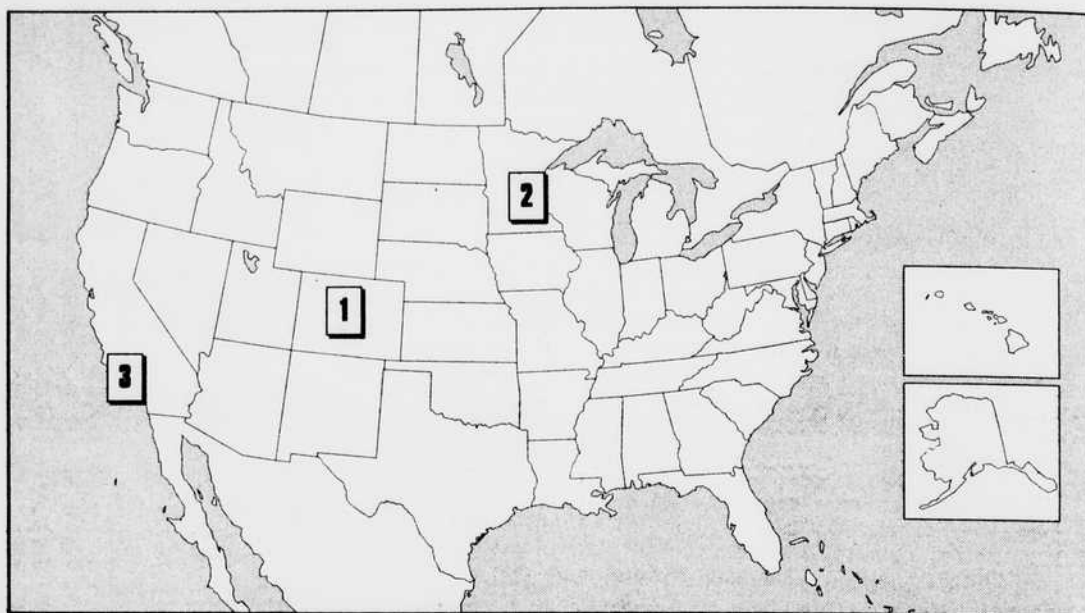



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## Judge argues with potential Nichols juror

**1** DENVER — The judge in the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Terry Nichols took a break to control his anger Tuesday after getting into a verbal sparring match with a potential juror who suggested computers could do a better job of deciding trials.

Nichols' lead attorney, Michael Tigar, later took issue with the "tone and content" of U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch's questioning and the judge called the attorneys into his chambers.

The squabble began when a computer programmer, a tall, blond man with wire-rimmed glasses, said he had formed an opinion that Nichols was guilty.

The judge noted that making a decision on a man's guilt wasn't like putting information into a computer.

"That's why we don't have computers" in trials, Matsch said.

"Maybe we should look at the computer," the potential juror shot back.

"I'm a pretty opinionated person," the man added. "I'm not a computer. I can't just turn that off."

Matsch then called a break, saying he was getting angry with the man.

## Something in water causes deformed frogs

**2** ST. PAUL, Minn. — Something in the water is the likely cause of deformations in Minnesota frogs and possibly those in other parts of the country and Canada, researchers said Tuesday.

Reports of frogs with misshapen limbs, missing or shrunken eyes and smaller sex organs have come from throughout much of Minnesota and elsewhere.

Scientists have produced frog embryos with nearly a 100 percent death or deformity rate by mixing newly fertilized eggs with water from at least two contaminated sites in northwestern Minnesota.

The findings, however, are preliminary and haven't been reviewed by other scientists or replicated.

"There are environmental agents in the water that can produce frog abnormality," said Jim Burkhart, a manager within the National Institute's environmental toxicology program.

But the research has not shown whether the harmful substance in the water will prove to be man-made or natural such as plants or algae. Burkhart said more study is needed.

## Polanski in secret talks with prosecutors

**3** LOS ANGELES — Movie director Roman Polanski, who fled the United States in the 1970s to avoid going to prison for having sex with a 13-year-old girl, has been secretly talking to prosecutors and reportedly will return to Los Angeles in a deal that will keep him out of jail.

Records buried in the 20-year-old file show that Polanski's attorney met with the prosecutor in a judge's chambers on Dec. 5 and Jan. 31. The records were found stuffed in an inch-thick file stored in the lowest level of the county archives building.

The documents don't reveal the details of the meetings. But the "KTLA Morning News" reported Tuesday that arrangements were made to keep Polanski out of jail and free to resume his Hollywood career.

Polanski, now 63, was accused of drugging and raping a girl he had contracted to photograph for a French fashion magazine.

The director of "Chinatown," "Rosemary's Baby" and "Tess" lured the girl to Jack Nicholson's home while the actor was away, prosecutors said. Polanski, 42 at the time, gave her the sedative methaqualone, also known as Quaaludes, and champagne and had sex with her, they said.

— from AP wire reports

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