

Racist Roundup Tape Linked To Disgruntled Ex-Cop

NEW YORK - A videotape and accounts of racist actions at a Good Ol' Boys Roundup, an annual gathering of law enforcement officers in Tennessee, came from a disgruntled former policeman and "white-power" supporter, The New York Times reported Sunday.

The Times said the tape and racism allegations were provided to the National Rifle Association by Richard Hayward, a former Fort Lauderdale, Fla., policeman

who was prevented from distributing campaign literature about former Ku Klux Klan member David Duke at the event and from displaying "white power" insignias.

The 90-second tape surfaced this summer and sparked a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing into allegations that agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) participated in the event.

The NRA has characterized

ATF agents as "jack-booted thugs."

Hayward's videotape showed racist banners and signposts. One banner at the entrance to the 1990 event read "Nigger check point." Accounts of the event had federal agents selling "nigger hunting licenses."

But the Times said Sunday the tape was now considered suspect because of its link to Hayward. Association spokesman Bill Powers said NRA officials had doubts about

the videotape from the start.

Roundup organizer Gene Rightmyer, a former ATF agent, said he had had several run-ins with Hayward over his attempts to campaign for Duke at the event.

He said he told Hayward, "Duke is a Klansman and I have no use for Klansman."

Rightmyer said in a memo provided by his attorney that he suspected Hayward helped hang the racist entrance banner then videotaped it to impress Duke,

the Times said.

Morris Dees, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center civil rights group in Montgomery, Ala., told the newspaper he also believed the sign "was a setup."

Hayward denied those suspicions. "I had absolutely nothing to do with the sign," he told the Times in a telephone interview.

Interviewed by ABC-TV's "World News Tonight", Hayward also denied releasing the videotape as part of any vendetta. "I absolutely have no axe to grind. If I had an axe to grind or a grudge with them — this is a 1990 tape, why would I wait five years to display it?," he said.

The Justice Department has demanded the original copy of

the tape from Hayward to determine when and where it might have been made. Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said investigators have suspected the original might have been a "montage" and that it was edited. In addition to the Justice Department, civil rights leaders have expressed doubts about the tape and the stories of racism at the Roundup.

But Hayward continued to defend the tape as genuine and insisted his stories about agent participation in racist activities at the Roundup were true.

Hayward gave the Justice Department a copy of the tape but said he had given the original to the Gadsden Minutemen, an Alabama paramilitary group with which he has close ties.

Reynolds To Decide If He Will Quit Congress

CHICAGO - Representative Mel Reynolds, convicted of having sex with a minor, will announce next Saturday whether he will resign from Congress, his Chicago office said. A statement released late Friday said Reynolds has made

his decision but will wait until next week to make it public.

"On Sept. 2, 1995, Congressman Reynolds will be holding a press conference to make his decision public," the statement said.

Reynolds, 43, first elected in

1992 to represent the state's Second Congressional District on Chicago's South Side, was found guilty on 12 counts of sexual misconduct Tuesday, including having sex with former campaign volunteer, Beverly Heard, who was 16 years old at

the time. He faces a minimum four-year jail sentence.

Sentencing has been set for Sept. 12. Reynolds, a father of three, has said he will ask for a new trial or file an appeal.

Members of Congress do not have to resign their seats when convicted of a crime, even if they end up in jail, but Reynolds has come under pressure from fellow Democrats, including House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, to do so.

Action by the House Ethics Committee as well as the full House is required to expel Reynolds. The House does not return from summer recess until Sept. 6. The House Ethics Committee said Wednesday it launched an investigation concerning unnamed allegations against Reynolds June 28, before the trial began.

Reynolds has admitted to "fantasy" telephone sex with Heard, but denied ever having sex with her. He is also under federal investigation for campaign irregularities.

Oklahoma Blast Leg Belonged To Black Woman

OKLAHOMA CITY - Ending months of speculation, forensic authorities said that a mystery leg discovered at the end of May in the rubble of the Oklahoma City bombing belongs to a black female.

According to the findings Wednesday, the woman would be the 168th victim of the bombing. "The DNA analysis by the FBI has shown conclusively that the left leg is not male, but female," a statement from Dr. Fred Jordan, Oklahoma's chief medical examiner said.

"An analysis by the FBI lab has shown negroid characteristics. We believe, therefore, that the leg originates from an individual with some African ancestry," the statement said.

The left leg was found clad in a military-style boot, two socks and an olive-drab blousing strap used to tuck in the pants. It was first thought to belong to a light-skinned man.

The defense attorney for one

of the suspects, Timothy McVeigh, had suggested the mystery leg might belong to the "real bomber."

The attorney, Stephen Jones, when asked for comment Wednesday, said his theory about the leg belonging to the bomber had been just one of three explanations. The other possibilities were that the medical examiner's office had made a mistake or that the person was a homeless drifter, he said.

"With this disclosure, no one can have confidence in any of the forensic work in this case," Jones said in a statement. "A white male becomes a black female. No wonder DNA testing has been discredited."

Jordan said the limb did not match any of seven victims who were missing a left leg and "must now be regarded as representing the 169th victim" of the Alfred P. Murrah building bombing.

That victim count includes a rescue worker who died following

the explosion when she was hit in the head by falling debris.

The leg is thought to belong to a woman around 65 inches, or around five feet, five inches, tall, the statement said.

Studies suggests she was between 16 to 30 years old at the time of death, Jordan said.

The leg was discovered on May 30, but authorities did not disclose its existence until early August.

McVeigh and Army buddy Terry Nichols have so far been the only ones charged in the bombing.

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Neither the State Bar of Nevada nor any agency of the State Bar has certified any lawyer identified here as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability.

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