

Report: Bomb suspect's deal with feds fell apart

By JACK MEYERS

A suspect in the 1991 Roslindale bombing that killed a Bos-

ton police officer tried to cut a deal with authorities to cooperate in their probe and implicated a friend who allegedly built

the device.

But the negotiations for a cooperation agreement ended after the suspect, Thomas A.

Shay, 21, was found to be deceiving federal and state investigators, according to sources familiar with the case.

Now prosecutors are preparing to indict both Shay and the man Shay allegedly implicated as the bomb's builder — Alfred Trenkler, a Quincy engineer. Neither man now has a cooperation agreement with prosecutors and, if convicted, could face life in prison without parole, sources said.

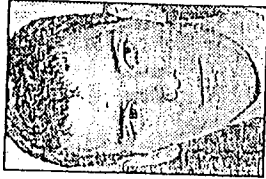
Shay, the son of Thomas L. Shay, who called Boston Police when an unusual device dropped from his car at his Eastbourne Street home, has told the Herald he tried to strike a deal with the U.S. attorneys handling the case, but the talks ended when he was found to be lying about aspects of the case.

Shay approached authorities in early October about cooperating and provided investigators with extensive statements, some of which implicated Trenkler, whom federal prosecutors have notified is a "target" in the case, sources said.

Agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Boston Police homicide detectives investigated Shay's statements but were "unable to corroborate

large portions of his story," said one source.

The investigators found Shay "minimized" his own role in the bombing, which killed Boston Police



Boston Police bomb squad officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. and badly injured his partner Francis X. Foley, sources said.

Prosecutors had sought Shay's cooperation in gathering evidence against the bomb's builder, believing at the time they needed Shay to get a conviction, sources said.

However, according to sources, prosecutors now are preparing to indict both men even without Shay's cooperation. An indictment could be sought before the grand jury within the next three weeks, they said.

One of Shay's lawyers, Jefferson Boone, said he had no way of knowing what the grand jury and prosecutors are planning to do. When asked about Shay's efforts to strike a deal, Boone refused to comment.

Trenkler was charged with unlawful possession of an explosive in 1986 for allegedly building a bomb triggered under a fish company truck in Quincy. That bomb was nearly identical to the