

Police to study suspected bomb-builder's handwriting

By SHELLEY MURPHY

A Quincy engineer suspected of building a bomb that killed a Boston police officer was ordered yesterday to provide handwriting samples to federal prosecutors, the Herald has learned.

Alfred Trenkler, 36, of Atlan-

tic Street, was observed waiting in the reception area of U.S. Attorney A. John Pappalardo's office.

Sources said **Trenkler's handwriting will be turned over to a federal grand jury and compared with various receipts and documents, includ-**

ing some records that were seized earlier from a Weymouth engineering company he operates.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Boston Police homicide detectives are probing allegations that Thomas A. Shay, 20, of

Quincy, tried to kill his father and enlisted his friend, Trenkler, to build a bomb.

Boston Police Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. was killed and his partner, Francis X. Foley, was injured in a blast Oct. 28 at the home of Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay.

The elder Shay called the bomb squad to his home on Eastbourne Street in Roslindale to inspect a suspicious-looking box that had fallen from under his car.

When asked about Trenkler's appearance in the federal courthouse in Boston yesterday, his lawyer, Terry Segal, said, "I have no comment on the case other than to say my client is innocent and was not involved in this tragedy." Asst. U.S. Attorneys Frank A. Libby Jr. and Paul V. Kelly, who are prosecuting the Roslindale bombing case, refused to comment yesterday.

Trenkler was recently slapped with a "target letter" from federal prosecutors warning him he was suspected of building the bomb that killed

Hurley, according to sources.

Trenkler was charged with unlawful possession of an explosive in 1986 for allegedly building a bomb that was ignited under a Quincy fish company truck. The charge was continued without a finding after Trenkler cooperated with authorities in an unrelated case, sources said.

In another development yesterday, the younger Shay was indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of making a false telephone bomb threat to a Brighton woman in April.

The charge had initially been leveled against Shay last week in the form of a criminal "complaint." U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Collings ordered Shay jailed without bail pending his trial after concluding he may flee if released.

Shay allegedly called the Brighton woman from the Suffolk County Jail on Nashua Street, where he was being held on another charge of calling a phony bomb threat into the Back Bay MBTA station in November 1990. That charge was dropped by the state last week.