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## Bomb Judge Bars Meeting By Prosecutor

By JO THOMAS

Frederic Whitehurst, a chemist who was the F.B.I.'s leading bomb-residue expert at the time of the Oklahoma City bombing, has contended that critical evidence in the case was mishandled and wants to tell about it to prosecution and defense lawyers at the same time.

Yesterday in Denver, where the case will be heard, Judge Richard P. Matsch of Federal District Court issued a temporary restraining order barring prosecutors from ordering Mr. Whitehurst, as a condition of his employment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to talk to them first.

The meeting, to which Mr. Whitehurst objected, had been set for yesterday in Washington. Prosecutors said they considered the session routine.

Lawyers for the two men accused in the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, Timothy J. McVeigh and Terry L. Nichols, had asked Judge Matsch to stop the interview. They contended that it would have a chilling effect on Mr. Whitehurst's testimony and that of other witnesses who the defense says may be able to corroborate his accusations.

One of those witnesses is another F.B.I. chemist who defense lawyers say believes that evidence taken from Mr. McVeigh's car was contaminated. Another is an F.B.I. laboratory examiner who has stated, defense lawyers assert, that an area in the bureau's laboratory used to store evidence in connection with the bombing was contaminated with a chemical residue that would be left from a bomb detonator.

Mr. Whitehurst's lawyer, Stephen M. Kohn, praised the judge's decision today. Mr. Kohn had filed a motion in support of the defense request and said the judge's action "sends the message that the bureau and the Department of Justice have to take care to make sure their scientists are not intimidated."

Mr. Whitehurst has accused officials at the bureau's crime laboratory of prosecution bias and of mishandling evidence in hundreds of criminal cases.

His assertions in the Oklahoma City bombing were originally made to the Inspector General of the Justice Department. They have been entered into the record under seal.