

1 LIFE TERM PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

3 COMMUNITY RELEASE BOARD

4  
5 In the Matter of the Life )  
6 Term Parole Consideration )  
7 Hearing of: )

) CDC Number W-13378

8 LESLIE VAN MOUTEN. )  
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CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1979

9:50 A.M.

Diane M. Holnbeck  
CSR License No. 4022

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 Ms. Ruth L. Hushen, Presiding Member

3 Mr. Rudy V. Dalton, Board Member

4 Ms. Jeanne F. Sides, Board Member

5 MEMBERS ABSENT:

6 None

7 ALSO PRESENT:

8 Ms. Leslie Van Houten, Inmate

9 Attorney for Inmate Van Houten:

10 PAUL J. FITZGERALD, Esq.  
11 424 South Beverly Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90212

12 District Attorneys for People of the  
County of Los Angeles:

13 DINO JOHN FULGONI  
14 Head Deputy District Attorney  
Norwalk Branch Office  
15 12720 Norwalk Boulevard  
Norwalk, California 90650

16 STEPHEN R. KAY  
17 Deputy District Attorney  
825 Maple Avenue  
18 Torrance, California 90503

19 Mr. Richard Brooks, Staff Writer  
20 The Sun-Telegram  
399 D Street  
San Bernardino, California 92401

21 Ms. Judy Frutig, Assistant to Mr. Fitzgerald

22 Mr. Manuel Jimenez, C&PR

23 Ms. Doris Jefferis, Assistant C&PR

24 Mr. Gilbert Vasquez, Correctional Counselor II, CIW

I N D E XPage

## Proceedings

Phase I - Commitment Offense and  
Pre-Conviction Factors

Phase II - Post-Conviction Factors

Phase III - Parole Plans

Afternoon Session

Closing Statement by Mr. Kay

Closing Statement by Mr. Fulgoni

Closing Statement by Mr. Fitzgerald

Closing Statement by Inmate Van Houten

Recess

Resumption of Proceedings for  
Findings of the Board

Adjournment

Certificate of Reporter

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PROCEEDINGS

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3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: The time is 9:50 a.m.  
4 The place is the California Institution for Women at  
5 Frontera, California. And the case today is Ms. Leslie  
6 Van Houten, V-a-n H-o-u-t-e-n, W-13378.

7 This hearing is being recorded, and I'm going to  
8 ask each person in the room to state his name, his function,  
9 spell the last name and, when we get to you, Ms. Van Houten,  
10 will you also give us your CDC Number.

11 My name is Ruth Rushen, R-u-s-h-e-n, Board Member  
12 presiding in this case. And we will go to my right.

13 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Jeanne Sides, S-i-d-e-s,  
14 Board Member.

15 MR. KAY: Stephen Kay, K-a-y, Deputy District  
16 Attorney, Los Angeles County.

17 MR. FULGONI: Dino Fulgoni, F-u-l-g-o-n-i, Los  
18 Angeles County Deputy District Attorney.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Leslie Van Houten, V-a-n  
20 H-o-u-t-e-n, W-13378.

21 MR. FITZGERALD: Paul Fitzgerald, the attorney  
22 for Leslie Van Houten.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Spell your last name.

24 MR. FITZGERALD: I gave her a card.  
25 F-i-t-z-g-e-r-a-l-d.

1 MS. FRUTIG: Judy Frutig, F-r-u-t-i-g. I'm here  
2 to assist Mr. Fitzgerald.

3 MR. JEFFERIS: Doris Jefferis, J-e-f-f-e-r-i-s,  
4 Assistant C&PR.

5 MR. VASQUEZ: Gilbert Vasquez, V-a-s-q-u-e-z,  
6 Correctional Counselor II, CIW.

7 MR. JIMENEZ: Manuel Jimenez. I'm the  
8 Classification and Parole Representative for the institution.  
9 Jimenez, J-i-m-e-n-e-z.

10 MR. BROOKS: Richard Brooks. I am with The Sun  
11 Reporter.

12 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Rudy DeLeon, D-e L-e-o-n,  
13 Member, Community Release Board.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Thank you. This hearing  
15 is being conducted pursuant to Penal Code Sections 3041 and  
16 3042 and the regulations of the Community Release Board  
17 governing parole consideration for life prisoners. The  
18 purpose of today's hearing, Ms. Van Houten, is to consider  
19 your suitability for parole.

20 It is necessary for us to conduct this hearing  
21 under the revised procedures enacted by the Legislature,  
22 effective July 1, 1977. These procedures are applicable  
23 to all prisoners under a life sentence.

24 We will be considering the number and the nature of  
25 the crimes for which you were committed to state prison, your

1 criminal history or lack of it prior to your commitment,  
2 and your behavior since your commitment.

3 We will reach a decision today and inform you as  
4 to your suitability for parole or not. If you are found  
5 suitable for parole, we will give you our reasons for finding  
6 you suitable. And if there are any special conditions, we  
7 will give you those, and we will also state to you the time  
8 you are to be confined in prison.

9 If we find that you are unsuitable for parole, we  
10 will give you our reasons, and we will make suggestions as  
11 to what you can do in the future when you, again, present  
12 yourself to the Community Release Board.

13 We are not utilizing any confidential information  
14 today. All of the material which we have, your attorney  
15 should have access to this. And we will ask him, before we  
16 begin the hearing proper, if this is true, and we will move  
17 from that point.

18 I will now make inquiry of Mr. Fitzgerald if you  
19 have had proper notice of this hearing; if you have had an  
20 opportunity to prepare for the hearing; have you had an  
21 opportunity to confer with your client; and are you ready  
22 to proceed today?

23 MR. FITZGERALD: I have received adequate notice.  
24 I have had ample opportunity to interview and counsel my  
25 client, and I have done so. I must say, however, that the

1 Community Release Board itself has severely hampered and  
2 restricted me in the preparation of this hearing. I attempted,  
3 through communications with the Community Release Board in  
4 Sacramento, to determine the identity of the persons who were  
5 going to be at this hearing today, and I was refused such  
6 information.

7 Because Ms. Van Houten had two co-defendants, who  
8 are inmates of this institution and who have previously had  
9 hearings, I attempted to obtain transcripts of those hearings  
10 to determine -- to determine several things, to determine,  
11 number one, whether the persons, members of the Board who  
12 were present at that hearing, were likely to be present at  
13 this hearing in terms of matching the identities; two, to  
14 determine what facts, if any, were used in that hearing  
15 concerning the same crimes for which Ms. Van Houten was  
16 convicted; also, to determine questions that were asked by  
17 the Board and information the Board received in that  
18 connection.

19 A perusal of the rules of the Community Release  
20 Board clearly indicates that any member of the public is  
21 entitled to a transcript of the proceedings 30 days after  
22 the conclusion of the hearing. I was informed by the  
23 Sacramento office of the Community Release Board that, while  
24 such proceedings -- while the proceedings were transcribed,  
25 they were not available, because the Community Release Board

1 did not have personnel to duplicate the transcripts. So,  
2 ultimately, I was unable to produce - I was unable to  
3 obtain copies of what I considered to be very relevant,  
4 very important, and very material information in connection  
5 with this hearing.

6 I, also, in writing, as I was required to do, I  
7 petitioned in writing to present this Board with a witness,  
8 a psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Coburn, a psychiatrist who was  
9 a staff psychiatrist at this institution in 1971, who not  
10 only interviewed and met with Ms. Van Houten in 1971, but  
11 saw her in many of the succeeding years, and saw her as  
12 recently as several months ago. I felt this information  
13 was extremely important and the presence of this witness  
14 would be extremely important on the issue of the suitability,  
15 that is to say whether or not Ms. Van Houten poses an  
16 unreasonable risk of danger to the public.

17 I was refused permission to have that witness here  
18 and to testify. I was also refused permission to have that  
19 witness present. I felt that it was very interesting that,  
20 while I was required to make these requests in writing, my  
21 request was denied orally, by telephone, by a clerk in the  
22 Community Release Board office. And when I asked to speak  
23 with a Board member about it, the permission to talk to  
24 that member was refused.

25 I also requested that certain members of



1 Mr. Van Houten's family be present. And that was denied.  
2 I was informed that no members of the public can attend,  
3 not even the prisoner's family. Yet, when I arrived here,  
4 I see that there is a member of the media present. I find  
5 that to be peculiar, if not downright unfair and unreasonable,  
6 that the media should be present and the defendant's own  
7 family can't be present, nor can sophisticated, knowledgeable  
8 psychiatric observers be present.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Having registered your  
10 complaints, are you ready to proceed?

11 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes, I am.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Ms. Van  
13 Houten, have you had proper notice of this hearing? You  
14 knew within 24 hours that you would be coming to the hearing  
15 today? Have you had an opportunity to peruse your file in  
16 re Olson; and have you had an opportunity to confer with  
17 your attorney; and are you ready to proceed?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I am.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. I will ask the  
20 D.A.'s office from Los Angeles County -- I will be asking  
21 these questions collectively so we don't have to go through  
22 it each time -- if you have had proper notice of this hearing;  
23 you have had an opportunity to prepare; and are you ready to  
24 proceed?

25 MR. KAY: We are.

1                   PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHER: Thank you. If you are  
 2 not satisfied with our findings today, you have appeal  
 3 rights under Section 2050 of the CRB rules. Any decision  
 4 we make today will not be final for 60 days, pursuant to  
 5 3040 of the Penal Code. The purpose of this section is to  
 6 give the public time to review our decision and make any  
 7 input it wishes to make.

8                   This hearing is for the purpose of determining  
 9 suitability for parole. It is not to retry the case. We  
 10 will not be addressing any issues of guilt.

11                   I would ask that we respect each other, so as not  
 12 to have an adversary proceeding. This is an administrative  
 13 hearing and not a court of law. Each person will be given  
 14 ample opportunity to present his side.

15                   I will ask that we not interrupt each other. If  
 16 you have objections, note them. When the person is finished  
 17 speaking, state your objections, and we will either rule on  
 18 them at that time or call a recess and deliberate and rule  
 19 on the objections. In that way, we may have an orderly  
 20 hearing and confine our real concern as to the finding of  
 21 suitability.

22                   The hearing will be in three parts. The first  
 23 will concern itself with the commitment offense and your  
 24 history prior to the offense, both social and criminal. I  
 25 will be handling that part of the hearing. I will read into

1 the record a statement of facts as gleaned from sources which  
2 I will name, which are in this packet. At the close of  
3 that reading into the record the facts of the offense, the  
4 District Attorney's office will have an opportunity to  
5 address itself to the facts of the offense, confining itself  
6 primarily to what happened, adding anything that they want  
7 into the record as to the actual offense. When they have  
8 finished, your attorney will have an opportunity to do the  
9 same.

10 Counselor, are -- strike are. Have you decided  
11 whether Ms. Van Houten will be addressing the Board  
12 personally today?

13 MR. FITZGERALD: She will.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Will you  
15 stand and raise your right hand?

16 (Thereupon Inmate Leslie Van Houten was,  
17 by Presiding Member Rushen, sworn to tell  
18 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing  
19 but the truth.)

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I do.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Then, at the close of  
22 whatever your attorney wants to say, or however he wants to  
23 present it, you may have an opportunity to speak to the facts  
24 and say anything you wish in terms of enlightening the panel  
25 as to your culpability. Again, I say we are not addressing

1 the issue of guilt.

2 After that, I will review the material in the  
3 record as to your social and criminal history. You will have  
4 an opportunity to comment on that and make any input that  
5 you wish to make. The D.A.'s office may also have some  
6 comment it may want to make on that. At any time during  
7 the hearing, the panel members may want to ask questions.

8 If you have questions, or your counsel has a  
9 question that he wants asked, you will not be addressing the  
10 D.A., and the D.A. will not be addressing you, you or your  
11 counsel. You will funnel your inquiries through the panel  
12 members.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: At the close of that  
15 phase, we will probably recess. When we return, we will go  
16 into the post-conviction factors. Mrs. Sides will be  
17 handling that part. This will include all of your activities  
18 since being confined in the institution from your original  
19 date. It will also include a review of the psychiatric  
20 findings. You and your counsel will have ample opportunity  
21 to discuss and add anything you want to those reports.

22 We then will go into your parole plans. Mr. DeLeon  
23 will be handling that part of the hearing. And again, you  
24 and your counsel may make any comments you wish.

25 At the close of that, we will ask the D.A. to make

1 his closing statement. During this time, he may make a  
2 recommendation, if he so wishes, as to your suitability.  
3 If he makes a recommendation for suitability, he also, if  
4 he wishes, may make a recommendation as to which matrix you  
5 fall under.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: You and your attorney  
8 will close the hearing. He will be speaking, I'm sure, to  
9 your suitability and anything else he wishes to tie in at  
10 that point. Then, your turn will come, and anything you want  
11 to say about whatever, you will make any comments you want.  
12 This is your hearing, and you are to have an opportunity to  
13 be heard. We then will recess and deliberate, call you back,  
14 and tell you our findings.

15 We do note in the record that there isn't a  
16 current Board report. Now, we understand that the CDC  
17 rules indicate that if your admission is six months, they  
18 don't have to write a Board report. But we do. We feel we  
19 want up-to-date information today. So, we do have CDC staff  
20 here. And as they address the Board, at any time when they  
21 finish, you will have an opportunity to make any comments.

22 So, I would like at this time for the CDC staff  
23 to stand. We will swear you in collectively so that we  
24 don't have to go through this each time.

25 (Thereupon Staff Members Gilbert Vasquez,

1 Doris Jefferis, and Manuel Jimenez were,  
2 by Presiding Member Rushen, sworn to  
3 tell the truth, the whole truth, and  
4 nothing but the truth.)

5 MR. VASQUEZ: I do.

6 MS. JEFFERIS: I do.

7 MR. JIMENEZ: I do.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Are there any questions  
9 as to procedure?

10 MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah. Do you have a tentative  
11 sort of schedule? Will we be here over the noon hour and  
12 into the afternoon?

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: That depends on you,  
14 counselor.

15 MR. FITZGERALD: All right.

16 (Laughter.)

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Reading into the record,  
18 then, the legal status, I have taken all of the information  
19 from the Cumulative Case Summary, which contains the  
20 transcript of the cross-examination by the D.A., the  
21 Appellate Court decision reversing the first conviction,  
22 the Abstracts of Judgment, and the indictment. The legal  
23 status: On August 17, 1978, the prisoner was received in  
24 prison pursuant to Penal Code Section 1168 for a violation  
25 of PC Section 187, Murder One, Count VI; violation of PC

1 Section 187, Murder One, Count VII; and violation of Penal  
2 Section 182.1, Conspiracy to Commit Murder One, Count VIII,  
3 under Case Number A-253156. The controlling minimum eligible  
4 parole date is August 17, 1978.

5 The prisoner was originally received in prison on  
6 April 21, 1971, pursuant to Penal Code Section 1168 for a  
7 violation of Penal Code 187, Murder One, Counts VI and VII,  
8 and violation of PC 182.1, Conspiracy to Commit Murder One,  
9 Count VIII, under Case Number A-253156. The judgment of  
10 conviction was reversed for retrial by the Court of Appeal,  
11 Second Appellate District, Crim. Number 22239 and 24376 on  
12 August 17, 1976. On August 11th, 1978, after a retrial,  
13 the prisoner was resentedenced to state prison on Counts VI,  
14 VII, and VIII.

15 Statement of the Facts, in summary: All of the  
16 commitment offenses under Case Number A-253156 stem from two  
17 successive multiple homicides occurring in Los Angeles  
18 County between 8/8 through 8/10, 1969. Murder One, Count  
19 VI, refers to victim Leno, L-e-n-o, A. LaBianca, L-a  
20 B-i-a-n-c-a. Murder One, Count VII, refers to victim  
21 Rosemary LaBianca. Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Count VIII,  
22 refers to the crimes and offenses related to the charges  
23 set forth in Counts I through VII: Murder One, Count I,  
24 victim A. Folger, F-o-l-g-e-r; Count II, victim W. Frykowski,  
25 F-r-y-k-o-w-s-k-i; Count III, victim S. Parent; Count IV,

1 victim S. Polanski, P-o-l-a-n-s-k-i, and Count V, victim  
2 J. Sebring, S-e-b-r-i-n-g.

3 Counts I through V were committed by crime partners  
4 Charles Manson, B-33920; Susan Atkins, W-8304; Patricia  
5 Krenwinkel, W-8314; Charles Watson, B-379999; and Linda  
6 Kasabian, dismissed. The prisoner was not charged in these  
7 counts.

8 On August 10, 1969, the prisoner, having full  
9 knowledge that her co-conspirators and crime partners had  
10 killed five people on August 9, 1969, set out to kill more  
11 people. The group drove around for about four hours and  
12 randomly selected and discarded targets until they settled  
13 on the LaBianca house. They entered the residence, tied up  
14 the victims, covered their heads with pillowcases, and  
15 killed them. The prisoner was an active participant in the  
16 murders. She held Mrs. LaBianca down on several occasions  
17 so that crime partner Krenwinkel could stab her. When  
18 Krenwinkel's knife bent during her attempt to stab the  
19 victim, the prisoner called for Watson to come in and assist  
20 with the killing. The prisoner also stabbed the victim.

21 After the murders, the prisoner wiped off  
22 fingerprints, took property from the location, and, upon her  
23 return to the Spahn Ranch, she burned evidence which could  
24 possibly tie her into the murders. Leno LaBianca died of  
25 multiple stab wounds to the neck and abdomen.



1 Rosemary LaBianca's death was ascribed to multiple stab wounds  
2 to the neck and trunk.

3 At this time, I would ask the D.A. if he has  
4 anything to add to those facts.

5 MR. KAY: I know when you originally talked about  
6 this part of the hearing, you said you were interested in  
7 her social background, too, before the fact. Would you be  
8 interested in me going into that as to what --

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Not at this point.

10 MR. KAY: Not at this time?

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Just the facts of the  
12 case, if you have anything you want to add to that.

13 MR. KAY: I think, in summary, you were very  
14 accurate in what you had stated. I know that I submitted  
15 the cross-examination, which you have read, that set forth  
16 these facts. A number of things I would want to add, just  
17 a few, number one, is that Ms. Van Houten was not on narcotics  
18 or dangerous drugs at the time of the murders. She did, of  
19 course, have full knowledge of what had happened at the  
20 Tate house, although she had nothing to do with that. And  
21 I want that to be clear on the record. And I believe that  
22 she had nothing to do with that.

23 She knew at the time period that the family was  
24 going to be involved in murders. And she, on her own, had  
25 decided that she wanted to participate in this conspiracy to

1 commit murder before Charles Manson ever asked her to  
 2 participate. When she found out about the murders at the  
 3 Tate house, she expressed and felt disappointment that she  
 4 was not selected to go along for the Tate murders and that  
 5 she was hoping that if the members of the family went out  
 6 again to participate in murders that she would get to go  
 7 along and participate in those murders.

8 She even, after the Tate murders and before she  
 9 went out on the night of the LaBianca murders, watched news  
 10 accounts on television about the Tate murders. And so, she  
 11 was fully aware. And Patricia Krenwinkel had filled her in  
 12 on the horror that had taken place at the Tate house.

13 On the trip that did last for about four hours,  
 14 and they made stops at several places -- a small home off  
 15 of the Fair Oaks offramp in Pasadena, and they stopped in  
 16 front of a house and didn't kill the people there. And then,  
 17 there was another house in South Pasadena, a church, they  
 18 stopped at a Congregational church in South Pasadena with  
 19 the intent to kill the minister and string him up to the  
 20 cross in front of the church. But the church -- it was late  
 21 at night, and the church was locked, and nobody was there.  
 22 So, they left.

23 Outside of the -- when they finally ended up,  
 24 after their long journey, at the LaBianca house, nobody knew  
 25 the LaBiancas. Nobody -- these were complete strangers to

1 everybody who participated in this crime.

2 Manson, apparently, went in the house first and  
3 tied up the LaBiancas and assured the LaBiancas that nothing  
4 was going to happen to them; that it was just a robbery. He  
5 came back outside and asked Ms. Van Houten, Patricia  
6 Krenwinkel, and Tex Watson, to get out of the car. They had  
7 a meeting at the back of the car where Manson told them not  
8 to cause fear and panic like the night before and not to let  
9 them know that you're going to kill them. He told them that  
10 there was a man and a woman at the house, and he had tied  
11 their hands.

12 Ms. Van Houten, Mr. Watson, and Ms. Krenwinkel then  
13 went in the house. Ms. Krenwinkel went to the kitchen and  
14 got a knife for herself and one for Ms. Van Houten. And  
15 then, they -- Ms. Van Houten and Ms. Krenwinkel took Mrs.  
16 LaBianca into the bedroom for the purpose of killing her.  
17 They -- Ms. Van Houten held Mrs. LaBianca down. Mrs.  
18 LaBianca then heard the screams, or the sounds of Mr. LaBianca  
19 in the living room getting stabbed by Mr. Watson, at which  
20 point she bolted up from the bed and cried out her husband's  
21 name, at which point Ms. Van Houten then wrestled her down  
22 on the bed again, pushed her down, and held her. At that  
23 point, Ms. Krenwinkel stabbed Mrs. LaBianca, but the knife  
24 blade bent. Ms. Van Houten then went to the door of the  
25 bedroom and called for Watson, knowing that he had entered

1 the residence with a big bayonet. Watson then came in and  
2 stabbed Mrs. LaBianca. Ms. Van Houten participated in  
3 stabbing Mrs. LaBianca, also.

4 I cannot prove that Ms. Van Houten inflicted fatal  
5 blows to Mrs. LaBianca, and I can't disprove that. Ms.  
6 Van Houten claims that she stabbed Mrs. LaBianca in the  
7 lower back and the buttocks. Mr. Watson, at his trial, took  
8 a different tack, but they were the only ones there. And  
9 I can't prove or disprove who inflicted the fatal blows,  
10 although Ms. Van Houten clearly did participate in stabbing  
11 Mrs. LaBianca.

12 You've talked about Ms. Van Houten wiping  
13 fingerprints. She and the other crime partner, by the  
14 testimony, apparently had something to eat out of the  
15 refrigerator in the house after the murders. And I think  
16 Mr. Watson, and possibly Ms. Krenwinkel, took a shower.  
17 Mr. Watson definitely took a shower there, and Ms. Krenwinkel  
18 possibly.

19 They took property from the house, and when Ms.  
20 Van Houten got back to the ranch, she immediately took off  
21 her own clothes and burned them, the clothes that she wore,  
22 plus a purse that had been taken from the LaBianca's. And  
23 then, she and another girl counted some money that Ms. Van  
24 Houten had taken from the location, or at least when they  
25 got back to the ranch, Ms. Van Houten had the money in her

1 possession. And she and this other girl, Dianne Lake, sat on  
2 the bed counting it.

3 There was the man who had given them the ride when  
4 they hitchhiked back to the ranch. Apparently, he was  
5 curious and came looking for Ms. Van Houten to see if she  
6 really did live at the Spahn Ranch, because in the car they  
7 had told him they didn't live at the Spahn Ranch. And when  
8 Ms. Van Houten saw the car pull up outside, she hid herself  
9 under a bedsheet on the bed so that the man wouldn't see  
10 her, because she didn't want to be connected to these  
11 murders.

12 I think that as far as the facts of the crime,  
13 everything else you said covers it pretty carefully, except  
14 for the motive for these murders. You didn't go into that.  
15 The motive is that the participants wanted to start a black-  
16 white race war and that these murders were going to be  
17 blamed on blacks in hopes that the whites would retaliate  
18 against the blacks and that there would be a big race war.

19 As a matter of fact, Mrs. LaBianca's wallet was  
20 taken by Mr. Manson after he went in. And Mr. Manson had  
21 this wallet planted in an area near Pacoima, which he felt  
22 was a black area. And he hoped, and expressed this hope,  
23 that a black person would find this wallet in the service  
24 station restroom and use the credit cards in Mrs. LaBianca's  
25 name -- well, there were a number of credit cards -- and.

1 therefore, get blamed for the murders.

2 Manson and the family believed in this  
 3 Helter-Skelter philosophy, that in the black-white race war,  
 4 the blacks would win and kill all the whites, except for  
 5 Manson and the family. And he would escape to a hideout in  
 6 the desert in the Death Valley area, which they named the  
 7 Bottomless Pit. And they were going to stay there until the  
 8 revolution was over. And they felt that the blacks, being  
 9 not smart enough to control power, once they had it, would  
 10 look to the only whites left to turn over power to them  
 11 after the revolution was over. And, of course, the only  
 12 whites left would be Manson and the family. And he would  
 13 take over power and kind of rule, at least the United States.  
 14 It was never clear whether this was to be the whole world,  
 15 but at least the United States.

16 Tex Watson, who was the leader at the time of the  
 17 murders, as far as the leader at the locations, was Ms.  
 18 Van Houten's boyfriend at the time. They were very close,  
 19 so that the people that she was with at the LaBianca house,  
 20 Tex Watson was her boyfriend, and Patricia Krenwinkel  
 21 appeared to be her best friend in the family.

22 Wait a minute. Just a minute. I think that's  
 23 really all I need to add right now.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Counsel?

25 MR. FITZGERALD: I believe he stated that she

1 assisted in the tying of the victims, and that is incorrect.  
 2 There is only one -- there was only one victim that was  
 3 tied, and that is Leno LaBianca. And he was tied by someone  
 4 other than Ms. Van Houten. And he was not tied up in  
 5 Ms. Van Houten's presence. Probably, Manson tied up Leno  
 6 LaBianca when he was in the house before they arrived.

7 I believe you also said that Ms. Van Houten held  
 8 down Rosemary LaBianca on several occasions. The evidence  
 9 produced at the various trials does not reflect that she  
 10 was held down on several occasions by Ms. Van Houten.

11 MR. KAY: (Indicating by gesture twice.)

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Mr. Kay indicated that he could  
 13 not prove, nor disprove, that Ms. Van Houten stabbed  
 14 Mrs. LaBianca while Mrs. LaBianca was alive. She was  
 15 convicted because of her role as an aider and abettor. It  
 16 is clear that the participants most responsible for the  
 17 death of Mrs. LaBianca were Tex Watson, who ultimately  
 18 killed her with the bayonet, and Ms. Krenwinkel. It was  
 19 not Ms. Van Houten. Furthermore, Ms. Van Houten did not  
 20 physically participate in the death of Mr. LaBianca. He  
 21 was killed outside of her presence by Tex Watson.

22 Mr. Kay said they ate food in the house after the  
 23 killing. That is absolutely not true. It is not verified  
 24 by any of the evidence produced at any of the three trials.  
 25 Additionally, it was quite clearly demonstrated during the

1 trial, as you are probably aware having read Mr. Kay's  
2 cross-examination of Ms. Van Houten, that she stabbed Mrs.  
3 LaBianca only after Mrs. LaBianca was dead.

4 As you indicated, we are not involved in the issue  
5 of guilt. We clearly recognize that Ms. Van Houten has been  
6 convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and has been  
7 convicted of murder. But it should -- the point I want to  
8 make clear is that she was convicted on the basis of her  
9 assistance and help to others and was not the prime mover  
10 in this killing.

11 I think it's also important to note, and it has  
12 been widely reported and is becoming now almost a matter of  
13 common knowledge, that the Manson family was directed and  
14 orchestrated by one Charles Manson, and that Leslie Van  
15 Houten, as well as other members of the Manson family,  
16 were under the domination and influence of Charles Manson.  
17 And it is extraordinarily unlikely that without Mr. Manson's  
18 influence, that these crimes would have been committed.  
19 It was Manson that selected the house.

20 Mr. Kay said that the group went around at random  
21 selecting victims, tending to imply that Ms. Van Houten had  
22 some decision-making power in this random selection of  
23 victims. She did not. It was Charles Manson who was  
24 physically present who selected the various locations. Ms.  
25 Van Houten, at no time, was a policymaker in the Manson



1 family or a policymaker in any killings.

2 She testified honestly and truthfully at her most  
3 recent trial and the trial before that. She has testified,  
4 and it is uncontradicted, that she only stabbed Rosemary  
5 Labianca after Mr. Watson put a knife in her hand and told  
6 her to do something. She did wipe off -- busy herself  
7 wiping off fingerprints at the location, but she did not  
8 participate in any of the more ghastly aspects of that crime  
9 scene. She did not participate in any blood writing on the  
10 wall or any mutilation of any of the victims, either before  
11 or after death.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right, Mr. DeLeon?

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now -- pardon me -- prior  
14 to the commitment offense, you were at the Spahn Ranch?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did you have an opportunity  
17 to involve yourself in any of the previous acts by your  
18 crime partners?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm not sure what you mean.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Were you invited to  
21 participate?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: To go the first night?

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Yes.

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And then, on the second

1 night, were you asked, or did you request to go?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I was asked by Charlie did  
3 I believe in what he was saying. And I said, "Yes." And  
4 then, I was told to get in the car and go. Prior to that,  
5 he had asked all of us to, uh, decide in ourselves if we  
6 believed enough in him, you know, to go or, you know, go  
7 along with Helter Skelter.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you did not use any  
9 drugs on that night?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Not on that night.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: The night of the LaBiancas?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And what did Manson say  
14 when he came back to the car after, apparently, making the  
15 first entry into the --

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: He came out to the car, and  
17 he looked in, and he -- I don't remember exactly who he  
18 said first. I do remember he hesitated between Susan and I.  
19 And then, he asked me to get out along with Pat and Tex. You  
20 know, I don't remember if he said Tex or Pat first or me,  
21 but then he said to get out, and I did.

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And when you went into the  
23 residence, what did you find there?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: We walked in the front door,  
25 and they were both sitting on the couch. It was kind of a

1 circular couch. And I -- I don't have a clear memory of  
2 hands tied or anything like that. There was -- they were  
3 sitting there.

4 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Who directed Mrs. LaBianca  
5 into the other room?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I -- Tex told us to take her  
7 into the other room. So, Pat and I took her in.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Into the other room?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You put her on the bed?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She -- well, we asked -- it's  
12 hard to remember.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Was she on the bed when she  
14 was stabbed?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. She ended up on the  
16 bed, but I don't remember if she just sat on it or, you know.

17 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did you have a weapon at  
18 that time?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Pat had gotten kitchen knives,  
20 but I don't remember having one in my hand at the time,  
21 because I was holding her down when Pat was going to stab  
22 her.

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Was she struggling?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

25 MR. FITZGERALD: All that is covered in the

1 cross-examination.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I know. I was trying to  
3 ascertain your position as to having the position of  
4 leadership or being a follower.

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I was following.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: If you had a leader there,  
7 who would that leader be?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Tex. I wasn't functioning  
9 well under the situation.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You mean you were not acting  
11 without commands?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I wasn't -- I was  
13 panicked. I wasn't comfortable in the situation, you know.  
14 I don't know what to say in that area, but --

15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. That's all right.

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: You know, in our minds we had  
17 been thinking it was like, oh, a war-type situation to go  
18 out and do this thing. And then, being there, adrenalin  
19 were going. I wasn't functioning well.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: After the death of the  
21 victims, what was the next course of action in leaving?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, Charlie had wanted to  
23 make it really horrible, like he kept talking about putting  
24 eyeballs on the walls and that kind of thing. "And I knew  
25 I had touched a lamp, and, I -- this is how I remember it.

1 I remember that, I think, I said to Pat, "I touched  
2 the lamp."

3 And she said, "Wipe off prints."

4 I just kept wiping off prints, and Tex took a  
5 shower. And I didn't go back into the living room until we  
6 were leaving. And then, that's when I saw the writing on  
7 the walls. And I glanced and saw Mr. LaBianca.

8 And then, as we were leaving, I don't remember who  
9 did it. I know I didn't. Someone opened the refrigerator  
10 up and took out chocolate milk and cheese, and we left.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And you took that and left?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And then, you hitchhiked  
14 back?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, we stayed in the bushes  
16 until the sun came up, and then we hitchhiked home.

17 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you didn't shower?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No. I wanted to get out of  
19 there.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did you have bloody clothing,  
21 or was there blood on your --

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I didn't. But Charlie had  
23 told all of us to change our clothes. And Tex's zipper broke  
24 on his pants. And so, he told me to give him his and take  
25 a pair of Mrs. LaBianca's shorts or whatever. It ended up

1 that I wore a pair of shorts. And I had told Tex that I  
2 didn't have anything on me, so I probably didn't need to  
3 change my clothes. And he said that that's what we were  
4 supposed to do. So, I was to change them anyway. So, I  
5 gave Tex the other pants that I had brought.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. Okay. I have nothing  
7 further.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mrs. Sides?

9 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: I have no questions.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I have two. You say --  
11 I understood your attorney to say that you stabbed Mrs.  
12 LaBianca after she was dead.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Would you  
15 just go over that again, for me?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: After Pat went to stab her  
17 and the knife bent, I called to Tex in the other room. And  
18 I don't -- and I never have been able to, even in all of  
19 the times that I've regone through this in my mind, I --  
20 all I remember is standing there in the doorway of the  
21 bedroom and looking out into a den area. And I don't  
22 remember Tex getting into the bedroom or passing me or  
23 anything like that. But after I turned around, and he  
24 had killed Mrs. LaBianca, she was laying on the floor. And  
25 he handed me a knife, and he said, "Do something." And so,

1 I stabbed Mrs. LaBianca on the back several times. I think  
2 it was either 10 or 14. I don't remember.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Now, in  
4 holding her down, if I understood what you said, somehow or  
5 other she wound up on the bed.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I don't, you know -- we  
7 may have told her to sit on the bed, get on the bed. I  
8 don't remember clearly.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. But you remember  
10 holding her, and Krenwinkel was stabbing her?.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She tried, yes.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Now, during this  
13 time, did she, Mrs. LaBianca, attempt to get up?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, she did.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. And did you have  
16 to put her back down, or she never did get up, or what?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She got half up, and then at  
18 the time she was getting up, I went to hold her back down,  
19 and then that's when Pat stabbed her, and the knife bent.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And then, I got up and went  
22 to get Tex.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It all happened in a series  
25 right away.

1           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. She's on  
2 the bed, and you're holding her down, and Pat stabs her once?

3           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

4           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And the knife bends?

5           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And you get up?

7           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I was already standing.

8 I just -- I left.

9           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And you go to call him?

10          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

11          PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. You don't  
12 touch her anymore; is that what you're saying?

13          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Not until she was laying on  
14 the floor.

15          PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Now, when did the  
16 struggle -- I think I read somewhere where there was a  
17 struggle taking place. Was all of this during the first hold  
18 down?

19          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, it all happened very  
20 rapidly.

21          PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. To the best of  
22 your knowledge, what aroused the man's curiosity that came  
23 to Spahn's Ranch the next day?

24          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, he came the very same  
25 day.



1 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: The morning he took us back to  
3 Spahn's. He was a strange, little man who had like blinking  
4 red lights on his car. And he was an odd person. And when  
5 we were going up Topanga, he said he knew of Spahn's and  
6 had been there different times, and did we live there?  
7 And we said, "No," and had him drop us off down at the bottom  
8 of the Santa Susana Pass. That's the turnoff road. And  
9 then, probably a few hours later, he ended up coming up. I  
10 didn't -- I wouldn't know if it was to check to see if I was  
11 there or not.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh. Okay. Now, the  
13 chocolate milk and what was taken from --

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Cheese.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Cheese? Okay. When was  
16 that eaten?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: While we were in the bushes.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Did you eat any of it?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I think I drank a little  
20 milk. I don't think I ate the cheese.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right.

22 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Madam Chairman, you did raise  
23 an issue I need to clarify for myself. Did I understand you  
24 to say that Pat originally took two knives from the kitchen?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: This is something that I have

1 been confused about. I thought so, but then I don't  
2 remember ever laying one down.

3 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: I thought I heard you make  
4 that statement, that she brought two knives out.

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I remember. -- I have a picture  
6 of her in my mind at the kitchen drawer getting two knives,  
7 but then, when I was holding Mrs. LaBianca down, I didn't  
8 have the knife, because I was using both hands. So, I'm --  
9 I'm -- I don't remember, you know, being in possession of  
10 one when the events came down, but I remember her getting  
11 two out. So, I'm confused myself on that.

12 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: You observed her use only  
13 one knife?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

15 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: And you don't recall what  
16 happened to the second knife?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

18 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: You know, I would assume I  
20 had it, but I was using both of my hands when I was holding  
21 her down. And I didn't have the knife again until Tex handed  
22 me the knife and said, "Do something." So, I --

23 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: All right.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Moving, then --

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I have one more question.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, how did you ascertain  
3 that she was dead, Mrs. LaBianca was dead?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I originally thought so  
5 because she was just lying there, not moving, not making the  
6 kinds of sounds that Mr. LaBianca was. She seemed dead.  
7 Later on, going through the trials, the wounds that I did  
8 inflict were, I think, postmortem, which means she was dead.

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Was she bleeding at the  
10 time; do you recall?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I remember there was blood,  
12 but not from the wounds I was making.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. You said all this  
14 took place within a short period of time?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: The stabbing and time of  
17 death?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It seemed -- yeah, in  
19 remembering it, it all seems very fast.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: How long would "fast" be?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I -- I can't estimate. You  
22 know, minutes. It all happened very quickly. I couldn't --  
23 I couldn't really give an estimate, because I don't know,  
24 you know, how true my perspective is on it.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Okay.

1           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Moving, then, to your  
2       priors, we'll take your criminal history first. And, of  
3       course, it is exceptionally minimal. According to the CII  
4       Sheet, it shows that your first arrest was in April, 1969,  
5       for GTA. And that was dismissed due to insufficient evidence.  
6       And four months later, there was another GTA, and you were  
7       released on that. And then, September of 1969, you were  
8       arrested for burglary, and you were released. When arrested  
9       in Independence in October of 1969, the charges for the  
10      grand theft were dropped, according to the probation  
11      officer's report, because of the homicide charge.

12           Does that, to the best of your knowledge, sum up  
13      your actual contact with the law?

14           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

15           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Now, in  
16      looking at your social history, continuing on the law  
17      violations, it does say that you started use of drugs at a  
18      relatively early age. I believe you were in high school?

19           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

20           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And how do you account  
21      for your using the drugs? As I can see, up to the time of  
22      your arrest on this offense, and not having been involved  
23      with the police, how did that happen?

24           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I really don't know, other than  
25      before -- before I got to Spahn's Ranch, it was always just my

1 friends and I. And one of our friends was -- well, my  
 2 boyfriend lived with the man that was dealing mostly grass  
 3 and LSD. So, I would assume if -- for one thing, I never  
 4 went to the street to get the drugs which would, you know --  
 5 I wasn't in that environment. And the drugs weren't, well,  
 6 like heroin or --

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Hard narcotics.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: -- mescaline or something like  
 9 that. I mean, methedrine. I tried a little methedrine, but  
 10 I stopped. I didn't think criminally at the time of the  
 11 methadrine. And it was so expensive, so that could have been  
 12 one reason, too. I never broke the law to acquire drugs.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay, Looking at some  
 14 of the activities that you participated in at the ranch prior  
 15 to the murder, would you comment on the burglaries and how  
 16 you lived at that time?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I didn't do -- I didn't do many  
 18 of the burglaries. I wasn't -- until that night, I wasn't  
 19 really in, I don't think, that much of Charlie's confidence  
 20 to be asked to do the kinds of burglarizings. And those  
 21 burglaries were -- well, let's see. One time, and I don't  
 22 remember too -- the guys did most of the burglarizing, I think,  
 23 and I remember one time they came back with some antiques,  
 24 and another time with a telephone truck with wires and that  
 25 kind of thing on it. They were probably odd burglaries. It

1 wasn't like TV sets and, you know, fencing or anything like  
2 that. They were strange burglaries. Credit cards.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh. All right. Now,  
4 prior to that, leaving now the criminal element of this and  
5 going into the strictly social, you had a fairly stable  
6 situation at home. From what I can gather from the various  
7 reports, you lived with your mother, who was divorced?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And you participated in  
10 school activities. You were homecoming queen, and class  
11 secretary, and you belonged to the Blue Birds. And you did  
12 all of the things that children of middle-class families, I  
13 guess we would say for lack of a better word, participate in.  
14 In the latter part of high school, you started having some  
15 difficulties. Would you like to speak about that?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I think it was in my  
17 junior and senior year. And -- I'd grown disillusioned  
18 with the kind of scene I was in. I was seeing a lot of  
19 friends of mine -- I thought that they were changing with  
20 the social status, which I was right in there with. Like--  
21 you said, I was very active. I was a winner.

22 I -- I started to go to public dances, and I met  
23 Bobbie Mackey. I had known him -- well, I had liked him in  
24 earlier years, but we started to go together more intensely.  
25 And he had been hanging around with older people that were

1 taking acid.

2 I came home one day, and my brother and his  
3 friends were smoking marijuanas, and I was curious, and so  
4 I tried it. And that was the first time I tried marijuana.  
5 And then, when I was with Bobbie Mackey, we -- he turned me  
6 on to acid, and I started to take that. And I just hung  
7 around with people from Pasadena instead of Monrovia, my  
8 high school. And pretty soon, I just grew further and  
9 further away from the high school environment and hung with  
10 the older kids and took drugs.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: You did graduate, though;  
12 didn't you?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I did.

14 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. And I wanted to say that  
15 even after high school, she completed a year --

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We're going to get there.

17 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. I didn't want the  
18 impression created that she deteriorated, boom.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: No. All right. So, but  
20 you did manage to finish high school?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Now, I also saw your  
23 mother made a statement that she sought therapy for the  
24 family. What was that all about?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Un-huh. Well, you know, that

1 was many years ago. And family therapy, I don't think, was  
2 that well known. She and my father had seen a marriage  
3 counselor. And she continued, you know, to see him in a  
4 therapeutic way. My mother is into therapy, for one thing.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She -- and she felt that as  
7 a unit, we could deal with the separation and the divorce  
8 better by seeing a family counselor. That's how I remember  
9 it.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh. She said after  
11 about five trips it wasn't working out, and so she quit.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Do you have any thoughts  
14 about that?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, it was new and odd to  
16 us. And I know, for one thing, I resented what I considered  
17 a foreigner into our family.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Un-huh.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And remembering sitting in the  
20 office, I can remember that the meetings were very strained  
21 and no one talking. And it was more of a hostile, we-have-  
22 to-be-here type thing than, you know, a learning experience.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Then, you  
24 graduated, and the decision then was that you go and live  
25 with your father?



1           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, uh-huh. I had -- in  
2 high school, I had gotten pregnant. I think it was in the  
3 beginning of the school year, either October or November.  
4 And I had an abortion. And after that, Bobbie and I decided  
5 that we would become Yogic monks and nuns. We went from the  
6 acid into, you know, heavy Yogic religion. And so, I was  
7 waiting. I had to take the lessons for a year before they  
8 would allow me to become a renunciate and live on the grounds  
9 and all that. €.

10           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Right.

11           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: So, I asked them what they  
12 wanted me to do, and they said the best thing to do would be  
13 to go to the, you know, business college and get secretarial  
14 training. And my father jumped at the chance just to get the  
15 vocation for me. He wasn't that happy about, you know, the  
16 renunciate. My mother was very unhappy about that.

17           But, that's what got me initiated into the business  
18 college. Then, halfway through the business college, I quit  
19 going to the Yogic -- I quit being as heavily into it as I  
20 was. I stopped it, and I continued with the business college.

21           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. And the  
22 records indicate that you did an outstanding job there, and  
23 you obtained your certificate --

24           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

25           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: -- as a legal secretary.

1 All right. And then, I didn't see where you ever got a job.  
2 It seems like something happened, and you can bring us up to  
3 date on that. What happened to cause the break between  
4 getting the job and going on? Do you want to start from  
5 that point?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. Towards the end of  
7 business college, I started to smoke. Oh, the whole time I  
8 was in the self-realization, I didn't take drugs or smoke  
9 marijuana. I laid off.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: So, then, towards the end of  
12 business college, I was smoking weed again. And I had taken  
13 some acid. And I went to look for a job in Victorville  
14 where this girl said that we could live at her parents'  
15 ranch. My father said I could continue to live under him  
16 and look for a job, but I was feeling like I wanted  
17 independence. And the girl hadn't been honest with me, and  
18 her parents hadn't really been that happy about us going  
19 there. So, then I went to San Francisco to take --

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Well, wait a minute now.  
21 You're jumping a little far. So, you went to Victorville --

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: -- to look for a job.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: -- and applied for a  
24 job.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. But Victorville was even

1 smaller than than it is now. I think there was like one  
2 bank, and they didn't need anyone.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And at that same time, it  
5 turned out that her parents didn't -- there were three of  
6 us. I think her name was Marlo, that was the girl whose  
7 parents owned the ranch. And then another girl named  
8 Heather -- no, Dee. And she had a baby named Heather. They  
9 were from San Francisco. And she had married a guy that I  
10 had ran around with in Pasadena in my old LSD-kind of  
11 group. His name was Duncan. And she needed to go back up  
12 to San Francisco. So, I drove her up there. And I applied  
13 at Kelly Girl, and I, you know, made the application.

14 But within a matter of a week or so, I met Bobbie  
15 Beausoleil and Catherine Share, and that's when I dropped out  
16 and traveled with them and ended up at Spahn's.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Mr. D.A.,  
18 do you have any comments or anything you want to add to this  
19 portion of the hearing?

20 MR. KAY: Just a couple of things about the life  
21 in the Manson family. The evidence that came out at the  
22 trial was to the effect that Manson philosophized right  
23 from the time that Ms. Van Houten joined. And Manson was  
24 talking about physically killing people from the very  
25 beginning. As one witness said, he started talking in

1 the summer of 1968. Ms. Van Houten joined about September,  
2 probably the latter part of September or the first part of  
3 October.

4 Mr. Manson would -- had a very anti-establishment  
5 philosophy. And all of -- Ms. Van Houten and the others  
6 all shared that philosophy. Mr. Manson wanted to create a  
7 master race of white people, and he -- his hero seemed to  
8 be, in his philosophy, Hitler. And he would talk about how  
9 brilliant Hitler was for what he did to the Jews. And the  
10 people that lived in the family seemed to accept this. Nobody  
11 disagreed with him. And there were a number of people that  
12 came in contact with the family that would leave, but the  
13 hard-core people, as Ms. Van Houten was, stayed on and seemed  
14 to accept this philosophy and live and be happy as members  
15 of the family.

16 Helter Skelter was not a philosophy that started  
17 at the beginning. That didn't start until around in January  
18 of 1969. And then, it got more intense, leading up to the  
19 murders. But that was not an original philosophy when Ms.  
20 Van Houten joined.

21 Ms. Van Houten is a very intelligent person. She  
22 has always done well in school. She has a high IQ. At  
23 Sawyer's Business College, when she attended, she was in the  
24 top of her class and graduated as a certified legal  
25 secretary. She's been tested to have a superior IQ in the

1 to five percent of the United States, ranging between 121  
 2 and 125, depending upon the different times she has been  
 3 tested. When she was brought to Frontera right after the  
 4 trial, originally back on April 21st, 1971, she was tested  
 5 shortly thereafter and found to have a 121 IQ, which, again,  
 6 would put her in the top five percent.

7 I think per my knowledge of the Manson family,  
 8 Ms. Van Houten was certainly the most intelligent of any of  
 9 the members of the Manson family and had, probably, the  
 10 best upbringing and certainly knew as well, if not better  
 11 than, any of the others, that what she participated in was  
 12 wrong. I don't have anything to say other than that.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Counselor?

14 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. Just a couple of comments.  
 15 We agree that she is clearly bright and has an excellent  
 16 education. During the course of her last two trials, six  
 17 psychiatrists testified to her very confused mental state  
 18 at the time of the commission of these offenses and before.

19 The institutional file reflects early psychiatric  
 20 interviews with Ms. Van Houten, when she arrived at the  
 21 institution, which described her as very confused and very  
 22 disoriented, and clearly very muddled in her thinking. The  
 23 institutional file that's available to you reflects that it  
 24 wasn't until she was here approximately a year and a half  
 25 that she apparently began to detoxify and to get her thinking

1 and her mental and emotional state in order. So, while  
2 it's quite true that she was very bright, she also was in a  
3 very disorganized and crippled state of mind at the time of  
4 the commission of these offenses and her association with  
5 Manson.

6 Also, while it is true, of course, that she's very  
7 bright, the CIW file as well as all other indications,  
8 clearly indicate that she was strictly a follower and not a  
9 leader and, as I mentioned before, not a policymaker. She  
10 was a soldier.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mr. DeLeon?

12 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: How do you feel about your  
13 social background as a contributing factor to the events that  
14 followed your childhood experiences? Do you feel that there  
15 is a causal relationship there?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, taking the time period,  
17 like the mid and late sixties, and looking back on it, I see  
18 that there were quite a few middle-class kids, or teenagers,  
19 that were questioning and taking the drugs. And I, you  
20 know, I was one of them. And, you know, some made it out of  
21 the situation with little damage, you know, and I ended up  
22 causing damage, and, you know, hurting everyone in general.

23 I did not and I don't feel I ever really had any  
24 hatred or hostility towards the establishment. I think at  
25 that time period, we just felt that people -- and I say "we"

1 because there was, a lot of flower children, even though  
2 when I got with Charlie, you know, he knocked the flower  
3 children as being too passive. But up until then, it was  
4 -- it was just that people hadn't seen the gentler side.

5 It's so hard to describe now in the middle of the  
6 -- or going into the eighties -- that time period, but I,  
7 in thinking back, I think sometimes maybe I almost had too  
8 much going for me and that at that time I just started to  
9 put myself down. I -- I dated guys that weren't equal to  
10 me and, you know, losers that were into their cars more than  
11 books, you know, a couple times. I don't know exactly what  
12 the question is, but am I answering it?

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Well, all right. When you  
14 identified with your peers, when you were part of this group,  
15 you know, with your peer group --

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: You mean at Spahn's?

17 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- at the Spahn Ranch --

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- and predominantly, the  
20 individuals within this group were anti-social, you know,  
21 or apparently --

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- had anti-social feelings.  
24 And from there, you were arrested and prosecuted and  
25 convicted. And you had a great deal of notoriety, a great

1 notoriety, tremendous, far above what the average person  
2 receives. And then you go into the institution, and then  
3 you come into the institution.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

5 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And then in the institution,  
6 there is another peer group, you know, and a great many of  
7 those individuals are anti-social, right?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And what I was getting at  
10 is, you know, you have not had any exposure, other than the  
11 five months of freedom that you had when you were out on  
12 bail, to society. But yet, you really knew you were being  
13 carefully watched at that time and your behavior at that  
14 time was relatively monitored and looked upon later. You  
15 know, it isn't like having a total, uninhibited freedom in  
16 today's society.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And so, being in that  
19 position, you know, that you are in --

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

21 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- then, how do you see  
22 yourself today, you know, in understanding your position,  
23 as being able or as having to come out of that anti-social  
24 atmosphere environment, identification with peers of that  
25 type, to a person who is able to adjust?



1           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I think we need to leave  
2 that question until we get to that part of the hearing, or  
3 we'll get hopelessly confused if we start that. He will, too.

4           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: All right.

5           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Any other questions?

6           BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: No.

7           PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mrs. Sides?

8           BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Just one question. In  
9 viewing your social history, you graduated from high school  
10 in June of '67, right?

11          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

12          BOARD MEMBER SIDES: A year in business college,  
13 that takes you to '68.

14          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

15          BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Then, a few weeks of  
16 wandering around; was it a few weeks? What I'm getting at  
17 is when did you arrive at the Spahn Ranch?

18          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay. I believe I linked up  
19 with Bobbie Beausoleil who eventually -- you know, he was  
20 an offshoot of the Spahn's Ranch people, he and Catherine  
21 Share -- in August.

22          BOARD MEMBER SIDES: August what?

23          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: '68.

24          BOARD MEMBER SIDES: '68.

25          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And I got to Spahn's, I believe

1 in September or October of '68.

2 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: September or October of '68.

3 So, it was after you were at the Spahn's Ranch that you had  
4 your contact with law enforcement --

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: -- because the first was  
7 April of '69.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

9 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: And then it was about a  
10 year later that the LaBianca murder was committed?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

12 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Is there  
14 anything else, counselor, you feel that you want to say  
15 about that phase of the hearing?

16 MR. FITZGERALD: No.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. The time is  
18 now 11:05. We will take a 10-minute break.

19 (Thereupon a brief recess was taken.)

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We have reconvened  
21 in the case of Ms. Van Houten. All person previously  
22 identified are back in the room, with the exception of  
23 Mr. Jimenez. The time is approximately 11:30, and we will  
24 enter the phase of post-conviction factors. And Mrs. Sides  
25 will be presiding over this part of the hearing.

1 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: All right. Mr. Van Houten,  
2 for the purpose of post-conviction, your original reception  
3 date of April 28th, 1971, will be considered.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: All right.

5 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: So, we are going to go back  
6 to that in order to review your entire incarceration.

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Right.

8 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Now, after reviewing the  
9 records, I find you had very little opportunity to really  
10 become involved in programming, because of your housing  
11 situation. In spite of that, you were anxious to do  
12 something, and the staff indicated that you did work at  
13 their convenience. There are strong and supportive  
14 laudatory chronos in the file regarding your work efforts.  
15 You also spent some time doing needlepoint work. You tried  
16 to keep yourself busy while you were in tight security.

17 Fairly recently, back in 1975, you began taking  
18 courses at Chaffey College.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, through the institution.

20 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Right. And you did pick up  
21 two disciplinary problems about that time.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

23 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: One, you had possession of  
24 marijuana in July of 1976. And the other, June of '76,  
25 possession of 50 cents.

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

2 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Now, these are the only two  
3 disciplinary matters I found in your file.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

5 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: You have also been involved  
6 in clerical work, helping staff in a clerical way.

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: This time, yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: And you were editor or you  
9 worked on the newspaper, the prison newspaper.

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

11 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Now, for the period December  
12 23rd, 1976, to December 27th of 1977, you were at Sybil  
13 Brand.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Excuse me?

15 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: December 23rd, 1976, to  
16 December 27, 1977, about a year at Sybil Brand.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, yes. Yes.

18 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Then, you were out on bail  
19 in December of '77 to July of 1978?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

21 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Is that correct? Since you've  
22 been back, you've stated you have helped with medical  
23 records, and you do some work in the PTU kitchen, once in  
24 awhile?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I volunteer when necessary.

1 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: All right.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It's not my favorite thing.  
3 I started when I came back. I was in the kitchen for awhile,  
4 I think maybe a month or so. And then, from there I went to  
5 clerk for the secretary of PTU. I haven't done the medical  
6 records. That's a proposed thing for if I move to campus.  
7 Then, I'll have the job as a medical -- records.

8 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: So, in the PTU -- you're  
9 doing clerical work in PTU?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Right. Typing and filing  
11 chronos and account sheets, that kind of stuff.

12 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay. There is something  
13 I wanted to read into the record. Let's see which file.  
14 We have three files here. It's a current, very strong  
15 laudatory chrono from your work supervisor stating that  
16 you're doing an excellent job and you get along well with  
17 the staff and with the other inmates. It appears as though  
18 your period of incarceration has had relatively few problems  
19 in terms of management and disciplinary matters. And you  
20 have worked to the extent that the institution has permitted  
21 you to work.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

23 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay. Now, is there anything  
24 else you wish to tell this panel about any activity since  
25 your original reception date?

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I'm -- that seems so  
2 bread.

3 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Well, there is work.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

5 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: School.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Newspaper.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. And, well, when I was  
9 in -- okay. Should I just start from the beginning?

10 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Fine.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay. When I was in SSU, I  
12 was with Pat and Susan. And after the death penalty, they  
13 allowed the first workshops to come into the unit. And  
14 that was our first -- up until that point, it had mostly been  
15 family visiting. And it was, you know, cut off, like, under  
16 the death-row kinds of circumstances.

17 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Uh-huh.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And from that workshop on,  
19 we started to work on programs that I personally feel that  
20 a lot of the programing and the fact that it worked was my  
21 initiative and wanting to do it. The teachers, at first,  
22 would come to the unit and teach the class, you know, just to  
23 Pat and I, after they would teach it over there, so that  
24 at least we could get the education, because we couldn't go  
25 over. Then, they began letting one of us go over and tape

1 the class, and the other would listen to it and take the  
2 courses.

3 After that -- oh, I started doing a little typing  
4 for the paper. And I had been writing a man who was in  
5 prison that my family and an old friend of my family's thought  
6 it would be good for me to start communicating with him to  
7 get different kinds of influences. At that time, I was  
8 thinking that, 'unless someone had done time in prison, they  
9 weren't where it was at, which, you know, now that seems  
10 really far out to me. But then, that was true. The man I  
11 was writing had a lot of similarities in his history to  
12 Charlie's, as far as being just a loser goes. And he got  
13 me started into playing around with writing. And that's  
14 what got me into the paper. And I wrote a short story on  
15 the county jail.

16 Then, I went to the Psychiatric Treatment Unit to  
17 get used to being around large amounts of people. If I was  
18 around more than six people, I was uncomfortable, because  
19 in that unit, for four years or so, there was never more  
20 than, maybe, you know, three or four people at a time. And  
21 the schooling was stopped at that point, I believe, because  
22 they couldn't afford the escorts and all of that.

23 And then, they moved me in December, and I -- I  
24 think I learned an awful lot in that time period. I was  
25 around the prison population. I was exposed to the prison.

1 found some, partly, when -- well, would you like me to  
2 explain the disciplinaries, the two quarters?

3 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Yes. For the record, they  
4 are pretty self-explanatory. But, for the record, go ahead  
5 and explain it.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, for the two quarters, I  
7 had borrowed a girl's jacket for a reception. And when it  
8 came time to be searched, I handed the woman the jacket, and  
9 they were in there, you know. And there is not much you  
10 could do with two quarters. I think it's pretty clear I  
11 wasn't into money and dealing and that kind of thing.

12 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Do you want to say anything  
13 about the marijuans?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. That I had two joints  
15 and seeds on me at that time. And at that point, I -- I  
16 was feeling like I really didn't have too much to look  
17 forward to. I was making, I think, bad judgments in a  
18 self-destructive way. I wasn't -- I wasn't making judgments  
19 that would have hurt anyone else. And it's taken me a long  
20 time to understand certain parts of me. And for quite  
21 awhile -- actually, it didn't really come clear until I  
22 was able to talk with the amount of psychiatrists I was in  
23 preparation for the second trial, because not only did I speak  
24 to them about the case and the upcoming trials, but I also  
25 spoke to them a lot about myself, because it became important



1 to me to understand the different things in me that had led  
2 to this situation and my behavior. And I think I get a lot  
3 of that influence from my mother, because, like I said  
4 earlier, she's into therapy. And she's always encouraged it  
5 with me.

6 For a long time, I think rather than being able  
7 to directly cope with the guilt of what I had done, I would  
8 do things to set myself up for self-hurt. You know, like,  
9 I would have friends, and then maybe I would do something to  
10 where the friendship would become heated and ended. And to  
11 me, the marijuana thing was part in that area. After that,  
12 I didn't -- I hadn't -- I hadn't been heavy into drugs  
13 before the bust. The girl had given them to me, I believe  
14 it was, near a holiday. I don't remember when it was. I  
15 think the 4th of July. As a matter of fact, I'm not really  
16 sure.

17 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: It was. It was six months  
18 later that you went out?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. And I just took them,  
20 and, you know, the officer searched me. They were caught,  
21 and after that I just didn't put myself around that any  
22 longer.

23 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: All right. Before I get into  
24 the clinical information, I'm going to ask the staff if they  
25 have anything to add in terms of programming.

1 MR. VASQUEZ: Yes. I don't think Leslie has  
2 spoken to the fact that at this point, although it hasn't  
3 been finalized, we are working on a college program for her  
4 through Antioch --

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 MR. VASQUEZ: -- College. And this has gone all  
7 the way up to the superintendent for review and the whole bit.  
8 And it's in the balance at this point, to finalize.

9 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Did you receive your A.A. from  
10 Chaffey College?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I haven't yet.

12 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: So, you have that to finish.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. In preparing for the  
14 Antioch -- okay. See, when I came back, I was put into  
15 Psychiatric Treatment Unit again. And I assumed that I  
16 would be kept there and that I would not be allowed to  
17 attend the college programs on campus. So, I worked along  
18 with an old friend of our family's, Mr. Glenn Peters, to  
19 get an extended university program so that I could keep my  
20 education going within the limits of, you know, what I was  
21 given at the institution.

22 At this time, there is also a decision that's  
23 waiting to be made where I might be moved to campus soon,  
24 which means I would go ahead and attend the courses over here.  
25 But, in decking it all up, I have one year of school, college

1 level, in, with a high-B average. So, that's as far as I've  
2 gotten.

3 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Now, is there anything else  
4 from the CDC staff, you wish to report, on her in-prison  
5 activity or programing?

6 MR. VASQUEZ: One very important aspect of her  
7 job, that we appreciate how she's handled it, is the  
8 confidentiality of the office as our clerk, because she  
9 overhears many statements that staff make. The people on  
10 PTU proper are aware that she is aware of some things she  
11 shouldn't be. And they have initially tried to put some  
12 pressure on her to try and get information out of her. And  
13 to my knowledge, she has never abused the confidentiality  
14 that is demanded with that position.

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

16 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I have a question.

18 BOARD MEMBER-SIDES: All right. Go ahead.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: What is the Antioch  
20 program?

21 MR. VASQUEZ: It's college courses through  
22 correspondence. Because of her restricted movements, she  
23 cannot attend educational programs on campus and we do not  
24 have an educational program in PTU.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

1 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Antioch is a middlewestern  
2 college, but they do have a branch on the west coast?

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

4 MR. VASQUEZ: Right. It would also be a  
5 correspondence --

6 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: It's a very well respected  
7 university in the country.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. That's what I understand.  
9 It's not like a send-in-a-matchbook-cover.

10 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: All right. Let's go into the  
11 clinical matters now. I'm looking at a psychological  
12 evaluation dated 5 --

13 MR. FITZGERALD: 5/20/71?

14 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: No, way back before that.

15 MR. FITZGERALD: That was the first evaluation.

16 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Let's see.

17 MR. FITZGERALD: By Dr. V-i-t-p- a-v (sic).

18 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: 5/14/71; is that what you said?

19 MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah.

20 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay. 5/14/71. The  
21 psychologist is Dr. V-i-t-e-z-s-l-a-v, S., last name,  
22 F-r-i-s-a-n-a-n, Ph.D., Psychologist. In his resume --  
23 I'm quoting -- he states:  
24 " -- an intelligent, but very immature  
25 girl. She well knows 'right from wrong',

1 understands her present objective situation;  
 2 is adequately aware of the circumstances which  
 3 brought this situation about. But she disagrees,  
 4 radically. The driving force behind her thinking  
 5 and feeling is a radical, passive-aggressive  
 6 opposition, camouflaged as non-conformity.  
 7 Her character disorder is not that of a bland  
 8 and insensitive psychopath. On the contrary,  
 9 she feels strongly, does not lack empathy,  
 10 needs group approval to be reassured in her radi-  
 11 cal opposition. She found all this in the bizarre  
 12 little subculture she identified with. It is  
 13 likely that the rationalizing mysticism of the  
 14 little group of confused LSD abusers somehow  
 15 matched with her own schizoid trend. It certain-  
 16 ly reinforced this trend with ties of collective  
 17 solidarity.

18 "Leslie still is happy and self-confident.  
 19 In spite of the occasional 'voices calling her  
 20 name', she has no doubt about her sanity and the  
 21 insanity of the world she rejects. She cannot  
 22 afford to believe differently. In this sense,  
 23 she does not know or understand her present sub-  
 24 jective, intrapsychic situation. She may be la-  
 25 tently psychotic. Since, at this point, the

1       decompensation would not likely occur if her  
2       bizarre and confused rationalizations were weakened  
3       or shattered, the paradoxical conclusion appears  
4       true: Leslie's continuing identification with the  
5       pathological culture of 'Manson's tribe' protects  
6       her from a full-blown personal pathology --  
7       psychotic disintegration."

8       Then, we have a report by Dr. Michael B. Coburn, C-o-b-u-r-n,  
9       Staff Psychiatrist. This is October 2nd of 1978. That isn't  
10      the right date for that one.

11      MR. FITZGERALD: No. In fact, it's in '71.

12      BOARD MEMBER SIDES: June 8th of '71, right. And  
13      I'm going to read from the mental status part:

14      "On examination, this thin, attractive female,  
15      with her previously shaved head having grown out  
16      into a long crewcut, was fully alert, oriented and  
17      cooperative. There was no indication of hallucina-  
18      tions, systematized allusions, or indications of  
19      overt psychosis. There were obvious memory defects  
20      concerning the multiple years of drug use, such  
21      memory defects mostly due to the fact that it was  
22      not part of the group ethics to keep track of time  
23      or memory and that, in fact, it was part of the  
24      ethic to avoid such 'inconsequential' involvements  
25      as with ordered time. She admitted to 'losing a

1 year, and this did not bother her. Recent and  
 2 day-to-day memory was excellent, and there appeared  
 3 to be no evidence of organic brain disease. Her  
 4 affect was inappropriate in that she was super-  
 5 ficially smiling, laughing, happy, and cooperative,  
 6 et cetera, even when talking about the instant  
 7 offenses and her incarceration. She did have  
 8 periods where this would drop, and she would appear  
 9 outwardly as if uncomfortable or depressed, however,  
 10 she denied being uncomfortable.

11 "She did admit that she would prefer not to  
 12 be incarcerated, something the other previously-  
 13 examined co-defendant in this case (Ms. Krenwinkel)  
 14 would not admit to or was not aware of. She readily  
 15 admitted that, although she had no desire at the  
 16 present to kill anyone, that she would have no  
 17 difficulty again doing so if she wanted to.

18 Repeatedly the word 'attention' came into her con-  
 19 versation, once when discussing herself, and dis-  
 20 cussing a co-defendant and her need to gain atten-  
 21 tion and maintain her personal identity, and  
 22 another time when discussing possible motivation  
 23 in another murder which was brought up by this  
 24 evaluator. She appeared to have above-average  
 25 intelligence, good day-to-day judgment, as long

1 as her belief system was not involved or not  
2 necessary to come to a decision."

3 This is just from the mental status section. And, counselor,  
4 you might want to, after I finish, make some comments about  
5 the rest of that report.

6 Continuing on, I'm trying to put this in some kind  
7 of chronological order. Moving along, we have a staff  
8 psychiatrist, Dr. R. V. Hensley, who interviewed her on  
9 6/14/71. In his psychiatric opinion he states, and I'm  
10 quoting:

11 "This young woman's personality seems more  
12 neurotic and not as pathological as her two co-  
13 defendants. She is having some difficulty in ad-  
14 justing to her present incarceration and appears  
15 to have less energy tied up in the previous group  
16 belief system. As time goes on, she may have more  
17 overt anxiety and difficulty sleeping and might  
18 require some tranquilizing medication. I would  
19 rate her violence potential and her suicidal  
20 potential as low and, even if she begins to have  
21 more trouble, I think this will be more neurotic  
22 in nature than it will be bizarre or unpredictable.  
23 At the present time, there is no need for psychia-  
24 tric intervention, and by current standards, she  
25 is not psychotic nor brain damaged."



1 Then, what is the date of Dr. Koh's, Joseph F. Koh's report?

2 MR. FULGONI: May 14th, 1971.

3 MR. KAY: It should have the date at the bottom.

4 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: They aren't always correct.

5 I'll use that date. I'm going to use that date for purposes  
6 of this hearing. I'll use the date at the bottom, May 14th  
7 of '71. Dr. Joseph F. Koh, Chief Psychiatrist, made a  
8 diagnosis of drug dependency because of her history of  
9 involvement with drugs.

10 "She felt comfortable and had no complaints.

11 She asked, however, for her own clothes. There  
12 was no indication for chemotherapy or psychotherapy  
13 at this time. It is recommended that she be allowed  
14 to wear her own clothes."

15 I am mainly interested in pointing out the psychiatric  
16 diagnosis, which is drug dependency due to her history of  
17 use.

18 Then, we have a staff psychologist, Lynne Boylan,  
19 B-o-y-l-a-n, who submitted this report on 3/20/72. The last  
20 paragraph states:

21 "All in all, Leslie is an intelligent,  
22 emotionally-intact person who is coping satis-  
23 factorily with the current situation. It is just  
24 as clear, however, that this degree of adjustment  
25 is made with considerable effort and that

1 continued confinement to the present degree would  
2 place intense strain on her. She is capable of  
3 personality growth and greater maturity, if given  
4 a chance. At the same time, the question of secur-  
5 ity is certainly a major issue. Leslie does not  
6 appear to be a danger to herself or others, nor  
7 is she likely to provoke danger to herself from  
8 other inmates. The degree of risk associated with  
9 escape possibility, though, cannot be regarded  
10 lightly."

11 Then, we have a report by Senior Psychiatrist R. L. Flanagan,  
12 and this report is for the August 30th -- it's dated August  
13 30th, 1973, and that was submitted for the September, 1973,  
14 Board hearing at that time. And in the last paragraph, he  
15 states:

16 "At this time, there is no evidence of psycho-  
17 pathology that would warrant inclusion in any  
18 particular diagnostic category. Her intelligence,  
19 perceptiveness, self-discipline and capability of  
20 being truthful and establishing loyal and trusting  
21 relationships are positive prognostic findings."

22 Another report by Dr. Joseph F. Roh, R-o-h, M.D., Psychiatrist  
23 dated July 12th, 1974, for the September, 1974, Board hearing,  
24 in a discussion, Dr. Roh states:

25 "This 24-year-old, single, Caucasian female

1 expressed on numerous occasions her interest in  
2 obtaining an A.A. degree and, finally, B.A. degree,  
3 which she wants to start by participating in an  
4 English course given on campus through coopera-  
5 tion of Chaffey College. She further expressed  
6 friendly relationship with Ms. Krenwinkel, inmate.  
7 She has little complaint about the food service  
8 and about her exercises. She verbalized she  
9 becomes lonesome at times. This interviewer ob-  
10 served that she was friendlier and more open during  
11 this interview, and this interviewer would strongly  
12 recommend, if possible, that she be allowed to  
13 participate in her English class this fall with  
14 aim to obtain an A.A. degree."

15 Then, we come to another psychiatric evaluation for the 1975  
16 Board, and the diagnosis is drug abuse because of history of  
17 use and drug abuse, marijuana and hashish. Both of these  
18 are because of history of abuse. Again, the clinical  
19 indicates there is no specific psychopathology during  
20 examinations.

21 I will move on, now, to the 19 -- July 20th, 1976,  
22 psychiatric report prepared for the 1976 Board. And at  
23 that time, reading the last two paragraphs, Dr. R. L. Flanagan,  
24 Psychiatric Consultant, states:

25 "At the time this woman involved herself in

1 circumstances leading to the offense and the  
 2 aftermath which followed, the time was the late  
 3 1960's. Abuse of psychedelic drugs was widespread  
 4 and openly advocated by certain factions of the  
 5 academic community as well as by the community  
 6 and entertainment media. Value systems were under  
 7 open assault with rebellion and revolution being  
 8 openly advocated. These conditions have ebbed  
 9 and paled with the passage of time.

10 "Ms. Van Houten has disassociated herself  
 11 from that situation. She has ability and potential  
 12 and is considered motivated to develop her positive  
 13 assets. The overall prognosis, in terms of her  
 14 becoming a productive and contributing member of  
 15 the community, is considered to be favorable. From  
 16 a psychiatric point of view, there are no contra-  
 17 indications for parole consideration."

18 Moving along to the psychiatric report, and I believe, this  
 19 is the current psychiatric report, dated August 22nd, 1978,  
 20 the diagnosis:

21 "At this time no mental disorder."

22 The prognosis for satisfactory readjustment is considered  
 23 satisfactory. The recommendations: psychiatric referral is  
 24 indicated, because of the nature of the offenses.

25 In summary, we look at your total incarceration

1 period, Mr. Van Houten. It would appear that you've handled  
2 your incarceration very well. You have had limited program  
3 involvement, because of the nature of your confinement.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

5 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: You are making an effort to  
6 upgrade yourself academically and to get along with staff and  
7 the inmates. You have had minimum disciplinary problems.  
8 The clinical information available would indicate that you  
9 were in a more precarious state as described by clinicians  
10 when you came into the prison setting. And it would appear,  
11 from the clinical reports, that there has been some progress.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

13 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Does anybody on the panel wish  
14 to make any comments regarding institutional adjustment?

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mr. DeLeon?

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You know. In regard, you  
17 know -- going back to your work, if you don't mind, I'll ask  
18 this question of Mr. Vasquez. In regard to selecting someone  
19 for that position, what criteria do you take into consider-  
20 ation for selecting a person? You say it's a job involving  
21 confidentiality of records, I would understand, and  
22 verbalization that might occur in the person's presence and  
23 so forth. How do you select that person?

24 MR. VASQUEZ: There's various factors that are  
25 taken into consideration. Naturally, typing skills would be

1 one. The evaluation of the PIU staff as far as their  
 2 impression of how she conducts herself with all staff and  
 3 peers; does she get along; can she, in fact, convey a  
 4 message from staff to a fellow peer without antagonizing them  
 5 this type of thing. And then, does she go around spreading  
 6 rumors, trying to incite others to do these things and that  
 7 thing? If all these are favorable, then we call them in,  
 8 interview them, and lay out the job specifications,  
 9 expectations, and give her a trial run:

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, does she have access to  
 11 confidential reports?

12 MR. VASQUEZ: Not per se. There are some things  
 13 that go through the secretary's desk that I'm sure our  
 14 clerks get to see. However, the Central Files, no. They  
 15 do not have access to that type of confidential information.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. Is she rewarded for  
 17 this assignment?

18 MR. VASQUEZ: These are expectations, and the  
 19 supervisor's work evaluation is the only reward she gets.  
 20 We do not give awards for meeting expectations. And these  
 21 are our expectations that she has met.

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: All of her work reports have  
 23 been above average?

24 MR. VASQUEZ: She is an above-average worker, yes.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you also mentioned

1 college. Now, when an inmate comes into the institution,  
2 when an inmate is placed in maximum security at CIW, say  
3 a person having suffered a conviction for a capital offense,  
4 now, can that person initiate efforts to take extension  
5 courses?

6 MR. VASQUEZ: I would imagine they have that  
7 opportunity. Leslie is the first one, and only one since  
8 I have been in PTU, that has taken the initiative and  
9 followed it through with whatever assistance she needed from  
10 our staff, because of her restricted housing.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: She's the only one?

12 MR. VASQUEZ: To my knowledge, that is housed in  
13 PTU, that has pursued this. And this has been in the fire  
14 for, what, three, four months, Leslie?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

16 MR. VASQUEZ: And she continues to pursue it  
17 without letting it get her down and saying, "Hey, you know  
18 what, the heck with it." She has continued to work on it.  
19 And it's a slow process. And she's the only one that I am  
20 aware of that has pursued a college course that is housed  
21 in PTU.

22 For the information of all members here, Psychiatric  
23 Treatment Unit is a very unusual housing unit. We house  
24 psychiatric cases. We house management-control cases. We  
25 house protective-custody cases. And we house security cases.

1 all within the compound of PTU. And it is quite hectic at  
2 times, trying to sit and do any studying with some psychiatric  
3 patient acting up, and then staff having to go and defuse  
4 whatever the situation is, or some management-control case  
5 acting up. It's a difficult situation.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You know, if an inmate comes  
7 in, you know, say, having suffered a murder first conviction,  
8 they would not automatically go in there; would they?

9 MR. VASQUEZ: No, not automatically. They would  
10 be evaluated according to the circumstances. Reception Center  
11 does the initial screening. They make a recommendation to  
12 the Institutional Classification Committee, who is the  
13 superintendent's committee that, again, reviews all the  
14 circumstances, interviews the person concerned, and they make  
15 the final decision of where that person will housed.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: All right. If a person has,  
17 you know, committed such an offense, and they are not going  
18 to be housed in PTU, where would they be housed?

19 MR. VASQUEZ: In all probability, Barn Number B.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And there would they have a  
21 greater opportunity to engage in --

22 MR. VASQUEZ: Oh, definitely. They are not as  
23 controlled. Their movement is not as controlled, and  
24 programming is not as controlled as PTU.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What is the criteria for



1 keeping a person in PTU? I mean, why is Ms. Van Houten in  
2 PTU, and why has she been there?

3 MR. VASQUEZ: Because of the -- and this is an  
4 opinion on my part. I do not know the exact reason. One of  
5 the reasons that was given to her, evidently, is security  
6 reasons, the notoriety of the crime. If she, or any of her  
7 co-defendants were to escape without the institution taking  
8 the proper security measures, we would not be doing our job  
9 as far as protection of society.

10 MR. FITZGERALD: I might add, Mr. DeLeon, that I  
11 have had a number of conversations with the various  
12 superintendents of this institution over the period of her  
13 entire incarceration. And she is in PTU because this is,  
14 quote, "a special interest case", unquote, with the  
15 Department of Corrections. And because of the attendant  
16 publicity, they feel they have to house her in a more  
17 restricted area. Originally, she was kept in PTU because  
18 they feared for her own safety in the main campus. But,  
19 much more recently, they've clearly indicated that they are  
20 holding her in PTU -- although there is a transfer now  
21 pending to transfer her from PTU to the main campus -- they  
22 are keeping her there because of the special interest nature  
23 of the case. And they indicate that in the footnotes of some  
24 of the reports.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. Well --

1 MR. FITZGERALD: And PTU is a misnomer. It is  
2 a Psychiatric Treatment Unit, but as the counselor has  
3 indicated, there are whole numbers of people that are there  
4 simply because the security in that unit is very good. This  
5 is -- this is a very easy institution to escape from,  
6 generally, this sort of main campus, particularly when  
7 inmates are allowed to wear their own clothes. So, it's  
8 very easy to escape from. This is sort of a prison within  
9 a prison, the PTU section.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. Now, I read in the  
11 documentation that you admitted taking LSD when you were in  
12 a so-called CIW death row --,

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

14 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- type of confinement?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What year was that?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: The year I got here. So, '71.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Was that in PTU?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, no. It was in a different  
20 unit.

21 MR. FITZGERALD: It was in what was [REDACTED] the  
22 SSU, Special Security Unit. That was really a death row. It  
23 was a female death row. It housed the three Manson girls,  
24 as well as two other girls under sentences of death. That  
25 part of the institution was phased out when the death penalty

1 was held unconstitutional in '72 and '73.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. Now, you know, I'm  
3 bearing in mind that I've seen inmates here who have been  
4 here on capital offenses and who did outstanding academic  
5 work, you know, over the years that they were here and  
6 obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree and are now looking forward  
7 to a Master's.

8 MR. VASQUEZ: I'm sure they were housed on campus.

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. All right. Now, you  
10 know, at least one psychological report that I read -- and  
11 I put them all in the same category, psychologists,  
12 psychiatrists --

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

14 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- that I read, indicated,  
15 you know, opposite another psychiatrist who said -- who was  
16 just, you know, full of a great deal of praise -- this one  
17 was more reserved, and he said -- I believe it was the second  
18 one that you had in your documentation -- he said that  
19 absent any return to drugs, you know, and he was referring  
20 to the unpredictability of human behavior and of --

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- setting a prognosis of how  
23 any person is going to behave in the future, and he said,  
24 absence the use of drugs, you know. And I look at your  
25 history, you know. From the time you were 14 years old, you

1 were involved in the use of drugs. And then, you know, in  
2 Spahn Ranch, involved in the use of drugs, and then, coming  
3 to the institution and involved in the use of acid. And  
4 then, years later, you know, stopped in possession of  
5 marijuana, which is an extremely serious offense. I mean,  
6 that's -- if you had a date, you know, sometimes they'll take  
7 it away from you. It's a felony, possession of narcotics  
8 in prison grounds and so on.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And then, the diagnosis of  
11 drug dependence that indicates, you know, the history, really.  
12 How do you see that?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, like I said before, I  
14 think the idea of me going ahead and doing that, and, like  
15 you say, it was a very serious thing. I think a lot of the  
16 idea that I would get involved in that here and everything  
17 else was that I wasn't -- I wasn't able to find the ways to  
18 cope with what had happened in the past with me. I hadn't --  
19 I hadn't been able to really work out a lot of the things,  
20 that were going inside of me subconsciously with in depth  
21 discussions with psychiatrists. Like, up until I went out  
22 for the trial, the most I would see one would be for maybe  
23 an hour once a year. And I think I was just taking out the  
24 things that I had done and was not able to face up to -- I  
25 would put myself in a self-destructive environment.

1           And I've come to learn the ways of coping with  
2 different things. And I know the -- I know the patterns,  
3 before they come on to me, you know. I, uh --

4           BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Don't you feel, or do you  
5 feel --

6           MR. FITZGERALD: I think that's a very good  
7 question that you asked. And I think that there is sort of  
8 another answer, too, and it's the back part of it. The  
9 diagnoses are drug dependence, and I think that what we see  
10 in these reports is a progression from being dependent to  
11 being independent.

12           As we go through the reports, some of the earlier  
13 ones talk about her being very heavily influenced by her  
14 peer group, wherever the peer group is, in prison and so on.  
15 But, as the counselor said, too, not only do the psychiatrists  
16 see a progression, but he is indicating how independent she's  
17 become; that, in spite of how difficult it is to study in  
18 PTU and to -- she's done it alone. She's become more  
19 independent.

20           So, I think there is always a danger of drugs,  
21 and I think we no longer have the drug use coupled with a  
22 dependent personality. I think she's developed real  
23 initiative, individuality, and independence.

24           BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see.

25           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I can honestly say that when

1 I'm in contact with people that are into it, I find myself  
2 very bored with them in general, you know. Like, I don't  
3 put myself in the environment where there are people that  
4 think, live, breathe, you know, drugs; or, you know, want  
5 to pretend they are not here for that reason or be in the  
6 whole little subculture within this subculture.

7 You know, in my return here -- when I was on bond,  
8 I never even looked for people that I had known or would be  
9 able to put me around that, you know, that kind of  
10 environment. And, you know, I personally don't feel that I  
11 did that because it would have looked bad later. I just  
12 don't want it.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I want to be with my mom, again,  
15 you know. I don't want to do that.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. I am going back to  
17 Mr. Vasquez for just one final question. What influence does  
18 an inmate have in initiating transfers, you know, within the  
19 institution?

20 MR. VASQUEZ: An inmate concerned in a transfer of  
21 another inmate?

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Say an inmate wants to  
23 transfer and puts forth a major effort to transfer to the  
24 campus.

25 MR. VASQUEZ: I can honestly say that in PTU, they

1 have no influence whatsoever.

2 (Laughter.)

3 BOARD MEMBER DELSON: That's what I wanted to know.

4 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: May I ask a question, Madam  
5 Chairman?

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSSEN: Sure.

7 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Are there any projected plans  
8 for change of custody status?

9 MR. VASQUEZ: At this point?

10 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Yes.

11 MR. VASQUEZ: Not to my knowledge. There is a  
12 change or a discussion of a change of housing from PTU to  
13 campus.

14 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: So, that would be a change of  
15 custody.

16 MR. VASQUEZ: Not necessarily.

17 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Not necessarily?

18 MR. VASQUEZ: There are people living on campus  
19 with closed custody.

20 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Oh, I see. But the programming  
21 will be a little richer, the rehabilitative aspect of the  
22 program?

23 MR. VASQUEZ: They have freedom of movement during  
24 the daylight hours to involve themselves in any program  
25 available on campus.

1 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: I see. Thank you, sir.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I have one question.  
3 How long have you been with the institution, Mr. Vasquez?

4 MR. VASQUEZ: Seven months.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Is there  
6 anything that you want to add to the institutional adjustment  
7 post-conviction factors concerning her activities in the  
8 institution that you cannot cover in your closing statement?

9 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. I'd just like to add  
10 something to Mrs. Sides' rendition of the clinical picture.  
11 And I'd just like to point out that as early as August of  
12 '73, the institution psychiatrist, Flanagan, began to see  
13 a definite and positive change in Leslie. And he notes her  
14 intelligence, perceptiveness, self-discipline and capability  
15 of being truthful and establishing loyal and trusting  
16 relations are positive prognostic findings:

17 And then, more importantly, in the report she  
18 mentioned of July of 1976, Flanagan, the psychiatrist I  
19 mentioned earlier, saw her as suitable for parole from a  
20 psychiatric point of view. He says:

21 "She has the ability and potential and is  
22 considered motivated to develop her positive assets.  
23 The overall prognosis, in terms of her becoming  
24 a productive and contributing member in the com-  
25 munity, is considered to be favorable. From a



1 psychiatric point of view, there are no contra-  
2 indications for parole consideration."

3 I just wanted to make the point that as early as '76, from a  
4 psychiatric point of view, the psychiatrist, being fully  
5 aware of her commitment for a violent offense, feels that  
6 she can be released and be nonviolent and be a productive  
7 and contributing member of society.

8 And in his latest report of August of '78, he  
9 reiterates the conclusion of '76 and goes on to actually  
10 use that language that she can be a productive member of  
11 society. And he does not feel that she poses an unreasonable  
12 risk of danger to the community.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Thank you.  
14 Before we leave the institutional part, I'll ask the second  
15 person from the institution, from the Records Office, if  
16 she has anything she wants to add.

17 MS. JEFFERIS: No, nothing at this time.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

19 MR. FULGONI: May I say something?

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Sure.

21 MR. FULGONI: At this point, rather than get into  
22 a statement, I just want to direct the Board's attention to  
23 certain statements that seem to pervade the psychiatric and  
24 psychological reports, those statements that indicate  
25 Ms. Van Houten is extremely desirous of group approval. And

1 I don't want, you know, to state what my conclusions are  
2 at this time, but at a later time, I'd like to relate these  
3 things, the certain behaviors that occurred during the trial,  
4 this last trial, the one I participated in, in 1978, for the  
5 Board's consideration.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Mr. DeLeon,  
7 will you take up parole plans?

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you know, your  
9 background as a legal secretary and that training which  
10 might be, in your mind, not what you want to go into,  
11 necessarily, and your 125 IQ, or what has been reported here  
12 as a very high intelligence level and potential, you know,  
13 certainly speaks well for job opportunities. You've  
14 obviously been involved in counseling -- in reading through  
15 the letters that were submitted -- with young people, sick  
16 people. That has, obviously, produced favorable results.

17 And the difficulty in projecting for yourself, you  
18 know, what you might do on the outside or formulating any  
19 serious plans without a date in mind as to when you had the  
20 freedom or the opportunity to put those plans into effect,  
21 you know, considering all of that and the skills that you  
22 have, what would be -- or do you have a plan as to what you  
23 will do when you go out of the institution into a community  
24 setting?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I would -- I would live

1 with the woman that I lived with while I was out on bond,  
2 Judy. And I would work as a legal secretary for Mr. Doug  
3 Draper. I did part-time work for him before the trial  
4 started.

5 As I located myself enough out there, I got used  
6 to the working and the day-to-day routine, which I was  
7 starting to get into pretty easily by the end of the six  
8 months out there, like running to get the groceries for  
9 dinner that night, you know, and getting my time in line to  
10 do my laundry and all that kind of thing, I'll go back and  
11 continue school at night until I can get my B.A. But I --  
12 I enjoy secretarial work. I like the part-time work that I  
13 did. Typing wills and a few writs and adoptions and all that  
14 I enjoyed a lot.

15 And then, I don't want to sound like I'm on, like,  
16 a good-will mission. I would space out in the right kind of  
17 way with counseling, as you said before. I did a little of  
18 it with -- one of my girl friends is a P.E. high school  
19 teacher. And a few of her students that were having problems  
20 we'd get together and talk about, and the results were pretty  
21 good. And that made me feel, really, like I was doing  
22 something constructive. But I would do it on a small scale  
23 and on a personal scale, and very quiet scale so that I, in  
24 that way, I think I would feel like I'm putting back a little  
25 positive for a lot of negatives.

1 And where I live is near my mother. I'm nervous  
2 about living at my mother's just because if anyone wanted to  
3 find me or something, I just feel like I may be subjecting  
4 her to too much pressure. But where I live would be close  
5 enough that I can see her; I think, at least a couple times  
6 a week talk to her regularly, like I did when I was on  
7 bail. Mostly, I would just continue the way I was when I  
8 was out on bond, only not going to court every day but working.

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Do you -- do you feel that  
10 the notoriety that you've received, you know, in regard to  
11 the commitment offense and the circumstances following the  
12 trials, and so forth, do you feel that this would interject  
13 itself into your personal life?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: The only -- the only way I  
15 could see that is if I ended up, say, you know, in a few  
16 years from now as some sort of a credit card thing, you know,  
17 where I would go to the market or to the store. I think only  
18 when confronted with the name and the face is it a problem,  
19 because the whole time I was out, it never came into -- into  
20 play in any way. People were very kind to me, I was kind to  
21 them. They had -- they had no idea who I was.

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I understand. Society's  
23 reaction to you, as you're referring to it -- and that's not  
24 what I had in mind -- I would agree with you. But that would  
25 not be a significant problem. What I was alluding to is

1 opportunities that would change your lifestyle, lecturing  
2 opportunities, writing opportunities, and things of that  
3 nature that would present themselves, because of your  
4 background and your position and your experiences. That  
5 might have an influence on plans and might have an influence  
6 on the stability of, you know, what you are relating to now,  
7 living with a friend and working, you know, a 40-hour-a-  
8 week job and counseling. Do you feel that that would be  
9 something that would create a problem?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I don't -- I mean, you  
11 know, I have been presented with a lot of different -- I know  
12 what you're saying -- becoming, like, kind of a sideshow.  
13 And, no, I wouldn't. Like I say, the only thing I will ever  
14 do would be talking to -- well, where I feel I'm the most  
15 benefit, like is talking to girls that have the similar  
16 makeup that are at the turning point of 16 or 17 years old  
17 that are starting to experiment. And, like, I would rather  
18 do that on a very personal basis. I wouldn't -- I don't --  
19 I don't feel myself looking forward to large lectures or --

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see. I have no further  
21 questions.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think that's -- yeah.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right.

24 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: What kind of family support  
25 do you have?

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Complete and total:

2 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Are you getting visits from  
3 family?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I do.

5 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: And who -- what is family to  
6 you?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh, my mother, she visits  
8 every week, has, and we are very, very close. My father  
9 lives in Washington. I don't see him as much, but we are  
10 also very close. It's -- it's a different kind of  
11 relationship.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Brothers and sisters.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I have two brothers and  
14 a sister. And my two brothers are married.

15 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Any contact with them?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, yes. Uh-huh. They don't  
17 visit as much, but --

18 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: When you say, "Yes," what  
19 do you mean?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, they visit. We write.

21 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Visit. I see.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I don't see them as much as my  
23 mother. I never have through the whole thing, seen my  
24 family, the other members, as much as my mother, but that's  
25 because they are living their own lives. We are in contact.

1 Their love and their support is constant and is with me and  
2 has, you know, never -- when the case first broke, it was hard  
3 on my younger brother and sister, because it completely  
4 destroyed their high school lives. But they don't hold that  
5 against me. Our family works together. It's a very tight  
6 unit, and --

7 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: So, you have family visits  
8 and some correspondence with your family.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

10 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: Okay.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. We are going  
12 to break for lunch at around 12:30 and come back for the  
13 closing statements. I would like to spell out some things  
14 that we will be concerned about and counsel may want to  
15 address that in his closing remarks. The D.A. may want to  
16 address it.

17 Of course, the thing that makes this crime, sort  
18 of, is a lot of people have said the crime is the presence  
19 of a person by the name of Manson who somehow, some way,  
20 gathered around him those people who were capable of going  
21 out and randomly killing people. Now, what we will be  
22 addressing in deliberation is what factors do we have to  
23 consider that will support a finding that Ms. Van Houten will  
24 not, upon release, by some unfortunate circumstances, find  
25 herself in the company of someone who wants to do something

1 else. That really will be the crux of what we will be  
2 discussing.

3 We also will be concerned about your ability to  
4 stay away from drugs. We really know that that's not as easy  
5 as it sounds in this work. We have been around a long time,  
6 and that's one of the things that really will cause us some  
7 problems in trying to deliberate.

8 The other issue that we will be concerned about is  
9 your relationship with the other people in the family. That's  
10 the Manson family so-called. Now, so you might want to  
11 address that when you return.

12 And we would like to hear some expression from you  
13 as to, number one, why you think you did it.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And number two, how you  
16 would avoid it in the future. These things will be discussed  
17 when we come back from lunch.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay. There was one other  
19 thing that I didn't mention on plans for when I got out.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: But I assume that, should I  
22 ever get far enough beyond parole, there would be a stipulation  
23 automatically, but I would definitely see a psychiatrist  
24 regularly. And when he would think that I no longer needed  
25 to see him, I would see a psychologist.



1 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Like I said, I'm almost positive  
3 that would be part of it.

4 MR. FITZGERALD: We would agree to that as a  
5 condition, a special condition.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: But I would want that, and I  
7 talked with one of the psychiatrists during the trial about  
8 that.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. We will break  
10 at 11:30, and we will reconvene at --

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: 12:30.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I mean, 12:30, and we  
13 will reconvene at 1:30.

14 (Thereupon the noon recess was taken at  
15 12:30 p.m.)

16 --oOo--

AFTERNOON SESSION

--oOo--

1  
2  
3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We have reconvened in the  
4 case of Ms. Van Houten. All person previously identified  
5 are now in the room, with the exception of Mr. Jimenez. The  
6 time is 1:40 p.m., and we are at the phase of the hearing  
7 for the closing statements. And we will ask the D.A.'s  
8 office from Los Angeles County, if it will make its closing  
9 statement.

10 MR. KAY: Okay. Thank you. As most of you know,  
11 I have been involved with Ms. Van Houten and this case for  
12 quite some time. And in weighing all the factors -- and I  
13 must say there are a lot of factors to weigh in this case,  
14 more than with the other defendants -- but on balance, it is  
15 my recommendation that Ms. Van Houten at this time be found  
16 unsuitable for parole for the following number of reasons:

17 One, the gravity of the offenses. These are very  
18 brutal murders where innocent victims were killed in the  
19 privacy of their homes. These victims were complete  
20 strangers. I think that's important. And I think that's  
21 probably the main reason that this case has shocked the public  
22 conscience so much, because people tend to think that they  
23 are safe in the warmth and security of their homes. And they  
24 don't expect to have people come in and for no good reason --  
25 and there was no good reason in this case.-- just brutally

1 carve them up like pieces of meat.

2 Another factor was there was excessive mutilation.  
3 Mrs. LaBianca was stabbed 42 times. Ms. Van Houten, by her  
4 own admission today, she's mentioned two numbers, 10 to 14  
5 stab wounds -- she said 10 once and 14 another time -- that  
6 she inflicted herself on Mrs. LaBianca.

7 The motive, as I stated in the opening remarks,  
8 is very bizarre. The motive in and of itself almost makes  
9 it an unreasonable risk to society to parole someone that  
10 has believed and accepted this Helter-Skelter motive, because  
11 it's so bizarre. And if they've done it and accepted this  
12 type of motive at one time, what is there to indicate that  
13 they can't accept something similar or bizarre at another  
14 time?

15 Mr. Fitzgerald, I thought, made a very good point.  
16 He said, well, Mrs. -- or Ms. Van Houten is very much a  
17 follower. And the Board expressed interest in Ms. Van Houten  
18 and how she falls in with a bad group and would she do that  
19 again. Well, I think her whole history has been that -- and  
20 she had a good childhood, a good upbringing. She is very  
21 intelligent, but she always tends to fall in with the bad  
22 group.

23 In high school, here she is a class officer and  
24 homecoming princess, really has it made so to speak. And  
25 yet, she falls in with a fellow that's taking drugs and a

1 group -- a group that's taking drugs, when even by her own  
 2 admission on cross-examination, the other kids in her high  
 3 school were not taking drugs. This wasn't a situation that  
 4 you might think, well, gee, everybody's smoking marijuana  
 5 or taking LSD. No, she sought these people out and fell in  
 6 with a group and even, as she said today, she had gone with  
 7 a group that was different from her high school group, not  
 8 even the location of her high school.

9 Here she goes to Sawyer's Business College,  
 10 graduates in the top of her class as a Certified Legal  
 11 Secretary. Again, you would say, gee, she really has it made  
 12 an intelligent girl. She'll go out and get a good job. And  
 13 yet, she drops out of society and takes up with Bobby  
 14 Beausoleil, who -- I know the Board is aware who Bobby  
 15 Beausoleil is and the fact he has been convicted of Gary  
 16 Hinman's murder. Although he wasn't a murderer at the time  
 17 she took up with him, but this, again, is the type of person  
 18 she fell in with. And Beausoleil became her boyfriend.

19 And then, from Beausoleil, she goes and falls in  
 20 with the Manson family. Even when Manson is preaching his  
 21 antisocial philosophy and Hitler and killing people, she  
 22 falls in with him. And at the time of the murders, who is  
 23 her boyfriend? None other than Tex Watson, who is the actual  
 24 murderer of most -- I mean the actual physical murderer of  
 25 most of the victims in the Tate-LaBianca homicide.

1 So, I agree with Mr. Fitzgerald that she is very  
 2 much a follower. And her choices that she makes are not the  
 3 best choices. Even with her background, with her education,  
 4 the choices always seem to be bad. And the people that she  
 5 falls in with, even though she's exposed to, good people, she  
 6 tends to take up with the ne'er-do-wells, so to speak.

7 Her drug abuse is well documented in her file.  
 8 She, again, as I stated, she took -- went into drugs when,  
 9 really, it wasn't a big thing in her high school. She kind  
 10 of thought it out, and has always -- in this period with  
 11 SRF now, after she took drugs, in high school, the marijuana  
 12 and LSD, then she joined the Self Realization Fellowship, and  
 13 she was off drugs for a period of about a year. But she  
 14 left the organization and went back to taking LSD within a  
 15 period of two months. And on cross-examination, I asked her;  
 16 "Well, why did you do this after this drug-free period of  
 17 a year?"

18 And she stated, "Well, I felt more comfortable  
 19 with hippies that take acid, LSD, than I did with straight  
 20 people. I didn't relate to straight people."

21 That's another consideration that the Board should  
 22 have, and, of course, the marijuana in prison and the LSD in  
 23 prison. Again, it always seems to come back to the drugs.  
 24 Ms. Van Houten may be very sincere in wanting to stay away  
 25 from drugs and saying, at this point, that she's going to stay

1 away from drugs, but I just don't know how we can predict  
2 that, that that's really going to -- going to happen. I would  
3 hope that it would happen, and I would hope that she's  
4 sincere and that when things get tough that she won't turn  
5 back to the drugs. But that, the marijuana in prison, which  
6 is a serious offense, is somewhat troublesome.

7 I think another factor that the Board should  
8 consider was the kind of callous and extremely willing  
9 participation by Ms. Van Houten in the murders: her  
10 expression when she found out about the Tate murders that she  
11 was unhappy that she didn't get selected to go in the first  
12 group of murders, and that she hoped that if they went out  
13 again that she would get selected to go if they were going to  
14 kill anyone else; and the fact that she stated on cross-  
15 examination that she weighed, for two days, the question of  
16 whether or not she could kill anyone, and decided that she  
17 could and that she wanted to join this conspiracy to commit  
18 murder before Charles Manson ever asked her to join the  
19 conspiracy; also taking food from the refrigerator, from the  
20 victim's, after the crimes and eating it or at least drinking  
21 the chocolate milk, which she has stated today and which she  
22 admitted to Dianne Lake, testimony that was entered into  
23 one of the trials about taking the chocolate milk; also,  
24 that she was very much in control of herself at the time of  
25 the murders, contrary to some of the things that -- or at

1 least the impression that she's given today. She wiped the  
2 fingerprints. She burned evidence after she got back. She  
3 was not on drugs. She was not under the influence of drugs.

4 Another point which I think we have to consider  
5 is the views of society. Society, of course, views this  
6 case as at the top of the spectrum of crime. There is no  
7 question about this. In the eyes of the public, this is the  
8 crime of the century, so to speak.

9 Now, Ms. Van Houten has some friends that she's  
10 met while she has been in prison and out on bail. And they've  
11 written some nice letters for her, which is nice. But that  
12 was not society in general. That's a small group of people  
13 that are friends of the family or friends of her girl friend  
14 or people that have met her and liked her work in prison.

15 I -- I think that, of course, Ms. Van Houten also  
16 has significantly, I think, spent just over the minimum  
17 amount of time for first degree murder, because they are  
18 eligible for parole after seven years. I think time is a  
19 very important factor in Ms. Van Houten's case. I think she  
20 is in a different category than Krenwinkel, Atkins, Watson  
21 and Manson. I see her in a different category, and I hold  
22 out some hope for Ms. Van Houten that at some time she will  
23 be suitable for parole. But my own opinion is, at this  
24 particular time, in view of the nature of the crime, all of  
25 the factors that I have gone -- that I have gone through, I,

1 in my opinion, I just feel it's an unreasonable risk for  
2 society at this time to grant Ms. Van Houten parole.

3 MR. FULGONI: Thank you. I came to this case much  
4 later than Mr. Kay, as a matter of fact, in late 1977. And  
5 with respect -- I don't want to add anything more to the  
6 facts of the case other than adopt what Mr. Kay has said  
7 myself.

8 What I'm concerned about this case, about Ms.  
9 Van Houten, is whether or not, as I stated in the letter I  
10 sent to the Board, she's the kind of person that really has  
11 fundamental morals that are part of herself rather than the  
12 kind of person that goes out into groups of people, whether  
13 they be formal groups or informal, and then adopts her values  
14 from whatever source that benefits her interests. And I  
15 stated in my letter that I saw evidence that she is  
16 manipulative, that she does not have the kind of internalized  
17 moral sense that I would like to see before I would recommend  
18 for the Board -- from the D.A.'s office, that she has a  
19 parole date or be found suitable for parole.

20 I mentioned that a couple of the jurors thought  
21 she was trying to manipulate them by looking over and  
22 smiling at them excessively. Not that a defendant on trial  
23 for murder shouldn't put on a good face for the jury. That's  
24 not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about excessiveness  
25 in this regard.



1           Ms. Van Houten, I had to get an order from the  
2 court to keep her from approaching me in front of the jurors.  
3 She was being overly friendly. That's fine. That may not  
4 mean anything in and of itself, but the moment I started  
5 cross-examining the psychiatrists and they were being put in  
6 an uncomfortable situation, all this friendliness ceased  
7 immediately.

8           The same way -- statements have been made in her  
9 letters that she does not show emotion in front of the jury,  
10 because that's private.. She doesn't show remorse. Yet, there  
11 was one time in the 1978 trial when she did show a form of  
12 remorse. She commenced crying. When was it? Not when the  
13 murders were described; not when any of the horrible  
14 circumstances of this crime were gone into, but rather when  
15 Mr. Kay was embarrassing her main lay witness on cross-  
16 examination, Paul Watkins. Those things that seemed to bring  
17 out the emotion are those things that are unfavorable to her.

18           Now, I agree with Mr. Kay. There are a lot of  
19 favorable things to be said about her. And I want to  
20 concentrate on some of the negatives, because I think that she  
21 is not what she appears. She may be, and I don't purport to  
22 be a psychiatrist and psychologist. I am a layman, and what  
23 I've got to say is a result of watching her and applying that  
24 to 45 years of living. That's all it is. But even the  
25 psychiatric testimony in court in her last trial, one of the

1 psychiatrists mentioned the rather internal-external value  
2 scale, that she appeared on that scale as someone who looks  
3 to other people for her values. Now, this may fit in very  
4 well with a defense when defense is diminished capacity.  
5 But, when you apply that same standard to whether or not she  
6 has the kind of internal morality that would function well  
7 on the outside when all these supporting people, that are  
8 supportive now because she is in an uncomfortable situation,  
9 start falling away, as they will, then what do we have? Do  
10 we have someone who may return to drugs? If she returns to  
11 drugs, according to, I believe it was, Dr. Coburn, then we  
12 don't know what we are dealing with.

13           Again, I don't want to seem unduly harsh, because  
14 I do think that she should be evaluated. But I don't think  
15 she should be evaluated by someone who works inside the  
16 prison. I think she should be evaluated by a competent  
17 professional selected by joint agreement, by ourselves and  
18 the defense, and evaluated over a long period of time and  
19 give her whatever tests need to be given, whatever observations  
20 need to be made, focusing on that one issue, not whether she  
21 exhibits the external manifestations of rehabilitation, but  
22 going down to the core to see whether or not Leslie Van Houten  
23 is somebody who can function outside the spotlight, function  
24 without drugs, and without the supportive groups.

25           Even today, I think we've seen some evidence of her

1 trying to benefit herself. She testified clearly in court  
2 that the reason she called Tex Watson was for the purpose  
3 of getting a man with a bigger knife; because it wasn't  
4 working, Patricia Krenwinkel was not able to stab Mrs.  
5 LaBianca effectively. So, she went out to get him for that  
6 purpose. Today, she states she went out to get him and  
7 doesn't recall why. Now, that's my recollection of what she  
8 said here today.

9 A lot has been said about her coming under the  
10 control of Charles Manson, and that's why she did all these  
11 things. Yet, very clearly in her testimony, which Mr. Kay  
12 sent to you, before she even met Manson, she decided not only  
13 to join the family, but to call her mother and tell her  
14 mother that she was dropping out, that she was to consider  
15 her as a dead person. That's not something that Manson could  
16 possibly have produced. And by the way, this was only a  
17 couple of days after she had met Bobby Beausoleil. So, he  
18 could not have had that kind of influence, unless there is  
19 something fundamentally unstable there. And yet, we get all  
20 those glowing reports.

21 I submit that she is capable of functioning very  
22 well within an institution. And the reason she is is because  
23 she knows that within the institution she can be benefited.  
24 I may be wrong. I don't know what your procedures are and  
25 what is possible. I would ask that somehow the case be

1 continued until such a determination can be made. And if  
2 that cannot be done, I would suggest that the Board find  
3 her unsuitable for parole at this time so that the matter  
4 can be taken up with, really, the kind of penetrating  
5 information that we need in this case and I'm afraid we do  
6 not have.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Thank you. Counselor?

8 MR. FITZGERALD: I'd like to answer a couple things  
9 brought up by the D.A., and then I'll address myself to the  
10 areas in which you wanted some comment.

11 First of all, virtually everything they talk about  
12 happened 10 years ago. We are here at a lifer hearing.  
13 There is no question at all that Ms. Van Houten was convicted  
14 of murder. She is now almost a 30-year-old woman. This  
15 happened when she was 19 years of age. This happened in  
16 August of 1969.

17 One of the criteria the Board uses in determining  
18 suitability -- and it's an important criteria -- is whether  
19 or not the individual has some previous history of violence.  
20 Is this a pattern of violence? We know that before 1969  
21 there was no pattern of violence. And after this act, these  
22 acts in 1969, there has been no institutional violence.  
23 There is not one thing in the record that would indicate  
24 that she has been violent with another inmate, that she has  
25 displayed anger or hostility toward anybody, none whatever.

1           These acts, as Dr. Coburn said --- the man they  
2 referred to -- he said that he considered these incidents  
3 in her life to be isolated. And a lot has changed in 10  
4 years.

5           Mr. Kay referred to this as the crime of the  
6 century. Well, that's ludicrous. The only person that ever  
7 referred to this crime as the crime of the century was Mr.  
8 Bugliosi, who Mr. Fulgoni referred to in his letter as the  
9 author of the very self-serving book, Helter Skelter.

10           This case received such prominence, such national  
11 prominence, because of America's peculiar sort of love  
12 affair with violence. And it just turned out that this case  
13 had all the tintillating, interesting things that sell  
14 newspapers and sell television programs. It had sex, and  
15 it had violence, and the people killed were movie stars and  
16 so on.

17           I've essentially been practicing criminal law for  
18 15 years and have represented a number -- literally almost  
19 a hundred people charged with murder. And I know you people  
20 on the Board have experience, and you have seen people come  
21 before you who have committed enormously more important  
22 crimes than this. We have all seen more hideous, more  
23 sadistic, more senseless crimes. This crime was senseless,  
24 but I venture to say that 75 percent of the people that come  
25 before you have committed, essentially, senseless crimes.

1 I think, and I can't remember whether it was Mr.  
2 Kay or Mr. Fulgoni, said that some time in the future, she  
3 may be suitable, or at some time in the future she may be  
4 eligible. And they refer to glowing reports. Somehow, all  
5 the good that Leslie's done to change her life and to become  
6 independent and to become a nonfollower, somehow all these  
7 glowing reports are suspect, because they are glowing reports.  
8 Somehow, they want you to believe that it would be better, or  
9 you would be better off, if you had in front of you the  
10 picture of a girl who had numerous institutional problems,  
11 who didn't demonstrate remorse, who the psychiatrist didn't  
12 say was suitable to be released and not a danger.

13 Interestingly, the material in your very file, the  
14 file of the institution, is the strongest statement in  
15 Leslie's behalf in terms of suitability. And these are not  
16 people that are easily manipulated. The staff here at CIW  
17 is in the business of convicts, and they know all the  
18 convicts' games. They know all the manipulations. They know  
19 all the tricks. They are very, very wary. It is ludicrous  
20 to suggest that Dr. Flanagan, an institutional psychiatrist  
21 who saw her over the years, had available to him, not only her over  
22 the years, but had available to him the staff recommendations,  
23 the people who watched her on a daily basis, sometimes on  
24 hourly basis.

25 It's ludicrous to assume that some psychiatrist will

1 come in here from the outside and will somehow not be  
2 manipulated. There have been not one psychiatrist, not two,  
3 not three, not four, but your very records indicate that  
4 there have been about eight different psychiatric  
5 evaluations of this young woman. And they all say essentially  
6 the same thing, that she is not a threat, that she is not  
7 a danger.

8 Now, this is about being a follower, and addressing  
9 myself to one of the problems you want to hear something  
10 about, is this problem: How can we be assured that this  
11 won't happen again? Now, Mr. Kay suggested that because this  
12 happened to begin with, it's likely to happen again, that  
13 because she did this, we can never be sure that she won't  
14 do something like this in the future. Well, first of all,  
15 we can never absolutely predict human future behavior. We  
16 can't predict, and the standard set by the Community  
17 Release Board, or by the Legislature, is whether she poses  
18 an unreasonable risk. And they also suggest to you that  
19 because of her brightness, because she is so bright,  
20 because she is so smart, that her will was really not  
21 overborne by Charles Manson.

22 I'd suggest that, unfortunately, what happened to  
23 Leslie Van Houten had more to do with the personality of  
24 Charles Manson than it did with her personality as a follower.  
25 And, as an illustration, consider for a moment the horrible

1 tragedy in Solana when 900 people committed suicide. People  
2 killed their own babies in their arms. And I don't think  
3 that anybody would suggest that any of the survivors of  
4 that horrible thing would be likely to go through that thing  
5 again. Tragically and unfortunately, there are some people  
6 in this world who can exert horrible evil influences over  
7 somebody. And I think that's the situation in Leslie Van  
8 Houten's case. But it's happened to her, and she knows now  
9 what the Charles Mansons are like. And I think that she's  
10 better equipped to resist that kind of influence in the  
11 future than somebody who actually hadn't had that experience.

12 But, in terms of her suitability, the very people  
13 -- and unfortunately, we can't be all things to all people.  
14 We can't be lawyers, Board members, psychiatrists, staff  
15 members, all at the same time. We've got to trust in the  
16 judgment of many of these people who we set out for these  
17 things. Now, the staff here has had hundreds of years of  
18 accumulated experience in dealing with convicts. And  
19 psychiatrists here see a very skewed and sort of odd portion  
20 of life. They only see people in here who are antisocial.  
21 And they see recidivism constantly. They see people coming  
22 back in here who have committed crimes in the past. As a  
23 result, they are very hardnosed, callous people who are very  
24 reluctant to make rosy prognostications of the future. They  
25 are people who don't like to predict whether people are going



1 to come back. They take a very pessimistic, conservative  
2 view of humanity.

3 But here, we have literally stunning statements  
4 that have been made on her behalf. Not only does Flanagan,  
5 as early as 1976, say that she is eligible, or that there  
6 are no psychiatric indications of future contact -- or future  
7 conduct. Others as well, Dr. Pollack -- you don't know much  
8 about Dr. Pollack, but he's a very experienced and very well  
9 respected, conservative member of the faculty of the medical  
10 school of the University of Southern California, who wrote  
11 a letter urging the judge to give her probation saying that  
12 he didn't have much faith in her when he first met her in  
13 1971, and neither did Dr. Coburn, but they saw a dramatic  
14 change. And he's not a fool, either. He says, I think, in  
15 the back end of his report, at the very end, he says he has  
16 finally seen somebody who has been thoroughly rehabilitated,  
17 somebody that's made a dramatic change in her life.

18 Although it's only been touched on very briefly,  
19 it's a terrible stigma to have gone through the last 10 years  
20 as a Manson girl. They were housed separately. They were  
21 deprived of many of the privileges and benefits that other  
22 inmates had. And it was extremely difficult to outlive that  
23 and outgrow that with everybody constantly reminding these  
24 girls of their horrible crime and so on.

25 But, despite the hardships, despite the limited

1 privileges, she's really done -- has undergone a tremendous  
2 transformation. She has rehabilitated herself. And she's  
3 done so in a very realistic fashion.

4         One of the things you can consider in determining  
5 suitability is the concrete, realistic plan for the future  
6 that an inmate might have. And I know from reading portions  
7 of newspaper accounts of the Community Release Board remarks  
8 about Patricia Krenwinkel, that they felt her plans for the  
9 future were not realistic. I remember reading an article  
10 that said something about she told this Board that she wanted  
11 to go to work in the earth sciences or something, and one of  
12 the Board members commented or was quoted as commenting that  
13 they thought that her plans for the future were not realistic.

14         Well, in terms of Leslie Van Houten, I mean in a  
15 sort of rhetorical fashion, I might ask you: How many people  
16 do you see that come before you that have her intelligence?  
17 How many people do you see that come before you that have  
18 such concrete, fundamental employment skills? How many  
19 people come in front of you that go right out into the job  
20 market? How many people come before you for parole  
21 consideration who really have no place to go, they don't  
22 have a family, they come from horrible environments, just  
23 virtually running to their home environment is unhealthy?  
24 How many people have a family that cares about them? How  
25 many people have a constellation of friends that would raise

1 \$200,000 in bail? How many people come before you who have  
2 actually been out in the community for six months, as she  
3 has on bail, with no recurring crime problem or anything  
4 like that? How many people do you have that deal with you  
5 as honestly and whatever?

6           And I beg to differ with Mr. Fulgopi. She hasn't  
7 been manipulative with you. You received a letter, I believe  
8 from Mr. Max Keith, an attorney, who suggested to you that  
9 she was the reverse of manipulative, that she was really, in  
10 fact, honest to a fault. And you saw that here this morning.  
11 You didn't go in in depth in your questioning concerning the  
12 two offenses here, the possession of 50 cents and the two  
13 marijuana cigarettes. She asked you if you wanted an  
14 explanation, and she explained it. And she told you, not  
15 only did she have two marijuana cigarettes in her pocket, but  
16 she told you she had some seeds in addition. I think she's  
17 been very candid and very open.

18           Now, in terms of her drug use and whether or not  
19 she is going to go back to the use of drugs, one of the things  
20 that I think you wanted answered, all I can say is that we  
21 are dealing with a different person. Not only are we dealing  
22 with a changed person, we are dealing with an adult rather  
23 than a child. We are dealing with a 30-year-old rather than  
24 a 19-year-old. And as she's pointed out, we are almost in  
25 the '1980's, and the 1980's differ dramatically from the 1960's.

1 She's an older, more mature, much more squared-away woman  
2 whose horizons, believe it or not, have been dramatically  
3 expanded.

4           How would we know that anybody is going to go back  
5 to drugs? I guess I gave the best answer I could think of  
6 to Mr. DeLeon this morning when I suggested that she's not  
7 the dependent kind of person that this drug dependence  
8 developed out of. She's not the kind of person anymore.  
9 She's now independent. She's seen other sides. She has been,  
10 I think one can say, relatively drug-free for the last 10  
11 years.

12           I can remember when she was admitted to the Sybil  
13 Brand Institute, the county jail in Los Angeles. When the  
14 jury verdict came in and they took her to Sybil Brand, she  
15 knew she was coming back to the California Institution for  
16 Women. She knew that she was going to be placed back in  
17 prison, and she didn't think she was going to be convicted.  
18 Remember, her second trial, the jury was almost equally  
19 divided, seven to five. Seven people on that jury, two of  
20 whom wrote letters to the judge, seven people felt that in  
21 1969 that she was --

22           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Five.

23           MR. FITZGERALD: Five in 1969 was -- really had  
24 severe problems that made this less than a first degree  
25 murder. Despite the fact that it was a Manson girl in a

1 Manson case, seven of these jurors said manslaughter. She  
2 didn't think she was coming --

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Five.

4 MR. KAY: No, five.

5 MR. FITZGERALD: Five. Excuse me. It was seven  
6 to five. Seven for first degree murder, five for manslaughter.  
7 When she was on her way back and she was admitted to the  
8 county jail, and everybody there, as everybody here, liked  
9 her, they told her that they would take her back to the  
10 hospital and tranquilize her, if she wanted. They knew what  
11 a shock it was. And she turned down the tranquilizer.

12 I don't think that she's interested in drugs. I  
13 don't think that's the kind of future that she wants. She  
14 realizes the pain and sorrow, particularly that it caused  
15 her family and second, her. Also, in terms of the drug use,  
16 we have the same problem with almost any inmate. How do we  
17 know that somebody with a drug history won't go back to the  
18 use of drugs? Well, all I can suggest is that there be a  
19 special condition of parole that she undergo frequent and  
20 periodic and non-noticed testing for the use of alcohol or  
21 for the use of narcotics or dangerous drugs, that there be  
22 a special condition of parole that she be intensely  
23 supervised, and that there be a special condition of parole  
24 that she cooperates in an approved program of outpatient  
25 psychological or psychiatric care, structured so that the

1 therapist responds directly to the parole supervising agent  
2 if there should be any indication of drug use or any  
3 indication of any decompensating mental process.

4         With respect to her relationship with other  
5 persons in the Manson family, she's going to talk about that  
6 with you herself. But from my point of view, she has  
7 absolutely and totally severed any contact with any members  
8 of the Manson family. She is not any longer enamored of  
9 Charles Manson or what remnants of his family still exist.  
10 For your own sort of curiosity and information, it's my  
11 point of view, and I've been involved with the Manson family  
12 since 1969, there really is no Manson family anymore. And  
13 that is another aspect that is interesting.

14         There have been many Manson people that have passed  
15 through this institution and have been paroled. We tend  
16 to think only of Leslie Van Houten, Patricia Krenwinkel,  
17 and Susan Atkins, but the oldest member, the member that was  
18 in the Manson family the longest, was a girl by the name of  
19 Mary Brunner, who was Manson's wife and bore him a child  
20 and was the first member of his family to pass through this  
21 institution and was paroled. And she has a background  
22 strikingly similar to Leslie's. She had a graduate degree  
23 in library science and was working at the University of  
24 California Library at Berkeley when she first met Charles  
25 Manson.

1 Catherine Share, somebody that was mentioned in  
2 the proceedings this morning, another Manson family member,  
3 passed through this institution some time ago and was paroled.  
4 Brenda McCann, also a Manson family member, passed through  
5 this institution and has been paroled. And these people have  
6 not returned to this institution. So, I don't think that  
7 we can say once a Manson member, always a Manson member.

8 I don't think that -- well, strike that.

9 There's just one other thing I'd like to mention.  
10 Do you, at this time -- I mean, assuming that -- do you want  
11 me to address, to assume for a moment that you were going to  
12 find her suitable, and then address the problem of where she  
13 falls in the matrix, or do you want me to address that --

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: You don't have to make  
15 that assumption, but I would suggest that you make a statement  
16 as to where you think she should fall.

17 MR. FITZGERALD: -- because my understanding is that  
18 I'm not going to get an opportunity to talk again, that's all.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: That's right. This is  
20 it.

21 MR. FITZGERALD: So, I might as well. Okay. As  
22 I've set out in my papers here, beginning on page 13, I take  
23 the position that under 2282 Subdivision (a), that she falls  
24 -- and where she falls in the matrix of base terms is in  
25 Section (b). And I take that position because, although I agreed

1 that she's got to fall under Roman numeral III, because there  
2 was no prior relationship with the victim and her. I agree  
3 with that. But I contend that she falls under the column  
4 indirect act with mitigation, thus a base term of 11 years.

5 Under Section A, there I contend that the  
6 circumstances were indirect and that the victim died of  
7 causes related to the act of the prisoner, but was not  
8 directly assaulted by the prisoner with deadly force in that  
9 a crime partner actually did the killing. And I think we've  
10 got to resolve that doubt in her favor. Mr. Kay says he  
11 can't prove it one way or the other, and the standard I think  
12 we ought to really use is is it clear -- no question that  
13 she assisted, that she aided in the commission of this  
14 offense and that she was involved with the killing of  
15 Rosemary LaBianca -- but I think we have to take the  
16 position that she was not a prime mover in the death.

17 The autopsy surgeon's testimony, the pathologist's  
18 testimony, was that the fatal wounds were caused by a  
19 five-and-a-half inch blade. That indicates the death was  
20 really due to the bayonet wounds that were inflicted by Mr.  
21 Watson, which parenthetically he thoroughly agrees to in the  
22 publication of his recent book.

23 Secondly, the autopsy pathologist testified that  
24 there were numerous superficial wounds that amounted only  
25 to that, and that they were post-mortem, that they were



1 inflicted after death, and they were in the area of the  
2 body indicated by Ms. Van Houten. So, I think that in  
3 absence of a clear, demonstrable showing that she actually  
4 assisted materially in the cause of death, she has to fall  
5 into that category.

6 Next, under Section (2), I suggest that the  
7 prisoner participated in the crime under partially excusable  
8 circumstances, which do not amount to a legal defense. What  
9 I have in mind here is that there was a considerable -- the  
10 whole issue in the second and third trials of Leslie Van  
11 Houten was her mental state. And unfortunately, we are stuck  
12 with the verdict in the final case, but that's not to say  
13 that there wasn't considerable controversy on both sides as  
14 to the mental state of Ms. Leslie Van Houten. Also, even  
15 the foreman of the jury who convicted her stated publically  
16 to the press that he thought there was some diminished  
17 capacity, not enough, to relieve her from responsibility, but  
18 they believed that she wasn't, in 1969, the woman she was  
19 today.

20 So, I think that this Board can take that into  
21 consideration in setting her time, that, I think, that if it  
22 wasn't for the strong male domination influenced by the --  
23 the influences of Charles Manson and Tex Watson and her drug  
24 use at the time, that these acts would have occurred. I don't  
25 think that you can say that even if it wasn't for Charles

1 Manson, these people would be dead today. I think the clear  
2 answer is that if it wasn't for Charles Manson, they would  
3 be here today.

4 It's not Leslie Van Houten who developed the  
5 theory of Helter Skelter. And so, I suggest that that's  
6 mental illness tantamounting to insanity at the time of the  
7 offense.

8 Also, under Section (3), I think Leslie had no  
9 apparent disposition to commit the crime, but was induced  
10 by others to commit it. And under number (5), the prisoner  
11 has the minimal history of criminal behavior, as well as  
12 number (6), that the prisoner was a passive participant and  
13 played a minor role in the commission of the offense.

14 I don't mean to minimize the offense. We've got  
15 some people that are dead here that are never going to be  
16 able to be brought back to life. I recognize that, and I  
17 don't mean it in any sense of justification. But I think  
18 when you compare her role -- and that's the term the CRB  
19 uses, "role" -- when you consider her role in these two  
20 killings, her role is minor compared to the major role  
21 played by Tex Watson and the slightly less major role played  
22 by Patricia Krenwinkel.

23 That concludes my remarks. Leslie, would you  
24 address yourself to three things: Number one, the relationship  
25 with other people in the Manson family that you currently

1 have, and then, two, would you give some expression of, if  
2 you can, why you committed this offense; and number three,  
3 how, if released on parole, you can avoid committing similar  
4 offenses in the future?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Should -- I don't know where  
6 I should start. Should I start from --

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Start with the  
8 relationship with the other family members.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Right. Now, the only  
10 communication I have with any people that I knew then are  
11 Pat and Susan. And that's -- I'm housed in the same unit  
12 they are, and it's got a population of about 45. So, we  
13 see each other often throughout the day.

14 The relationship is friendly but distant. I  
15 relate to them like I do most of the other women on the unit  
16 -- courteous enough to make it through, but, you know, not  
17 personal.

18 Other than that, I'm not in touch with anyone,  
19 and I left a notice in the mailroom that I would not receive  
20 notes or messages that a young girl sometimes sends around.  
21 She used to send them to the courthouse, too, from Charlie.  
22 So, I haven't had any contact in that area at all.

23 That's where I'm at with the Manson family and  
24 where I'll stay. Of course, it will be more distant if they  
25 move me to campus, because there I won't have to be in a

1 close housing situation with Pat and Susan.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: In looking -- in finding why  
4 I ended at Spain's and went to the house, it's something I'm  
5 -- the more time goes by, the more I find hard to believe  
6 I did it, myself. But I can't help but feel that a lot of  
7 it was the times, early 60's. I don't agree with the person  
8 that testified that when I got to the ranch, Charlie was  
9 talking about killing people. He was talking about killing  
10 our own egos, but that's -- you know, I don't know if I  
11 should discuss the things that I differ with that I differed  
12 with in the trial or not, but I don't remember going to the  
13 ranch and falling in love or admiring a person, that sat  
14 around and did nothing but talk about Hitler and killing  
15 people. I remember a man who talked a mixture of Eastern  
16 philosophy and loving our fellow people in the acid reality  
17 that was very different from everyday life functioning.

18 And the longer I was there, the more removed we  
19 became from other people to the point where, when it seemed  
20 that the war was going to come to a great holocaust, that  
21 it was believable to me. And I believed in Charlie very,  
22 very much. I believed --

23 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: I couldn't hear that. What  
24 did you say?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I believed in Charlie and what

1 he said. And when he asked us could we kill for our  
2 brothers, meaning to free the world of its bad karma; I  
3 thought about it, and I thought that I could. I, uh, I  
4 don't think until I was actually stabbing Mrs. Labianca in  
5 the back did I feel the animal beastliness that came out.

6 (Inmate crying.)

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Until then, or even after  
8 that, I covered it up really quickly in my mind. After  
9 that, I believed it was the right thing and to help, you  
10 know. I'm not saying that now, because the case is over.  
11 It's the way I felt and what I believed in. And in my  
12 dealing with it and talking -- and talking with the  
13 psychiatrists, it's been those kinds of things that I've tried  
14 to learn about myself and understand why I would become so  
15 vulnerable to another person and what they believed in.

16 I don't ever imagine myself even belonging to the  
17 healthiest of organizations again. You know, you learn and  
18 I certainly have made efforts to understand myself, what put  
19 me there, because I'm deeply ashamed of it. And the longer I  
20 go on, sometimes people would say to my mother when she would  
21 come to visit me, how much I had changed or, you know, as the  
22 years went on. And she always said that she didn't so much  
23 as see it as a change, but she saw it more of what I went to  
24 when I was in my younger years in high school. And that's  
25 how I think I see it, too.

1 I've just relocated myself in relating to people  
2 and in the environment that I am comfortable with. It's not  
3 convicts and, you know, heavy drug dealings, or -- I don't  
4 know how to explain the environment. But I think, it's --  
5 you know, I'm not comfortable with that.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: One final question. When  
7 he said, "Could you kill to save the brothers," what brothers  
8 were you talking about?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, the whole world, kill  
10 to save your brothers and your sisters, meaning the whole  
11 world that no one knew but ourselves, and that they didn't  
12 know what they were doing.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Now, go back a  
14 little bit slower, because I'm missing something. He's  
15 saying that he wants to know if you can kill to save the  
16 world.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: From what?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I never asked that then. If  
20 I had've, I probably -- the idea was that the world was  
21 killing itself. It needed to be cleansed through this  
22 holocaust that would happen.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Uh-huh.

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And what we were going to do  
25 was start it. So, we were saving the world by destroying it.

1 But, I mean, now, that makes sense, but in those days, I  
2 never followed through any of the --

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: To its conclusions.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I never followed through  
5 on what it was about.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. What about the  
7 drugs? Why do you think you --

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think that if there would  
9 ever be a question, it would be marijuana. I have no doubt  
10 in my mind whatsoever I would never deal with a chemical-  
11 type drug or LSD, any -- actually, anything like that. My  
12 only concern would be the marijuana. And I can honestly say,  
13 to me, that that particular high isn't -- when you get down  
14 to the level of marijuana smoking, it seems to be a thing  
15 that I never spoke badly against, one that I always thought,  
16 well, I've taken a liberal position on it! But I -- if I  
17 were given the opportunity, I would never blow it on, you  
18 know, marijuana. I wouldn't. I'm not -- I wouldn't have  
19 the slightest concern in my mind about LSD.

20 When I was in jail, I, you know, met one person.  
21 And when they knew who I was, you know, "Oh, do you want some  
22 acid?"

23 And I told them, "No." And it wasn't even a battle  
24 in my mind of yes or no or anything. I never saw the person  
25 again. I've gone through too much to get my head back.

1 Heroin, I never was around. Downers, I wasn't  
2 around. The other -- the uppers were experimental at the  
3 time period.

4 I'm not -- I think knowing that I could have  
5 a therapist that I could see, and having the support that I  
6 do have, that, I don't think, will diminish. You know, I  
7 think my family will be by me now or in the future as much  
8 as they have been. I -- more than losing people through my  
9 incarceration, I have gained new friends that are healthy and  
10 they are good, functioning citizens. And I treasure too much  
11 being around people that aren't of the nature where I always  
12 have to wonder what their motives are or what their -- in  
13 other words, when I was on bail, I was able to be around an  
14 environment that was not drug-oriented, and I was very  
15 comfortable there. And I found that the people enjoyed me  
16 as much as I enjoyed them. And that's the environment I would  
17 put myself in.

18 I have no intentions of seeking out any person that  
19 I would have the slightest doubt in my mind wasn't living.  
20 according to the standards that I not only know would be asked  
21 of me, but that I want to live in.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Mr. DeLeon?

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I only have one question. Do  
24 you feel if you step out into society tomorrow, into that  
25 setting, with your ability, your personality and skills, that



1 if you were ordered to totally abstain, despite society's  
2 feelings of what look on, say, a drug like -- or on a mind-  
3 altering substance like marijuana --

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

5 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- that it would be no  
6 problem to abstain in today's society where it is everywhere --

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- if, in your position, the  
9 orders were that you were to abstain?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: If I was told not to be around  
11 it, I wouldn't be around it. I know that's easy to say, but,  
12 believe me, if I ever -- if I ever was told that I could get  
13 a parole, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't do anything to violate it.  
14 And I know that that's true.

15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: There are many people who  
16 feel that mind-altering substances are all the same, whether  
17 it's alcohol or marijuana or drugs.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (Inmate nods head.)

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And that they -- the danger  
20 of, you know, using one greatly strengthens the possibility  
21 of using another, you know, and so forth.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-huh.

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You feel that you could  
24 control that?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. My father has been a

1 member of AA, and he hasn't had a drink in, I think it's 28  
2 years. And he and I have talked about that a lot and the  
3 addictive nature and staying away from it. And if that was  
4 the stipulation, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't be anywhere around  
5 it. And whoever had asked me, I would tell them that I  
6 wouldn't be around them, either.

7 I would feel that strongly, and I feel my friends  
8 would be sensitive to that and wouldn't give me those  
9 alternatives.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I'd like to ask one more.  
11 Do you feel at this point that you have availed yourself of  
12 your time within the institution to the maximum insofar as  
13 preparing you for a life outside the institution, or outside  
14 a structured setting?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I feel that for within the kind  
16 of locked-up situation that I have been in, I think that I've  
17 used every opportunity I could to prepare.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: All right. Nothing further.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mrs. Sides?

20 BOARD MEMBER SIDES: I don't have anymore questions.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We will recess at 2:40.

22 We will clear the room.

23 (Thereupon the room was cleared, and the  
24 Hearing of the Community Release Board was  
25 recessed for deliberations by the Board.)

RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

--oOo--

1                   PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: The time is 3:55. All  
2  
3 the persons previously assembled in the case of Leslie Van  
4 Houten are present in the room with the exception of  
5 Mr. Jimenez.  
6

7                   Ms. Van Houten, this panel has deliberated. We  
8 have tried to the best of our ability to weigh all of the  
9 factors. And we have come to the conclusion that we are  
10 finding you unsuitable for parole at this time on the basis  
11 of the following reasons:

12                   Number one, the gravity and the nature of the  
13 offenses have not been outweighed by the prisoner's minimal  
14 criminal history; her positive institutional accomplishments;  
15 her psychiatric diagnosis of quote, "no mental illness",  
16 unquote; and her excellent support plans for parole.

17                   The panel notes that the prisoner had above-average  
18 social experiences in gaining recognition at a most crucial  
19 time in her life -- the impressionable high school years.  
20 She was homecoming queen, class secretary, and belonged to  
21 the choir, and enjoyed all of the advantages. This was not  
22 enough. She sought out and encountered negative associates  
23 and influences.

24                   The panel is concerned that a person possessing  
25 the intelligence, education and background of the prisoner

1 was susceptible and participated in a plan involving the  
2 brutal killing at random of innocent victims. Society has  
3 no defense and is helpless in utilizing any form of  
4 protection in this type of crime, except to isolate the  
5 responsables from society.

6 This is not to say that you will not earn a parole  
7 date in the future. Historically, society has taken, under  
8 various -- has taken risks under various rules and released  
9 prisoners. Such risks may be taken at an earlier date when  
10 the motivating factors are understood or originate with the  
11 prisoner, for example, murder for revenge, for profit, for  
12 heat of passion. These murders did not fit into any of  
13 these categories.

14 In reviewing the barbaric deeds that were carried  
15 out and the bizarre means used for the most illogical reasons,  
16 coupled with the uncertainty of your ability to sustain your  
17 rehabilitated gains over a period of time, the panel feels  
18 that it must observe you longer. And we must have more time  
19 before we can project a parole date.

20 Do you have any questions about what we mean?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I understand what you're  
22 saying. But you will observe me? I mean, there is hope at  
23 some time?

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Yes.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay. That's all I needed to

1 know.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Now, our recommendations  
3 are that you remain disciplinary-free; that you continue  
4 your academic upgrading; and that you participate in available  
5 self-help programs. We realize what your situation is here.  
6 We don't know whether your housing will be reduced or not,  
7 but whatever is available to you, participate in it, and  
8 don't give up hope.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I won't. Thank you very much.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Any comments or  
11 questions?

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. I've got a question. You're  
13 denying the parole date on the basis of the gravity and  
14 nature of the acts and the motivelessness of it. That,  
15 essentially --

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And --

17 MR. FITZGERALD: -- I take it is your position?

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And the history of the  
19 prisoner's behavior. Would you like for me to go a little  
20 further with that?

21 MR. FITZGERALD: Right. I mean, because it seems  
22 quite illogical to take into consideration -- I mean, she  
23 came from a --

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right! Let me  
25 explain everything. We have a young lady who, in high

1 school, achieved what most high school people want. And  
2 that's recognition, you know, homecoming queen.

3 MR. FITZGERALD: Princess.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Princess, popular, that's  
5 a big thing in high school. It give us status. It feeds  
6 the ego. She was in the church choir. She was doing all  
7 the things that, usually, young people find rewarding.

8 She needed something else. She sought out  
9 associates and went into drugs. At another point in her  
10 life, she decided that that was not the way to go. She goes  
11 into -- what was it, Self Realization?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Fellowship.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: She straightened up her  
14 act. She gets herself together. She goes without drugs.  
15 And she goes into school. She graduates with honors. She  
16 goes back into drugs. Ultimately, this pattern leads her  
17 to the murders.

18 She has now had eight years of good behavior up  
19 and down, but in a rather restricted setting. What we are  
20 saying is that, because she has gone in and out of these  
21 phases, we want a longer period of time of successes before  
22 we project a parole date.

23 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. Do you have any projection  
24 as to what you mean by "longer time"?

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: No. She will be reviewed

1 again next year.

2 BOARD MEMBER DALBON: You know, the panel discussed  
3 very many positive things you're doing and positive progress  
4 and considered, you know, many factors that really are  
5 really encouraging to you and to your progress. And I think  
6 that you are -- you have a lot of things going for you. If  
7 you can utilize them in the right way and put them all  
8 together, I think that there is a great deal of hope.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I feel that. I truly feel  
10 that. And I appreciate it.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Good luck to you.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Thank you very much.

13 MR. FITZGERALD: But I can't help but feel that  
14 she's really getting a rougher shake than she would if it  
15 didn't have the name Manson attached to it. I've represented  
16 people who are in this institution who have committed more  
17 heinous crimes than this. I have represented many people  
18 who received earlier parole dates.

19 I just can't help but feel that because of the  
20 public indignation that surrounds this crime and its notoriety  
21 that she is going to have a very difficult time ever getting  
22 out, because when I look at the record, I just can't see  
23 anything more that an individual could do to achieve a parole  
24 date, you know.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Well, she has -- if you're

1 not satisfied with the findings, you have appeal rights  
2 under 2050. We are concluding this hearing at 4:05. And  
3 again, I'll say good luck to you. You have a chance.

4 MR. VAN HOUTEN: Thank you.

5 MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you.

6 (Thereupon the Hearing of the Community  
7 Release Board in the Matter of the life  
8 term parole consideration for Leslie  
9 Van Houten was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

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I, DIANE M. HOLNBACK, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein, that the foregoing Community Release Board Hearing was reported in shorthand by me, Diane M. Holnback, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said hearing, nor in any way interested in the outcome of said hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1979.

*Diane M. Holnback*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DIANE M. HOLNBACK,  
Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
License No. 4022