

Jury being chosen for second trial on '91 bombing

Federal prosecutors will be able to refer to evidence about a 1986 bomb made by Alfred W. Trenkler that is similar to the 1991 bomb that killed a Boston police bomb squad officer, a US District Court judge ruled yesterday.

Judge Rya W. Zobel denied a government motion to call Trenkler's convicted co-defendant, Thomas A. Shay, as a witness. Trenkler, 36, of Milton, is accused of building a remote-controlled bomb in an attempt to kill Shay's father.

Jury selection in the Trenkler case began yesterday and was to

continue this morning. Seven women and three men were selected. Two more jurors and four alternates were yet to be picked.

Testimony at Shay's trial last summer indicated that the bomb was attached to the elder Shay's car with speaker magnets but became dislodged when the elder Shay drove the car in his driveway on Eastbourne Street in Roslindale.

The elder Shay waited a day before going to the police about the device. The bomb exploded while bomb squad officers examined it, fatally wounding Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr.

and maiming Hurley's partner, Francis X. Foley.

Zobel has yet to rule on the government motion to introduce evidence of Trenkler's solicitation of teen-age males, "including his willingness to provide them with money, drugs, other material goods, and the performance of personal favors to induce ... or maintain the relationship," according to court documents.

Trenkler's defense attorneys have objected to that information being included at the trial, which is expected to last about four weeks.

MATTHEW BRELLIS

Earlier incident allowed as evidence at bomb trial

By RALPH RANALLI

Federal prosecutors won a pre-trial victory in the case of accused bomber Alfred Trenkler yesterday when a judge ruled a previous bombing incident could be introduced as evidence at his trial.

U.S. District Judge Rya W. Zobel, however, also gave the defense a boost, ruling that Trenkler's alleged co-conspirator, Thomas A. Shay, 21 — who was convicted in July — could not be compelled to testify.

Zobel made her rulings prior to jury selection in the case yesterday. Opening arguments are scheduled for today.

Trenkler, 37, is alleged to be the technical mastermind of the bomb that killed Boston Police Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah Hurley and maimed his partner, Francis X. Foley, when it exploded Oct. 28, 1991, outside Shay's fa-

ther's home in Roslindale.

Prosecutors charge Shay and Trenkler were friends and lovers who conspired to build the bomb to kill Shay's father to collect on an expected lawsuit settlement and to get revenge for Shay's abusive childhood.

In court papers filed recently, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul V. Kelly and Frank Libby Jr. indicated they will seek to introduce evidence of Trenkler's previous relationships with younger men, saying he "maintain(ed) these relationships by bestowing gifts of cash, drugs and other things of value."

Trenkler, of Milton, was charged with unlawful possession of an explosive in 1986 for allegedly building a bomb that was ignited under a Quincy fish company truck, but the case was continued without a finding when he cooperated with police on an unrelated case.