern, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

5 Mr. Tigar?

6 All right, Mr. Neureiter.

7 MR. NEUREITER: Good morning, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Good morning.

9 DEFENDANT NICHOLS' ARGUMENT

10 MR. NEUREITER: As a matter of clarification, your  
11 Honor, with the two documents that we filed with the Court late  
12 last night, the certificate of service says they were served by  
13 hand or by fax or by first class mail. We decided after that  
14 had been created that it would be better and fairer to serve it  
15 by hand, so that's what we did.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 MR. NEUREITER: So the certificate is inaccurate.

18 The packet of newspaper articles, I did want to bring  
19 to the Court's attention, because we felt we needed for the  
20 record to show with just selecting a few of the literally  
21 hundreds of articles that have been published in the Denver  
22 trial venue that there truly is the substantial probability  
23 that the defendant's right to a fair trial before a fair jury  
24 will be prejudiced by this publicity. And Article 2 shows  
25 that, as Mr. Jones referred to the infamous poll, where nearly

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1 half of Denver citizens thought that Mr. McVeigh and a little  
2 bit less than half thought that Mr. Nichols were guilty. And  
3 that was published in September. As we approach trial, more  
4 articles will be coming out, making it more difficult to obtain  
5 a fair jury at the voir dire.

6 One other article I wanted to bring to the Court's  
7 attention is Article 8, a Denver Post full-page -- six-page  
8 special insert which was advertised for the full week  
9 beforehand that is entitled, "Who Bombed the Murrah Building?"  
10 It has a large graphic that looks like somebody wearing a face  
11 mask from the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and details at length  
12 what the Denver Post purports to be evidence in the case. I  
13 don't need to go into the number of factual errors in that  
14 article; but it's enough to say that there have been  
15 significant leaks of information in other articles in this  
16 packet, discovery material, and there truly is in this  
17 extraordinary case a threat to the defendants' fair trial  
18 rights.

19 THE COURT: Well, of course, since we're having  
20 separate trials, there will be a good deal of information.  
21 There will be the trial testimony in the public venue before  
22 your client's trial begins; and to get to the specifics that  
23 are in issue here this morning, now that we've narrowed it down  
24 a bit with respect to the motion to suppress this testimonial  
25 deposition, both the Government and Mr. McVeigh's counsel agree

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1 to unseal that. Do you oppose that?

2 MR. NEUREITER: Yes, your Honor. Your Honor, I want  
3 to clarify two points there: Mr. Woods represented to the  
4 Court that we would not be joining in that motion. Over the

6 delivered to us by the Government, much of it on Christmas Eve,  
7 when our office was closed. Review of that material has led  
8 counsel to reevaluate our position in joining that motion to  
9 suppress, so we may well be -- and Professor Tigar indicates  
10 that we will be -- filing motion joining that motion to  
11 suppress; so I wanted to alert the Court to that.

13 MR. NEUREITER: The motion itself, your Honor, I think  
14 there are portions of it which discuss discovery material and  
15 much like the motion to suppress was dealt with earlier in this  
16 case.

17 There was a public hearing, but the motion that was  
18 filed had specific redactions of sensitive discovery material.

20 Mr. Kelley objected to that; and your Honor said no, that was,  
21 with respect to the exhibits and the motion -- that was a  
22 proffer to me in order to show that they're entitled to a  
23 hearing. And the hearing was held in public, and all the  
25 publicize sensitive discovery material which wasn't necessary

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1 to the determination of the cause.

2 THE COURT: Yes, I'm aware of all that.

3 MR. NEUREITER: For that reason, a wholesale unsealing  
4 of material that includes discovery material would continue to  
5 generate more prejudicial articles.

6 With respect to the hearing, in our memorandum we  
8 recognizing the extraordinary nature of this case, could seal  
9 if it chose; however, we are not hard and fast on that. That  
10 hearing, if the Court desires, could be made public. We only  
11 ask that there be steps taken and that all counsel be directed  
12 not to discuss the facts of the testimony unless it is  
13 absolutely necessary to the Court's consideration. And in some

15 agent's notes of Mr. Nichols' statement that even though it was  
16 necessary to the Court's determination and was entered into  
17 evidence --

18 THE COURT: Well, I'm talking about this deposition  
19 motion.

20 MR. NEUREITER: Yes, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: And I want you to focus on that: Why is  
22 that -- why should that remain under seal when Mr. McVeigh, who  
23 has a greater interest in that, as I read it, than you,  
24 although you may join it, certainly --

25 MR. NEUREITER: Yes, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: -- because it does affect the case of  
2 Nichols, agrees that it should be now unsealed? Why do you  
3 oppose that?

4 MR. NEUREITER: Your Honor, because we believe there  
5 is one particular factual statement in there which relates to  
6 our client, which, if publicized unnecessarily, would generate  
7 pretrial publicity and lead to more people in Denver believing  
8 our client guilty without us having an adequate opportunity to  
9 rebut that evidence.

10 THE COURT: In view of the fact that there will be a  
11 whole trial before your client comes to trial, it's not very  
12 persuasive.

13 MR. NEUREITER: Yes, your Honor. I might also add  
14 that merely the fact that Mr. Jones has elected to take a  
15 certain position with respect to media disclosures does not  
16 necessarily mean that our client's interests correspond.

17 THE COURT: Well, I'm not suggesting that. That's why  
18 there are separate counsel and that's why there are separate  
19 trials.

20 MR. NEUREITER: Yes, your Honor.

21 I think our position with respect to many of the other  
22 issues is adequately reflected.

23 THE COURT: You don't object to the identification  
24 issues because indeed your position on that was filed unsealed.

25 MR. NEUREITER: That's correct, your Honor. And a

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1 careful review of that will indicate that no discovery  
2 material, I believe, was revealed in that pleading, although  
3 counsel, if they disagree, can correct me. We tried to make an  
4 effort not to -- not to put anything into the public record  
5 that would prejudice the rights of any parties.

6 I would like to address some of the arguments raised  
7 by the media, because they may affect both this court's  
8 consideration of the present motions and future motions that  
9 they may file to unseal materials.

10 We recognize that adjudicative procedures are  
11 different, but the media has suggested that an incremental  
12 amount of publicity with respect to additional discovery will  
13 be like a drop of water in the sea and won't make that much  
14 difference.

15 That is an argument that this court has already  
16 rejected when it decided not to permit Mr. McVeigh to speak to  
17 the media. It's essentially a "so much bad stuff has come out  
18 already, we can't do anymore harm." The Supreme Court in *Estes*  
19 *vs. Texas*, in *Sherard vs. Maxwell*, has directed trial courts  
20 not to take that approach and to continue to make every effort  
21 to ensure the defendant's fair trial rights are preserved.

22 Second, they argue that, well, we're so good at our  
23 jobs and we are so effective as journalists in getting leaks of

24 material that it's better to hold it all out in public anyway  
25 because then we'll be more accurate.

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1 Well, this -- the revelation of leaked material,  
2 leaked discovery material, is a violation of this court's  
3 order; and we expect that if leaks are discovered and the  
4 leaker is identified that that person would be appropriately  
5 dealt with; and so simply because the journalists are good at  
6 doing their jobs does not mean that everything should come out  
7 into the open.

8 Finally, with respect to the point raised by counsel  
9 for the Government that there is the Second Circuit case  
10 New York Times, 828 F.2d 110 -- that case addressed a situation  
11 where Judge Weinstein only ruled on the papers, and the papers  
12 in their entirety were sealed. The Second Circuit said  
13 explicitly in that case where there has been a public hearing,  
14 it might be different if certain materials, sensitive  
15 materials, are filed under seal, and so if the court decides to  
16 hold hearings on these issues, the entirety of the motions need  
17 not be made public; that there could be appropriate redactions,  
18 which is one of the alternatives the Supreme Court and other  
19 courts have said are appropriate when dealing with material of  
20 this nature.

21 RULING

22 THE COURT: All right. I'll come back to counsel for  
23 the movants here; but before doing that, I am going to order  
24 that the materials regarding the identification testimony be  
25 public. We already have the filing made on behalf of

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1 Mr. Nichols. The filing from Mr. McVeigh will be filed  
2 unsealed.

3 Mr. Tigar?

4 MR. TIGAR: Your Honor, in that case, may I ask for  
5 some guidance from the Court, because given the postponement of  
6 the McVeigh filing date, we were going to file additional  
7 material. The Government was supposed to make some discovery  
8 available to us on the identification. It didn't come in until  
9 after the date when we filed.

10 I have in my hand a draft motion that extensively  
11 quotes from the new discovery material the Government has  
12 furnished on the eyewitness identification we were challenging.  
13 I'm perfectly prepared to file in the public record. I don't  
14 have any problem in light of the Court's order, but I want to  
15 alert the Court that that's what I will be doing.

16 Would the Court prefer to see that come in this  
17 afternoon with a motion to seal, reciting what I've said, so  
18 the Court can look at it, or should I just do it, because there  
19 is one person I don't want to anger, and I'm looking at him.

20 THE COURT: Well, I -- the basic premise here is that  
21 it's unsealed. Now, if it relates to discovery material, you  
22 know, it depends upon what it is, I suppose.

23 MR. TIGAR: I will file it with a cover motion, your  
24 Honor, so that your Honor can look at it and see if it --

25 THE COURT: All right. What I think I'll do is

1 provide an opportunity for the other parties to take a position  
2 on it.

3 MR. TIGAR: Thank you, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: You should give it to them, of course.

5 MR. TIGAR: Oh, yes. Of course we would, your Honor,  
6 with the normal procedure. I just wanted guidance from the  
7 Court in light of that.

8 THE COURT: All right. Then with a motion.

9 But with respect to the motion to suppress the  
10 deposition that is the testimonial deposition, although there  
11 is opposition on that from Mr. Nichols' counsel, I'm going to  
12 unseal it. I do think that that relates directly to the  
13 forthcoming trial of the charges against Mr. McVeigh, and I  
14 really don't see that keeping that sealed meets the criteria  
15 for sealing it or that it's within the criteria that I've  
16 established, particularly since, as I look at Mr. Nichols'  
17 situation here, that's going to be in the open before his case  
18 begins.

19 MR. TIGAR: Once again, your Honor, our filing to join  
21 procedure of attaching a motion to seal? Our filing is going  
22 to contain much of this discovery material we received over  
23 Christmas that led us to believe that we simply had to join the  
24 Manning deposition --

25 THE COURT: Yes, file with a motion to seal that

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1 portion of it.

2 I think Mr. Jones is correct that not everything that  
4 of redaction technique; and we did do that earlier in the case,  
5 where there is an appendix or there is an exhibit which comes  
6 within the criteria or is thought to be established by the order  
7 on media motions. And that part of it can be submitted under  
8 seal, but the rest of the pleading in the open.

9 MR. TIGAR: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.

10 THE COURT: So we'll see what comes in with respect to  
11 that; but what's already filed with respect to the motion and  
12 the Government's response will be unsealed.



16 MR. WATLER: Thank you.

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18 MR. CONNELLY: May I be heard briefly, your Honor?

19 THE COURT: Yes, assuming that you're going to say

20 something germane.

T 21 MR. CONNELLY: I'll try to; and actually it's about

22 things that may not be germane. One of the things we're

23 concerned about -- we agree that motions to suppress should be

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25 though, that things that are not germane may be attached to

1 them; and I speak to this particularly because of Mr. Tigar's

2 remarks that things that we gave him before the Christmas --

3 THE COURT: He's going to submit that with a motion to

4 seal, at least to redact and submit part of it under seal, as I

5 understood his statement and particularly those things that are

6 discovery matters.

7 Isn't that what you said?

8 MR. TIGAR: That's correct, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: All right.

10 MR. CONNELLY: My concern -- and I just use that as an

11 example -- is that nothing we gave him on that date pertains to

12 this deposition. I think the same thing --

13 THE COURT: Well, I don't want to get into that.

14 MR. CONNELLY: I understand. But in terms of

15 Mr. Jones' filing -- and there may be something in terms of

16 procedure: Mr. Tigar has suggested that it be filed initially

17 with a motion to seal and then within a day or two we could all

18 assure that everything was germane --

19 THE COURT: You mean on identification.

20 MR. CONNELLY: On the identification. If it is  
21 strictly limited to identification-type evidence, then we would  
22 not have an objection; but it may be some discovery materials  
23 that we think are not germane to the issue that don't belong  
~~24 improperly filed as part of that public motion. And for that~~  
25 reason, there may be some merit to this procedure of, you know,

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1 24-hour or 48-hour cover motion and then unseal it after it's  
2 determined by all parties and by the Court that the matters are  
3 in fact germane to a traditionally public motion.

4 So there may be -- I guess I'm suggesting that the  
5 procedure that Mr. Tigar proposed for his filing be also  
6 followed with respect to Mr. Jones' filing.

~~7 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Jones, Mr. Nigh?~~

8 MR. NIGH: Your Honor, in the past, when there was any  
9 kind of a question about whether something should be filed  
10 publicly or under seal, I've addressed it with the Government  
11 in advance and asked them what their position was. If they  
12 thought it should be under seal, we filed the motion for it to  
13 be held under seal until the Court could determine it. And  
~~14 that's worked well in the past, and I don't know why it can't~~  
15 continue to work.

16 THE COURT: Well, I think what the order is is that  
17 under Scheduling Order No. 6, I think I said it should be  
18 sealed. I'm vacating that; and the sealing, if it is to take

20 Mr. McVeigh's filing on identification. Have the discussion  
21 with opposing counsel first; and if there is any question about  
22 it, then move to seal those portions of it as to which there is  
23 some dispute.

24 Now, Mr. Tigar.

25 MR. TIGAR: The procedure that I said I was going to

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1 follow, I thought was in accordance with the Court's prior

3 Mr. Connelly's characterization of a pleading he has not seen

4 with respect to the potential irrelevance of material that he

5 has not read is appropriate.

6 THE COURT: All right. Well, the adversary process is

7 alive and well in the case, and that's always a healthy sign.

8 Yes.

10 will: It seems to me the Court has covered a fair amount of

11 ground here today. I think it may be useful if the Court

12 entered a written order on its ruling today.

13 THE COURT: Are you telling me to enter an order

14 today?

15 MR. WATLER: I'm requesting.

16 MR. JONES: Judge, can I move --

17 MR. WATLER: I certainly am not telling you anything,

18 your Honor.

19 THE COURT: We'll follow it up, whether it's today or

20 not; but the unsealing is a direction from the bench, and that

21 will be followed, I'm sure.

22 MR. WATLER: By the district clerk?

23 THE COURT: He's here.

24 MR. WATLER: Thank you.

25 THE COURT: All right.

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1 All right.

2 Yes, Mr. Kelley.

3 MR. KELLEY: Your Honor, with respect to --

4 THE COURT: I thought you weren't going to speak any  
5 more.

6 MR. KELLEY: I said I would try, your Honor; and I  
7 hope I never have that problem that Ms. Wilkinson has.

8 Several motions have been promised with respect to  
9 sealing of motions to be filed in the next few days. Might the  
10 media be on record as objecting to those without having to do  
11 so afterwards per the Court's prior order?

12 THE COURT: Well, you know, I'm not sure. It's sort  
13 of a blank check. I think that copies can be served on counsel  
14 who have appeared here for the media, and then you can do what  
15 you want to.

16 MR. KELLEY: Very well.

17 THE COURT: I'm not going to just recognize some  
18 blanket objection because, you know, I assume that counsel are  
19 going to submit a motion to seal advisedly and in consideration  
20 of the five questions that are in the media motion -- media  
21 order.

22 MR. KELLEY: All right. We will respond with  
23 objections.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Tigar?

25 MR. TIGAR: Your Honor, I would respectfully oppose a

1 direction to counsel to start serving the media with motions to  
2 seal. We have been through that before. If Mr. Kelley wants

3 to call our office or Mr. Watler wants to call our office,  
4 we'll make available courtesy copies; but it does create an  
5 administrative problem for us, and I would not like --

6 THE COURT: What's the administrative problem besides  
7 putting another address on your word processor?

8 MR. TIGAR: Because, your Honor, for this particular  
9 thing we can serve this particular group of motions but --

10 THE COURT: That's what I'm talking about: This  
11 particular group.

12 MR. TIGAR: So there is no direction that for any  
13 other group of motions in the future there is to be service on  
14 the media.

15 THE COURT: That's correct.

16 MR. TIGAR: We've opposed that as a routine matter,  
17 because service of these pleadings is an administrative  
18 difficulty.

19 THE COURT: Those things that you're moving to seal  
20 will not be served.

21 MR. TIGAR: Just the motions themselves.

22 THE COURT: It would not serve very much purpose to  
23 give to them copies or their counsel copies of what you're  
24 seeking to seal, because I do know the law that I can't ever  
25 call it back once it gets in the hands of the media.

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1 MR. TIGAR: I understand that, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: So you just serve the motions.

3 MR. TIGAR: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: And these motions that have been discussed  
5 today. All right? Is that clear enough?

6 Good.

7 Thank you. The matter is concluded.

8 (Recess at 10:15 a.m.)

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19 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

20 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from  
21 the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. Dated  
22 at Denver, Colorado, this 3d day of January, 1997.

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Paul A. Zuckerman

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