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LIFE TERM PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF PRISON TERMS

In the Matter of the Life Term
Parole Consideration Hearing
of:

CDC NO. W-13378

LESLIE VAN HOUTEN

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 15, 1985

ORIGINAL

J. Engert,

Transcriber

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Rudy Castro, Presiding, Member of the Board

Loretta Collier, Member of the Board

Cleo Brown, Hearing Representative of the Board

MEMBERS ABSENT

NONE

ALSO PRESENT

Inmate Van Houten

Dan Mrotek, Inmate's Attorney

Stephen Kay, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County
Ms. Dominguez, Correction Counselor

OBSERVERS

Bob Banfield, Reporter, Channel 7, KVC

David Buss, Cameraman

Laura Hicks, Camerawoman

Michael Fender, Associated Press Reporter

Gilbert Failon, Photographer, L.A. Daily News.

Art Wong, San Bernardino Sun Reporter

Katherine Stitser, Reporter, National Public Radio

Video Pool (not in Hearing Chamber)

Cal Campbell, Reporter, KNBC, Channel 4.

KCBS - Channel 2 - (include) - Jim Mitchell,

Laura Carter

John Barzell

Gary Johnson *

*Replaced by Mr. O'Googan

Lynn Alber, Reporter, Associated Press,

Robert Stuart, Los Angeles Times.

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: This is a parole
4 consideration hearing being conducted at the California
5 Institute for Women in Frontera, California. The time
6 is 9:36 A.M. and the date is May 15, 1985.

7 The prisoner's name is Leslie Van Houten,
8 prison number W-13378. The prisoner was received into
9 the Department of Corrections on August 17, 1978 from
10 Los Angeles County. Case Number A-253156, Judge Gordon
11 Ringer, Presiding.

12 The prisoner was convicted of Count VI, Murder
13 First, violation of Penal Code Section 187. Count VII,
14 Murder First, violation of Penal Code Section 187;
15 Count VIII, Conspiracy to Commit Murder First, violation
16 of Penal Code Section 182.1.

17 The prisoner was sentenced to life terms,
18 all counts, minimum eligible parole date reads August
19 17, 1978.

20 The prisoner is thirty-five years of age.
21 Her last Board appearance was April 22, 1982, and this
22 is her fifth parole consideration hearing.

23 Other participants in this hearing include
24 the Board of Prison Terms panel, the presiding officer
25 is Rudy Castro, Member of the Board, Loretta Collier,

1 Member of the Board, and Cleo Brown, Hearing Representa-
2 tive for the Board of Prison Terms.

3 The prisoner is present with her attorney,
4 Dan Mrotek. The Representative of the People of the
5 County of Los Angeles, Deputy District Attorney, Stephen
6 Kaye.

7 We have several individuals from the news
8 media; Bob Banfield, reporter, Channel 7 television,
9 KABC; David Buss, cameraman and Laura Hicks, camera-
10 woman. Associated Press represented by Michael Fender;
11 photographer of the Los Angeles Daily News, Gilbert
12 Failon, spelled, F-A-I-L-O-N, reporter; and from the
13 San Bernardino Sun Reporter, Art Wong.

14 From the National Public Radio, is Katherine
15 Stitser, reporter.

16 There are other television and news media in
17 a video pool who are not present in the immediate room.

18 (VOICE:) Could we identify those people?

19 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: For the record,
20 in the video pool, we have KNBC, Channel 4 television,
21 Cal Campbell, reporter, KCBS Channel 2 Television reporters
22 and cameramen include: Jim Mitchell, Laura Carter, John
23 Brazzell, spelled B-R-A-Z-Z-E-L-L, and Gary Johnson.

24 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: I think that's
25 been changed to a Googan. (O'Googan).

1 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: In place of Mr.
2 Campbell, there is a Mr. Googan, from KNBC. The
3 newspaper reporters include; Lynn Alber, spelled A-L-B-E-
4 R, Associated Presss; and Robert Stuart, Los Angeles
5 Times.

6 We are going to need voice identification
7 by the actual participants. I'll start and go to my
8 left. We will give our names, spell our last names,
9 and the prisoner will give in addition, her prisoner
10 number.

11 My name is R. Castro, C-A-S-T-R-O, Member of
12 the Board of Prison Terms.

13 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Cleo Brown,
14 B-R-O-W-N, Hearing Representative Board of Prison Terms.

15 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I'm Loretta Collier.
16 The last name is spelled C-O-L-L-I-E-R, Board Member.

17 MR. KAYE: I'm Steven Kay, K-A-Y, Head Deputy
18 District Attorney, Los Angeles County.

19 MR. MROTEK: Dan Mrotek, M-R-O-T-E-K, Defense
20 Counsel.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Leslie Van Houten, V-A-N
22 H-O-U-T-E-N, W-13378.

23 MS. DOMINQUEZ: (inaudible) Dominquez, D-O-M-I-
24 N-Q-U-E-Z, Correctional Counselor.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: That was Dominguez?

1 MS. DOMINQUEZ: Uh-huh.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright.

3 This hearing is being conducted pursuant
4 to Penal Code Section 3041 and 3042 and the Regulations
5 of the Board of Prison Terms governing parole considera-
6 tion hearings for life prisoners.

7 The purpose of today's hearing is to consider
8 the prisoner's suitability for parole. In doing this,
9 we will be considering the number and the nature of the
10 crimes for which she was committed to state prison,
11 her criminal history or lack of it prior to the commit-
12 ment and the behavior since the commitment.

13 We will reach a decision and inform the
14 prisoner whether we find her suitable for parole, the
15 length of the confinement and the specific factors
16 leading to this determination will be explained.

17 If the decision is to find the prisoner
18 unsuitable, we'll determine the length of denial which
19 could one or two or three year period.

20 The hearing will proceed in four areas. The
21 life crimes and the prior criminal history will be
22 presented by the -- myself, the Presiding Officer.

23 After the information is presented for the
24 record, the Panel might have questions of the prisoner
25 regarding these matters. If under advice of counsel,

1 the prisoner wishes to respond to any all questions,
2 we will place her under oath.

3 If she chooses not to answer any or all
4 questions, the Board will respect that right.

5 The representative of the District Attorney's
6 Office also will have an opportunity to make some
7 comments regarding the life crime.

8 If there's need to ask a question by the
9 Deputy, District Attorney, he will do so through the
10 chair.

11 And finally, counsel, will be given an
12 opportunity to make comments regarding the life crime
13 or to ask questions of his client for the record.

14 When all of the information has been presented
15 we'll then go into the next phase which is the post-
16 conviction factors and that's going to be presented
17 by this morning by Mr. Brown and we will follow the
18 same procedures same information for the record, same
19 questions that could be generated and respond to.

20 Finally, parole plans will be presented by
21 Miss Collier. We find that sometimes very difficult
22 to get an up-to-date information. We realize the diffi-
23 culty of the prisoner of not having parole date and
24 yet expected to generate some kind of plans upon
25 release. However, we do wish to know in that area,

1 what support systems she would have, where she would
2 plan to live, how she would plan to provide for herself,
3 her daily needs and expenses. Where she would be
4 residing. What field of employment that she will be
5 seeking. What skills she has now or expected to have
6 by the time she returns to the community.

7 We will then at the conclusion of the projected
8 parole plans, being discussed; we'll hear from the
9 Deputy on closing arguments, on the issue of suitability.

10 There'll be no cross-exam of the deputy's
11 closing statements, nor will there be any questions
12 asked of the counsel who will also be given the
13 opportunity to make some closing comments. Those
14 comments will be final prior to the recess, then
15 we'll ask the Prisoner if she wishes to make any
16 comments of her own.

17 When that has been completed, we will then
18 take a recess. We have no way of knowing the length
19 of deliberation, but when we do finish, we'll call
20 all the participants back and let it be known, the
21 decision of this Panel.

22 I'd like to ask counsel, at this moment,
23 do you have any preliminary objections?

24 MR. MROTEK: Yes.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Proceed!

1 Are they lengthy?

2 MR. MROTEK: They are lengthy:

3 (Transcriber's Note -
4 Mrs Mrotek and the Inmate
5 Van Houten are poorly miked
6 or some distance from the
7 microphones, barely audible).

8 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: You might just,
9 if you have them in writing, you might just identify
10 them and then, we will take them under advisement and
11 give you a reading on those objections.

12 I don't wish to take a great deal of time
13 on lists of objections if they are -- or if you can
14 discuss them quickly, fine.

15 MR. MROTEK: I'm sorry but-- but due to the
16 nature of the objections, which is going to be made
17 is going to take about ten minutes to do it.

18 I realize (inaudible) been more convenient
19 to submit them in writing, but due to (inaudible)
20 of events which has happened (inaudible).

21 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: You have how many
22 objections?

23 MR. MROTEK: (One.)

24 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay, proceed.

25 MR. MROTEK: We are objecting to proceeding
at this time (inaudible) -- on the grounds that we are
not prepared. I do not know if the Members are aware

1 that I had previously requested that this hearing be
2 (continued) under 2253 of the rules of the Board in
3 order to prepare and present additional evidence,
4 (inaudible) requested then denied by the Executive
5 Directive of the Board, (inaudible).

6 I am renewing that request now. I can repre-
7 sent -- if I represent to Mr. Elliott, and we would
8 be ready and prepared (inaudible) or any (inaudible)
9 from now.

10 It is our position that the previous denial
11 (inaudible) continue (reduces) discretion as the
12 defense denied again. And now then, also comes
13 (inaudible section) discretion as being arbitrary.

14 It is also our position that that denial
15 constitutes a violation of due process of law.

16 Now, in order to make a record and (inaudible)
17 position to all the parties are clear in case this
18 matter is eventually reviewed, it's necessary for me
19 to explain what I had intended to do at this hearing.

20 As the Members are very much aware, you have
21 all been experienced, under 2281 of the Rules, the
22 nature of the commitment offense, in terms of how this
23 was committed and the motivation for committing, are
24 very much relevant to the suitability determination,
25 and in viewing the transcripts of the past hearings,

1 we (inaudible section) to meet:

2 Number one, primary and the dominant reason
3 for findings of unsuitability and in all prior hearings
4 have been the nature of the commitment offense.

5 Number two, this is a multi-defendant case.
6 Again, as Members of the Panel are very well aware,
7 in a multiple defendant case there are often situations
8 where you have different culpabilities among the
9 various people who participated. Some people are
10 more dominant. Some people are less dominant. Some
11 people are more violent. Some people are less violent.

12 In view of those two factors, it was my
13 judgment that the most important thing to do to
14 prepare for this hearing was to secure if possible
15 additional evidence that bore on the nature of the
16 commitment offense.

17 Again, in reading the transcript of the
18 past hearings, (it was obvious) to me that such evidence
19 was available.

20 I am speaking of two things. Number one,
21 the transcript of the actual trial, and number two,
22 the hearing transcript of the co-defendant. I am speak-
23 ing of Mr. Watkins (sic) and the (inaudible).

24 In reviewing the transcript, I see no
25 indication that that evidence was ever previously

1 (Continue) (inaudible).

2 Never previously considered at all. At any-
3 time. So, it would be (inaudible).

4 It was my intent to obtain the trial and to
5 look at and review the transcripts of the co-defendant(s),
6 to read them to excerpt from them such material as I
7 thought relevant under 2281 and present that to you
8 in the form of a document.

9 There is an additional reason why the trial
10 transcript are specifically relevant to this procedure.

11 In every previous hearing, the Representative
12 of the People of Los Angeles (inaudible section), has
13 at the close of the initial phase of the hearing, given
14 a summary of what he considers to be the facts of
15 (inaudible section).

16 Mr. Kaye was (not) the trial prosecutor.
17 What, in fact, he has been doing in doing that, is
18 giving you admissable hearsay about all the witnesses
19 and in a sort of summary of what happened.

20 In other words, he is giving you information
21 about what the trial evidence show(ed).

22 Now, I can't do that. The reason I can't
23 do that is because I wasn't at the trial. The only way
24 I can find out what happened at that trial is to get
25 the trial transcript.

1 reviewing the fact (inaudible) the materials I have,
2 I see that it was received by the (inaudible section)

3 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

4 MR. MRTEK: Thank you. 4/30.

5 On the date of May 3rd, I reviewed the
6 transcripts of the co-defendants, Mr. Watkins and Mr.
7 (inaudible) at the West Los Angeles P&CSD office on
8 the microfiche. I took notes from that.

9 On May 9th, I was notified by (message)
10 left at my office from Mr. Elliott that a continuance
11 had been denied.

12 On May 11th, I received a letter which I
13 (inaudible) perhaps, indicating the reasons for the
14 denial.

15 At present, I have read approximately two
16 thousand pages of the trial transcript and I have
17 these notes which I took from transcripts of the
18 co-defendant.

19 Now, I would like to discuss the reasons
20 given for the denial (of the request) to continue.

21 (inaudible due to coughing).

22 I think it is very important from this
23 factor is not given in Mr. Elliott's letter of -- the
24 letter which I received on May 11th.

25 Nobody contends, it seems to me that this

1 evidence is not relevant to what we are doing.

2 (inaudible section).

3 Nobody contends as far as I can see, that
4 the request I made to continue for some time was
5 approximately two weeks before.

6 Nobody contends or at least has suggested
7 to me that my request to continue was some kind of
8 sham (inaudible) to delay the hearing for some in-
9 appropriate purpose.

10 No one has suggested to me that continuing
11 the Hearing would deny my client, that would prejudice
12 my client that I might find some (inaudible) prejudice
13 of my client and the fact that we have been willing
14 to continue and for the record, and I think that should
15 be clear. Let me ask my client that.

16 Do you want me to represent you?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

18 MR. MROTEK: Do you want me to be prepared
19 when I represent you?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes I do.

21 MR. MROTEK: Are you willing to continue this
22 hearing so that we can be prepared?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

24 MR. MROTEK: Okay. There is a final thing
25 which is never been mentioned as a reason for denial.

1 It has never been stated to me that continuing
2 (inaudible) with prejudice, the Board (inaudible) has
3 not been suggested to me that it would have disrupted
4 any legitimate concern (inaudible) with your own
5 administration (something like that.).

6 That has never been said.

7 So, I'd like to address the fact that which
8 is stated in Mr. Elliott's letter and that is essentially
9 that there has been enough time to prepare.

10 Let me say this -- I could have been prepared
11 for this hearing as I have (want to) -- as I have wanted
12 to present it, and I've done nothing else but work
13 on this hearing.

14 I can read about 400 pages a day, the times
15 of note taking (inaudible) pay for it (here and now) --.

16 However, I have had obligations on other
17 cases. And my calculations, which I made yesterday,
18 indicate I have 125.9 billable hours on appointed
19 cases in the Court of Appeals from 4-16 to 5-14.

20 It seems to me the Board can adopt, if it
21 wants to take the legal position under 2253 the
22 continuance section, that any counsel who has a hearing
23 date set for a hearing like this, has to do nothing
24 else but prepare for the hearing, even if it means
25 abandoning every other case you have. That's the

1 position see set out in Mr. Elliott's letter, essentially.

2 But I don't think that position is a reasonable
3 one, seems arbitrary to me. It seems to me he set
4 (inaudible) administrative fee (op) rather than any
5 (inaudible section) for legitimate preparation.

6 And there is another factor to consider.
7 The Board set this date as it sets all hearing dates
8 in an Ex Parte manner, no one ever asked me when I
9 could do it, what a reasonable date would be. Much
10 (inaudible) like a trial situation where everyone sits
11 down (inaudible) how much time are you going to need.

12 I never had any input like that.

13 If you provide someone with an attorney,
14 (inaudible) certainly my client has a right to an
15 attorney, that attorney is going to be useless unless
16 has had sufficient time to prepare.

17 If you deny continuance for an arbitrary
18 reason, no attorney can be ready and that constitutes
19 as I understand the law, a violation of due process.

20 So, let me summarize what my position is.

21 It is our position that the previous (inaudi-
22 ble) discretion is arbitrary. I see no legitimate
23 reason why continuance was denied.

24 It is also our position that doing so as
25 denied as due process of law because we are not prepared.

1 In support of the latter proposition, just for
2 the record, let me cite two cases:

3 First is People v. Crovedi, C-R-O-V-E-D-I,
4 1966, 65 CAL 2nd, 119. The second is People v. McKencie,
5 M-C-K-E-N-C-I-E, 1983 34 CAL. 3rd, 616.

6 If the Board overrules the objection I am
7 making now, it is our position that we will attend
8 the Hearing and we will certainly respond in anyway
9 that could (inaudible).

10 But, we will not participate.

11 I am taking that position because I do not
12 want to waive the grounds for the objections I have
13 made; and also, because I am not prepared for this
14 hearing and I am ethically obligated as an attorney
15 not to participate in any hearing which I am not
16 prepared to do.

17 I thank you for listening. I realize it is
18 quite a long (inaudible).

19 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: No, (it's) quite
20 alright.

21 Let me ask you some questions.

22 How many times and how much time did you
23 spend with your client on this case, and in actually
24 talking to her? Either in person or over the phone?

25 MR. MROTEK: I can tell you specifically.

1 Would you like me to try to piece it together
2 and (inaudible).

3 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Well, if you have
4 some idea, yeah.

5 How many times did you talk with her?

6 MR. MROTEK: After April 6th?

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Yes. Preparatory
8 for this hearing.

9 MR. MROTEK: I don't think it's been a --

10 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Less than an ---

11 MR. MROTEK: Yes. (inaudible due to coughing)

12 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Counselor,
13 your question implies that you talked to Miss Van Houten
14 prior to April 16th.

15 MR. MROTEK: Yes, (definitely).

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Were you prepared
17 for this hearing prior to April 16th?

18 MR. MROTEK: No.

19 My contact with her prior to April 16th and
20 perhaps this is (transdental) -- involved representation
21 in a case challenging the two or three year delay
22 period under 3041.5 which the panel members know
23 (inaudible) is going to the Supreme Court. And that
24 was another matter. I was not retained on this case,
25 (inaudible) obligation, as I understood, until April 16th.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: And do you know
3 how many times you actually talked to her? For this
4 length of time, less than an hour.

5 MR. MROTEK: (inaudible) talking about p.p.c.
6 (inaudible).

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Yes.

8 MR. MROTEK: (inaudible)

9 (Counsel in discussion with the inmate).
10 Plus this morning.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

12 As you know -- and I am certainly very very
13 impressed with the labor that you put into the --
14 since you've been assigned to the case in preparing
15 yourself for it.

16 It is to be commended.

17 We have the authority to postpone any case
18 for good cause.

19 We don't take that responsibility lightly.

20 First, because under the pressure that we
21 work under. We have a multitude of cases already
22 assigned, way in advance.

23 Secondly, the cost. It's very expensive to
24 conduct a parole consideration hearing.

25 Thirdly, the problems that are created by

1 those who are the participants in addition to the
2 prisoner who have taken the time and have also aside
3 from their schedules, whatever they do to attend.

4 So, to make a decision to postpone hurts
5 a lot of people in addition to the prisoner's considera-
6 tions.

7 I'm going to poll the panel to see if there's
8 need for a recess on this issue.

9 But, before I do that, I'm going to be very
10 candid with you.

11 I am not in favor of a postponement, simply
12 because you did have the required length of time to
13 prepare.

14 Secondly, as you know, this is not to re-
15 litigate the crime(s).

16 And thirdly, if there is mitigation, if there
17 is information that your client has and perhaps and
18 perhaps has discussed it in the past, or maybe, not
19 completely in the past, but is fully geared to do so
20 today, she will be given that opportunity. Why I asked
21 you as to how often you talked to her prior to this
22 appearance today and for the length of time, I am
23 assuming that during those discussions that she, indeed,
24 talked about her reported minor role. And, if so,
25 she has it well in mind, you I am assuming have it well

1 in mind, and so, it would not go without being discussed
2 today.

3 I also feel that the role of the Deputy D.A.
4 is important but doesn't control and in the event that
5 he presents information that you are not aware of,
6 you know, that you can object and as a presiding officer,
7 and trying to be as reasonable as I possible can, I
8 will sustain your objections on any information that
9 is not part of the record.

10 So, for those reasons, I am going to take
11 the position with taking the poll of the Panel that
12 I do not encourage a postponement.

13 They might have ideas that for -- that far
14 outweigh mine, but I would like to take a poll now.

15 MR. KAYE: Mr. Castro, can I add something
16 to the record?

17 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Sure.

18 MR. KAYE: I would like to correct an
19 impression here that in the past, that Leslie Van Houten's
20 relative culpability hasn't been discussed.

21 It has been discussed quite extensively. In
22 fact, at the last two of her parole hearings, she was
23 represented by Paul Fitzgerald, who was one of the
24 original trial counsel. He represented Patricia Kren-
25 winkle (spelled phonetically) at the first trial.

1 Represented Leslie Van Houten in the sentencing on the
2 case we're here today on and he spent a lot of time
3 at these hearings discussing her relative culpability.

4 So, this is not something new. That counsel
5 is just going to do for the first time, that no attorney
6 has done in the past.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Kaye.

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Mr. Chairman,
9 I recommend a recess.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

11 We're going to take a recess. The time is
12 10:04 a.m. and we will have to clear the room.

13 (BRIEF RECESS)

14 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright, we have
15 resumed the hearing after a brief recess to discuss
16 the point of objection by counsel, and it is the
17 decision of the Panel to proceed with this Hearing.

18 I'd like to ask counsel, are you satisfied
19 that your client is aware of her rights and understands
20 them?

21 MR. MROTEK: Yes.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

23 You waive the reading of the rights?

24 MR. MROTEK: Yes.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you.

1 The -- are you going to permit your client
2 to testify?

3 MR. MROTEK: No.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright, then I
5 will not place her under oath.

6 Any decision that we reach today is appealable,
7 and any decision that we reach today will not go into
8 effect until 60 days, and any decision that we reach
9 today will be in writing and the time for appeals
10 start from the date that you receive the decision,
11 in writing.

12 We have a checklist of items and I want to
13 be sure that you have received your checklist. Could
14 you match it with this one and then hand it to the
15 Deputy and see if he has all the documents.

16 The Probation Officer's Report that we are
17 talking about or will be talking about is dated April
18 19, '71.

19 MR. MROTEK: Shall I respond to that?

20 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Yes.

21 MR. MROTEK: I have no (inaudible) parole
22 decisions. As I stated, I reviewed several of the
23 hearings back (inaudible) co-defendants.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: You have received
25 a packet and it doesn't include the copy of ---

1 MR. MROTEK: (inaudible).

2 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: That would be later
3 in the back in my packet, under miscellaneous --

4 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Yeah. Did you
5 look ---

6 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Seven.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Did you receive
8 yours?

9 MR. KAYE: Yes, I'm fine. Everything.

10 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Do you have yours?

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Is that the
12 only copy that you have -- the thin packet or is there
13 some other information?

14 MR. MROTEK: I have received today -- this
15 folder.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: May I see --
17 that?

18 MR. MROTEK: Some other materials, to which
19 I also object (inaudible section).

20 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Well, that informa-
21 tion -- there's nothing new in it. It is a matter of
22 record.

23 MR. MROTEK: I have not had time to (inaudible).

24 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: This is

1 information from you and basically from your client,
2 and some letters.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Deputy, you say you
4 are satisfied with the checklist?

5 MR. KAYE: Yes I am.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright.

7 And you have -- what is your position on
8 the checklist?

9 MR. MROTEK: Well, may I be shown what the
10 information you have on the (crime partner) - perhaps
11 that will help me.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

13 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Since I'm doing
14 parole plans see if it has --

15 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Do you have --

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I'll give him mine,
17 since I am going to be handling the parole plans and
18 I've been on a couple of --

19 R. MROTEK: I don't need to read them, I
20 just -- (inaudible).

21 That's fine.

22 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright.

24 The statement of facts, what I am going to
25 do is turn to the transcript, the decision transcript of

1 the last hearing that's also should have been included
2 in the packet and they referred to an incorporation
3 by reference on Page 2 of the Decision Transcript,
4 under the paragraph titled, Statement of Facts, and
5 it reads, incorporated by reference from the decision
6 of the hearing of January 31, '79 pages two through three,
7 which describe the crime.

8 If there are no objections, I'd like to
9 incorporate that information.

10 MR. MROTEK: Yes, (there will be) --

11 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: There are objections
12 to incorporating by reference?

13 MR. MROTEK: Yes.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

15 Do you have a ~~Deputy~~ Deputy?

16 MR. KAYE: No, I don't.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Well, I am going to
18 read and what we normally do, by the way, have you
19 attended any kind of -- these kind of hearings before?

20 MR. MROTEK: (inaudible)

21 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Pardon?

22 MR. MROTEK: (inaudible).

23 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay. I don't
24 know if you are familiar with our --

25 MR. MROTEK: I'm not trying to obstruct the

1 Board's -- (inaudible)

2 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: No, I know you are
3 not. Okay.

4 MR. KAYE: Mr. Castro, can I just add one
5 thing on the incorporation, -- well, I'm looking at uh,
6 the report of --

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Well, let me go
8 on. I am going to read what we have here. It's very
9 brief and then, counsel, if you wish to make any
10 objections on that material, or to make any comments
11 regarding it, I'll give you that opportunity.

12 But it reads as follows:

13 "All of the commitment --- no let me put
14 that on our decision tape.

15 The Statement of Facts incorporated by
16 reference from the Decision of the Hearing of January
17 31, 1979 pages two and three which reads as follows:

18 "All of the commitment offenses
19 under Case No. A-253156 stem from
20 two successive multiple homicides
21 occurring in Los Angeles County
22 from August 8th, through August
23 10, 1969. First Degree Murder,
24 Count VI, refers to Victim Leno
25 A. LaBianca, First Degree Murder,

1 Count VII refers to Victim Rosemary
2 LaBianca. Conspiracy to commit
3 First Degree Murder, Count VIII,
4 refers to crimes and offenses
5 related to the charges set forth
6 in Counts I through VII First Degree
7 Murder, Count I, Victim, A. Folger,
8 Count II, Victim W. Frykowski,
9 F-R-Y-K-O-W-S-K-I; Count III,
10 Victim S. Parent, P-A-R-E-N-T;
11 Count IV, Victim S. Palanski, and
12 Count V, Victim, J. Sebring.
13 Counts I through V were committed
14 by crime partners, Charles Manson,
15 Susan Atkins, P. Krenwinkle, Charles
16 Watson and Linda Cassabian, dismissed
17 and the prisoner was not charged in
18 these counts.

19 On August 10, 1969, the prisoner
20 having full knowledge that her co-
21 conspirators and crime partners
22 had killed five people on August
23 9, 1969, set out to kill more
24 people. The group drove around
25 for about four hours, randomly

1 selecting and discarding targets
2 until they settled on the LaBianca
3 House.

4 They entered a residence, tied up
5 the victims, covered their heads
6 with pillowcases and killed them.

7 The prisoner was an active partici-
8 pant in the murders. She held
9 Mrs. LaBianca down so the crime
10 partner, Krenwinkel, could stab
11 her. When Krenwinkel's knife
12 bent during her attempt to stab
13 the victim, the prisoner called
14 for Watson to come in and assist
15 the killing.

16 The prisoner also stabbed the
17 victim.

18 After the murders, the prisoner
19 wiped off fingerprints, took
20 property from the location and
21 upon a return to (Spahn Ranch)
22 burned evidence which could
23 have possibly tied her into the
24 murders. Leno LaBianca died of
25 multiple stab wounds to the neck

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

4 END OF STATEMENT OF FACTS.

5 The -- I've read in the documents that have
6 been listed for consideration at this hearing, that
7 over the years the prisoner has not denied her partici-
8 pation.

9 In the early stages of her statements to
10 various people including the Probation Officer's Report,
11 and psychiatrists, she's quoted as stating that the
12 murders that were planned by Mr. Charles Watson, were
13 considered necessary.

14 That her struggle within The Family, started
15 about the same time as the murder -- struggled to
16 remove herself from that influence.

17 She did not succeed and participated in
18 the crimes themselves.

19 I want to ask counsel at this point, if he
20 wishes to make any comments regarding the life crime.

21 MR. MROTEK: No, for the reasons stated in
22 my initial (inaudible).

23 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright.

24 I'd like to ask Mr. Kaye if he wishes to
25 make any comments regarding the life crime?

1 MR. KAYE: Yes, I believe I would.

2 I don't disagree with the facts as related,
3 but, of course, her participation was even a little
4 more than the facts that you related show.

5 She was, at that time of the Tate Murders,
6 the five Tate Murders, she did not go to that house.

7 However, she found out about it after the
8 murders, with Krenwinkle, her friend, filling her in
9 on all of the gory details and she admitted that she
10 was upset, that she didn't get to go on the Tate Murders.

11 That she wanted to go.

12 She testified under cross examination at
13 the trial which is part of the record that she (weighed)
14 and considered for two days around that period of time,
15 the question of whether or not she could kill anybody
16 and she decided that she could and would participate
17 in murder.

18 So, this wasn't any rash decision on her
19 part and in fact, she decided on her own to join the
20 conspiracy before Charles Manson ever asked her to join.

21 She did participate in the trip driving
22 four hours around the County of Los Angeles looking
23 at random for people to kill and I'm not going to review
24 all of that, although one of the things that really
25 jumps out was when they stopped at a Congregational

1 Church in South Pasadena, and looked for the minister
2 because they were going to murder him and string him
3 up to the cross in front of the church upside down.

4 They were going to string him up upside down
5 to the cross.

6 When she entered the LaBianca house, now
7 Manson, of course, entered the house first, got the
8 drop on the LaBiancas, tied their hands, assured them
9 that he was not going to harm them, which was true.

10 Manson came out of the house with a wallet,
11 Rosemary LaBianca's wallet which had her credit cards
12 and identification and his purpose in doing that was
13 he had the wallet planted in an area he felt was a
14 black area, because he wanted a black person to use
15 the wallet and get blamed for the murders.

16 But anyway, when he came out, he told Van
17 Houten, Watson, and Krenwinkel, that there was a man
18 and woman on the sofa. There, that he tied their hands
19 and that assured them that he wasn't going to harm them,
20 and he said, don't cause fear and panic, like last night
21 and don't let them know that you're going to kill them.

22 So, when she walked in the house, of course,
23 she knew from this whole trip that they were looking
24 for people to kill and she was ready to do that, but
25 she knew when she went in the house, that she was going

1 to participate in murder.

2 Krenwinkel immediately went to the kitchen,
3 got two knives. Now, when Watson went in, he had a
4 bayonet and she knew that he had a bayonet but she
5 was unarmed when she went in. Krenwinkel was unarmed.
6 But they got armed right away. Krenwinkel had a knife.
7 She had a knife.

8 They took Mr. LaBianca to the bedroom for
9 the purpose of killing her. Miss Van Houten put a
10 pillowcase over Mrs. LaBianca's head and held her down
11 on the bed for Krenwinkel to stab her.

12 Now, at this time, Watson started started
13 stabbing Mr. LaBianca in the living room. Mrs. LaBianca
14 heard that and got the strength to bolt up and cry out
15 her husband's name and she reached out even though she
16 had a pillowcase on her head, reached out for a lamp
17 and swung it at Van Houten. Van Houten knocked it
18 out of her hand, wrestled her down on the bed, and her
19 held her down while Krenwinkel stabbed her with such
20 force that the knife blade bent, hitting the area, I
21 believe the area of her collarbone.

22 Miss Van Houten knowing at this point that
23 Watson had the bayonet which was, of course, a much
24 stronger knife went to the hallway and called for
25 Watson to come in. To help them, and Watson did come

1 in and help stab -- she also, stabbed, she admitted at
2 her last parole hearing here in '82, that she stabbed
3 at least 14 times, described herself as feeling like
4 a shark, just repeatedly stabbing Mr. LaBianca. Mrs.
5 LaBianca was stabbed -- actually 41 times, eight fatal
6 wounds according to the coroner's. Seven of the eight
7 fatal wounds in Mrs. LaBianca's back and Miss Van Houten
8 admitted at the trial that she stabbed Mrs. LaBianca
9 in the back, although she claimed that her wounds were
10 inflicted after Rosemary LaBianca was dead.

11 But that's her story.

12 I mean, she and Watson, were there, and I
13 must say that seven of the eight fatal wounds were
14 to Mrs. LaBianca's back.

15 Now, after the murder, Miss Van Houten did
16 something completely bizarre in my estimation.

17 That was, ate food from the refrigerator.
18 I mean, how can you kill somebody in their own home and
19 then go and eat food from their refrigerator. She
20 admitted to at least drinking chocolate milk from
21 their refrigerator. She went around at nobody's
22 direction and wiped off fingerprints -- oh, I'm sorry.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Hold your point --
24 excuse me -- we have to change tapes.

25 (END OF TAPE ONE -- BEGIN TAPE TWO)

1 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay, this is Tape Two
2 in the Matter of Leslie Van Houten,

3 Continue, Mr. Kaye.

4 MR. KAYE: Thank you.

5 After drinking the chocolate milk from their
6 refrigerator, she wiped off fingerprints at nobody's
7 direction,, her own idea, places that they touched.

8 She also got some of Rosemary's, LaBianca's
9 clothes and changed into those clothes and took money
10 from the LaBiancas.

11 Now, a lot of property was left at the
12 LaBiancas. Lot of valuable coin collections, jewelry,
13 gun collection.

14 The motive for these murders was not robbery.
15 That was kind of an afterthought on Miss Van Houten's
16 part to get a little money. But the motive was, of
17 course, to (foment) a race war.

18 And certain writings in blood on the wall
19 were left in this regard, and Mr. LaBianca's blood,
20 rise was written on the inside part above the front
21 door. "Death to Pigs" on the living room walls and
22 "Helter Skelter" was written in blood on the refrigerator.

23 These were all significant terms to the
24 Manson Family indicating the blacks were starting
25 the race war rise, was taken a Beatle's song, talking

1 about blackbirds rise up in the dead of night and
2 blackbirds -- they interpreted it to mean black men
3 and this was -- these murders were committed in the
4 dead of night. There were a lot of other significant
5 things.

6 Pigs were not police. Pigs were people who
7 had nine to five jobs, kind of middle class people,
8 and this was a middle class, upper middle class neigh-
9 borhood, the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles.

10 Anyway, after the murders, she and Watson
11 and Krenwinkle hitchhiked back to the Spahn Ranch.

12 After they got there, the first thing that
13 she did was to go out and collect firewood and she
14 built a fire in one of the back house and burnt the
15 clothes she took from the LaBianca's, obviously,
16 so she couldn't be tied into that.

17 After the clothes, she sat on the bed with
18 another Manson Family member, Diane Lake, and counted
19 the money that she took from the house.

20 And then, when the fellow who gave her a ride,
21 who gave all three of them a ride, from the Griffith
22 Park area, which was near the LaBianca's house came
23 to look for her, she hid from him because she didn't
24 want to be identified as being close to that -- that
25 area, and one last thing that I think it's important

1 to point out, is that she was not on drugs at the time
2 of the murders.

3 She was not on drugs. Krenwinkel was not
4 on drugs. Watson had taken speed on the night of
5 the LaBianca murders, that Watson had not been on
6 drugs the night of the Tate Murders.

7 None of them were on drugs the night of the
8 Tate Murders. Watson was the only one who had taken
9 any drugs the night of the LaBianca murders.

10 So, they clearly all knew exactly what they
11 were doing. These were planned execution murders of
12 innocent people in the supposed safety of their home
13 to -- for the purpose of destroying society.

14 That's all I have at this point.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Kaye.

16 Do you have any questions, Miss Collier?

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: No, I don't.

18 I have been on, I think one or more of Miss
19 Van Houten's hearings and I am familiar with the
20 circumstances of the crime, with her responses.

21 I don't have any questions at this time.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

23 How about you Mr. Brown?

24 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: I have no
25 questions, they have been covered. Thank you.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO; Alright.

2 Counsel, do you wish to make any comments
3 regarding --

4 MR. BROTEK; One, you have just heard a
5 summary of the trial evidence -- the very thing from
6 preventing me from presenting to the Board.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO; Okay.

8 Then, if there are no other comments and no
9 other questions regarding the life crime, we will go
10 into the prior criminal history.

11 And I am turning the Probationer's Report
12 of April 19, 1971.

13 Before we go into the prior criminal history,
14 which is relatively short, I'd like to go a bit into
15 the social history, sort of blends into it.

16 According to the Probation Officer's Report,
17 and it starts actually on Page One. The prisoner
18 was one of two children of natural parents when the
19 prisoner was rather young, the parents divorced. I
20 believe when she was about 14 or 15.

21 Both youngsters, the prisoner and her brother
22 lived a rather natural existence in their community.
23 They both went to school. Both completed high school.
24 Graduated. Both attended college. Prisoner attended
25 Monrovia High School and then attended the (Soares)

1 Business College (spelled phonetically) for one year,
2 graduating as "certified secretary".

3 She then left her home to live in San Francisco
4 and there followed a meeting with the so-called
5 Family Members.

6 She is described as a easy-going happy young
7 lady in her formative years. Intelligence, average
8 or above. Health was good. She attended church.
9 Presbyterian Church with her family. Was quite active.
10 Sang in the choir. Went to summer camp and was a girl,
11 member of the Camp Fire Girls.

12 So there isn't anything there to indicate
13 that as far as her early years that there is going to
14 be any problems later.

15 The first evidence of problems as I can
16 read her, is when she was 15, she started using drugs,
17 serious drugs. LSD, at the age of 15, and according
18 to your own statements, she used LSD extensively.
19 She is quoted as saying "I take on weekends, make
20 LD trips. She's estimated that she's taken over 300
21 trips. None of which were bad ones."

22 She also used benzadrine in order to get
23 through high school and she had used marijuana and
24 mescaline and also sniffed methadrine, and she is also
25 quoted according to the Probation Officer's Report,

1 "Back in the old days, my best friends were the dealer."

2 And when she was living at the Spahn Ranch
3 (spelled phonetically) she is quoted as saying that
4 they smoked grass everynight. Grass meaning marijuana.

5 The arrest record -- the first entry is
6 dated April 19, 1969, I guess she was about 20, the
7 entry is for grand theft auto, but that charge was
8 dismissed for insufficient evidence. The prisoner
9 was -- she stated she was in a milk truck, along
10 with some friends and they were stopped by the police.

11 And she is quoted as saying, "Some dude was
12 driving."

13 And this is the vehicle which was -- allegedly
14 stolen but she told the police that someone had given
15 them that milk truck.

16 The next entry is for grand theft auto. No
17 Disposition Shown.

18 This was some kind of vantage vehicle found
19 at the Spahn Ranch, and she was arrested along with
20 26 other people. They spent 72 hours in custody and
21 then released to go home.

22 The next entry is dated 9-18-69, burglary,
23 it was rejected by the District Attorney's office,
24 insufficient evidence to prosecute.

25 The defendant under the name of Louise Susan

1 Alexander, along with another female, Brenda Marie
2 McKay, were arrested by the Security Agent of the
3 Broadway Store as they were allegedly making numerous
4 purchases with a stolen Broadway credit card registered
5 to W. -- looks like Stoker Tracing. This card had
6 been stolen in West Los Angeles burglary on September
7 7, '69.

8 There was insufficient evidence to prosecute.
9 The last entry before the life crime is dated 10-10-69,
10 Grand Theft Auto, the charges were dropped. The
11 prisoner explained that the final booking was that
12 of aiding and concealing stolen property which was
13 two dune buggies. A Mink and a Coyote. She admitted
14 that the co-defendants were arrested at the same time
15 of those -- nothing became of that arrest.

16 And then there is the life crime.

17 So, there's really no prior record. No
18 convictions, arrests are not, as everyone knows is
19 not a crime.

20 Of interest to any observer of the file,
21 is that for reason, this is one of the questions I
22 was going to ask the prisoner if she was going to be
23 testifying.

24 Why she used so many aliases. According to
25 police files, she has gone under various names which

1 include Leslie Mary Saxton, Leslie Sue Owens, Lu Owens,
2 Leslie Marie Owens, Lovella Alexandria, Louise Susan
3 Alexandria, Louella Maxwell Alexandria and oftentimes
4 individuals with wrongful intent give aliases to
5 police when they are confronted and I just didn't
6 know the reason why the prisoner was giving all these
7 false names.

8 Any questions from the panel members?

9 On Prior Criminal History?

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: I have no ques-
11 tions.

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I don't have any
13 questions.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay. Counsel,
15 any comments on prior criminal history?

16 MR. MROTEK: No, for the reasons stated in
17 in general objections.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay.

19 Mr. Kay, any comments?

20 MR. KAY: I have no comments.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright. We are
22 then going to -- we're now going to go into the
23 post-conviction factors, and that is the adjustment
24 in prison since the prisoner's arrival.

25 Mr. Brown?

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you.

2 In reviewing the file, I find that there's
3 no information that talks about the time in prison
4 from 1971 April 21st, until August of 1978, August 24
5 when Miss Van Houten was returned from court to CIW.

6 However, I was able to determine that the
7 original commitment was death sentence in 1971 for
8 seven counts of Murder First, and one count of Conspiracy
9 and that was commuted.

10 As a result of the death sentence being
11 abolished February 18, 1972, the judgment on the eight
12 counts were reversed and on August 17, 1976 and Miss
13 Van Houten went to trial returned with the commitment
14 at noted earlier for the two life --- three life
15 offenses.

16 The information shows that during the
17 period that Miss Van Houten was in prison '71 through
18 '76, she was housed in a special housing unit that
19 was set up especially for the special security inmates.

20 Her behavior in that living unit was listed
21 as good. Worked as a clerk in the psychiatric unit
22 after four and a half years in the special housing unit.

23 Apparently, in the special housing unit,
24 the only thing available to the inmate was moving
25 to whatever special calls were established for this.

1 Upon return from prison in August of 1978,
2 returned to prison, Miss Van Houten was placed in the
3 psychiatric treatment unit as they called it back in
4 those days and worked for the clerk -- worked as a
5 clerk in that particular unit, and also, worked in the
6 culinary unit, I believe.

7 The reports that Miss Van Houten received
8 were excellent and in April 12, 1979, Miss Van Houten
9 was transferred to the general population where she
10 worked as a clinic clerk, attended college classes.

11 The record shows that Miss Van Houten took
12 classes in alternative life styles, personality theory
13 and behavioral science and received two A's and one
14 B as her grades.

15 During this period, Miss Van Houten was
16 reported to be disciplinary free and received numerous
17 laudatory chronos.

18 Throughout the period(s) '78 to 1982, all
19 of the reports that came in on Miss Van Houten were
20 excellent, outstanding. Showed that she continued
21 to participate in various college classes, to partici-
22 pate in treatment with Dr. Maria J. (Jimaka) J-I-M-A-K-A-
23 Ph.D. on a group therapy session. Does not indicate
24 in the record on any of the chronos or in the file
25 what kind of therapy took place and without the

1 prisoner being able to talk to us on advice of attorney,
2 that will have to remain a mystery to us at this
3 hearing today.

4 The records indicate that Miss Van Houten
5 was successful in obtaining her Bachelor of Arts Degree
6 and to bring the records up to date, from 1982, '81
7 through '82, the record indicates that Miss Van Houten
8 was married in prison and also divorced.

9 That she continued to participate in self
10 help groups and the records gave a -- one self help
11 group as a long term -- a long termers organization
12 and again, we can't get any input as to what you do
13 in those groups because Miss Van Houten is on the
14 advice of attorney not participating with us.

15 And also, that she worked in the children's
16 center. We cannot get any information on what kind
17 of things she done or whatever.

18 Again, so that is going to be a mystery to
19 us.

20 Another problem I have in reviewing the file
21 is there was a letter written to the Director about
22 finding of narcotic paraphernalia that I cannot get
23 clarification on again, because of the silence in the
24 hearing.

25 The work assignment, remains as a clerk,

1 according to the information.

2 The therapy sessions, again, with Dr. Jamakas
3 from January -- October of 1984 to January 25 --
4 January 22nd 1985 was in operation and Miss Van Houten
5 was in that group until it was discontinued.

6 And it also indicates that Miss Van Houten
7 is a member of the Woman's (sic) Advisory Committee,
8 and the chronos does not indicate to us what role Miss
9 Van Houten on that committee, so we will have to leave
10 that as a mystery also to us.

11 Miss Van Houten, during the time and in the
12 California Department of Corrections has remained
13 totally disciplinary free and has received a number
14 of commendations from staff about her work -- not only
15 with this staff but with the inmates as well.

16 They are all in the file, and as such, is
17 part of the record.

18 Those who want to review them they are under
19 Section 7 Miscellaneous. Covers a number of pages.

20 Also, the work reports are there also and
21 will not be read into the record.

22 Of note is a chrono showing that Miss Van
23 Houten became involved in a vocational class of word
24 processing in April of 1984, which will go with the
25 clerical skills.

1 (Officer) would you like to comment on the
2 institutional behavior of Miss Van Houten and by asking
3 you I am also allowing the opportunity for Miss Van
4 Houten to comment if she wish with your advice.

5 MR. MORTEK: No, for the reasons stated in
6 (inaudible) general objections.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Mr. Kay?

8 MR. KAY: No, I have no comments.

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Miss Collier?

10 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I have a number of
11 questions that I'd like to ask her since she has not
12 been before the Board since 1982.

13 I can understand counsel's (dissistance) (sic)
14 that she not discuss the commitment offense because
15 of the issues that he raised, but I am having some
16 problems understanding why he is refusing to let her
17 discuss the circumstances of her institutional adjust-
18 ment especially since we all have that information in
19 front of us.

20 I don't have anything.

21 I'd like to talk to her, but since he won't
22 let her talk to us today, I have no questions at all.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Mr. Castro?

24 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Same. I have
25 questions, but I -- I -- see that there will be no

1 response.

2 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: The final
3 portion of the institutional adjustment is the psychia-
4 tric examinations, and this is done by Lloyd H. Cotter,
5 M. D. Staff Psychiatrist, here at Frontera, and he
6 goes into some of the history of Miss Van Houten.

7 In preparing for the conclusion -- covers
8 some four pages. On the third page, he specifically
9 goes into quoting Miss Van Houten as saying:

10 "she describes in having to work
11 through guilt feelings associated
12 with the LaBianca Murders. She is
13 still involved in that task, but
14 much less intensely than was the
15 case for many years."

16 And had Miss Van Houten been allowed to talk
17 with us, one of the questions would have been how she
18 is working through the LaBianca Murders at this time
19 and what she had done in the past.

20 Dr. Cotter goes on -- on his final page
21 to give a description, a psychiatric description of
22 Miss Van Houten and to give his conclusions and he
23 states in part that:

24 "Leslie is no longer dilusional.

25 Beyond that, she has done an

1 excellent job of maturing into a
2 well-rounded adult, who would never
3 again allow herself to be involved
4 in anti-social behavior."

5 He states that:

6 "He sees no contraindication to
7 her release on parole other than
8 public opinion which includes a
9 sense of outrage, senselessness
10 of the murder(s).

11 He recommends psychotherapy after
12 her release from prison."

13 And it would be left up to her perceived needs.

14 Counselor, again, (would) you allow Miss
15 Van Houten the opportunity to comment? Do you have
16 any comments?

17 MR. MROTEK: No, for the reasons stated in
18 my general objection.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Mr. Kay?

20 MR. KAY: No, I have nothing.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Mr. Castro?

22 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Yes. I have some
23 comments regarding this report. Although it is rather
24 lengthy and wordy, it doesn't speak to any transition
25 of what the doctor might have determined the prisoner

1 had at one time, being volatile or being dangerous or
2 having some psychological disorders that with time,
3 have been resolved and if they were resolved, how were
4 they resolved.

5 These are not touched upon. This is a report
6 by Dr. Cotter, and making no reference to any psycholo--
7 up to date psychological testing that was done earlier
8 and when you read that report and you look at the case
9 history, it's interesting from any observers point
10 of view that the mother of the prisoner told the
11 Probation Officer that there was concern on her part
12 to the extent that she sought help for the family.

13 It says on Page 8 of the Probation Officer's
14 Report, line 26:

15 "The mother was interested in
16 family therapy for awhile and
17 she and the defendant and two
18 younger children went to a
19 psychologist for group therapy.
20 for awhile when the defendant
21 was 15 or 16 years of age.

22 However, the defendant never
23 came off as being 'so far out
24 that he would question her'.

25 The mother had felt this necessary.

1 as there was some indication
2 of alienation from society."

3 And she was referring to the prisoner.

4 "They attended four or five
5 sessions but it got so that it
6 was not being productive. So,
7 they quit going as a family."

8 Well, that's a -- at least an indicator of possible
9 problems at that early age.

10 And you know, our assessment of an individual's
11 later criminality, it's important that we know if
12 indeed, there was some factual data to a criminal's
13 early evidence of some psychological or emotional
14 disorder, and here we have this information in the
15 document described by the Probation Officer.

16 And there's no indication of any earlier
17 turmoil by the current psychiatric report. I don't
18 know why.

19 Those are comments that I would be asking
20 the prisoner. If she discussed with Dr. Cotter, how
21 she felt at the time of the murder, murders, the
22 killing and the stabbing and the ultimate and violence.

23 Because, certainly, there was a struggle
24 going on within her between what was right, what she
25 knew to be right and yet what she proceeded in doing

1 and if we believe some of these reports, she, indeed,
2 was not under the influence of anything at the time
3 of the killing.

4 Well then, the question is, if we are to
5 make a decision today, on the suitability of parole
6 we really have to turn over every rock to make sure
7 that we're not making a mistake.

8 (END OF TAPE TWO)

9 (BEGIN TAPE THREE)

10 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: This is Tape Number
11 Three in the Matter of Leslie Van Houten.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: There was mention
13 made in the current psychiatric report of insight.

14 Well, it would be interested (sic) in knowing
15 on what basis that the prisoner gained this insight
16 and what does the doctor mean by insight.

17 One, I don't know how one can obtain an
18 impression of one's insight unless you hear that person
19 speak.

20 And as we've indicated during this hearing,
21 we certainly honor the right of counsel to keep his
22 client from speaking for purposes best known to him.

23 But, I am indicating for the record the
24 problems that we encounter when a prisoner remains
25 mute on these issues. That's what bothers me about

1 this report.

2 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you,
3 Miss Collier?

4 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I don't have anything.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Ms. Dominguez,
6 on the institutional phase of the hearing, do you
7 have any comments or clarifications that you wish to
8 present to the panel.

9 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Uh, okay. As far as I have
10 indicated that Leslie due to a custody change, she
11 has she has signed up the (WAC) election and she's
12 been elected in her unit as being a WAC representative
13 for (DM's Cottage) (spelled phonetically), and she's
14 been WAC member for the past, about two weeks now.

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: About WAC,
16 you are referring to Woman's Advisory Council?

17 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Advisory Council.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Okay.

19 Thank you.

20 Counsel, you have the final opportunity to
21 make a statement to the Board on this phase of the
22 hearing.

23 MR. MROTEK: (inaudible)

24 (Transcriber's Note - Mr. Mro-
25 tek is not properly miked and
is mostly inaudible).

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Mr. Chairman,
2 that concludes this phase.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Brown.
4 And how we are going to discuss projected parole plans.
5 Miss Collier?

6 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Thank you, Mr. Castro.
7 The Board Report has very limited information
8 on what Miss Van Houten plans to do.

9 It has already been entered into the record
10 that she is divorced and, of course, would not be
11 paroling to her ex-husband.

12 Her plans are not definite at this time.

13 However, there is a statement in the report
14 that indicates that because of the notoriety of her
15 case, she does anticipate some problems on parole.

16 And because of that, she might be considering
17 an out of state parole.

18 We have in our packets, approximately 150
19 letters, some handwritten, some typed, from people
20 in the community who are urging the Board to release
21 Miss Van Houten on parole.

22 Noteworthy, there is another, a letter
23 from her brother Paul Van Houten. There is also a
24 letter from Michael Rotkin, R-O-T-K-I-N, Santa Cruz
25 City Council and there is also a letter which is

1 noteworthy from Carlene Faith, who was Miss Van Houten's
2 tutor when she was attending school in 1972.

3 So, while she is not giving testimony
4 regarding parole plans, the fact that we have received
5 all of these letters, does indicate that she does
6 have community and family support.

7 Mr. Kay, in the area of parole plans?

8 MR. KAY: Well, the only thing that I wanted
9 to point out, I know that that there are those letters
10 in there, however, last year, as a result of a petition
11 drive by Sharon Tate's mother, Gwynne Tate, close to
12 well-somewhere between 150,000 and 200,000 letters
13 were submitted to the Board of Prison Terms for
14 Mr. Watson's case and Van Houten, Manson, Krenwinkle
15 and Atkins, all of these letters and petitions going
16 against their being released on parole.

17 And these letters and petitions were not
18 just from California. They were from throughout the
19 United States.

20 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Thank you.

21 Mr. Castro, anything in this area?

22 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: I have nothing.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Mr. Brown?

24 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: (inaudible) --

25 Mr. Kay, letters from last year?

1 MR.KAY: Yes, this was a petition drive, last
2 year, spearheaded by Gwynne Tate, Sharon Tate's mother
3 to have parole denied for all five of the defendants
4 involved in the Tate/LaBianca Murders.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you.

6 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Anything, Mr.
7 Brown?

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Nothing further.

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Counsel, anything
10 in this area?

11 MR. MROTEK: No.

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay, thank you.
13 Mr. Castro, I'll turn it back to you.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you, Miss
15 Collier.

16 Okay, we reached the point of the hearing
17 where we are going to hear closing arguments before
18 the recess and we'll first ask Mr. Kay, and then,
19 counsel, to make any comments. Mr. Kay?

20 MR. KAY: Thank you, Mr. Castro.

21 I think we should concentrate first on Leslie
22 Van Houten as a person. She is a very intelligent
23 woman and Miss Van Houten, more so than any other
24 member of the Manson Family knew better than to get
25 involved in committing murder.

1 You might be interested to know what is part
2 of the record that she has been tested to have an
3 I.Q. of 125 which puts her in the top five percent
4 of people in the United States.

5 When she was young, she had everything going
6 her way. She was bright. She had a good loving family.
7 She was popular. As a matter of fact, she was even
8 elected Homecoming Princess at Monrovia High School.

9 But, she wasn't satisfied in living a normal
10 life as Mr. Castro pointed out, she turned to drugs
11 when she was 15.

12 Well, that's very significant because her
13 peer group was not involved in drugs. Miss Van Houten
14 admitted at the trial that she had to seek out people
15 that were using drugs because her peer group was not
16 using drugs.

17 And here we have the Homecoming Princess and
18 we've all been to high school and we know the popularity
19 of Homecoming Princesses and Queens. Well, Miss Van
20 Houten got involved with a boy who had been kicked out
21 of another high school, sent to Monrovia High, was kind
22 of a dropout. She got involved with him. Got pregnant,
23 had an abortion and was using drugs.

24 After high school, Miss Van Houten got her
25 act together, went to Sawyers Business College where she

1 graduated at the top of her class as a certified
2 legal secretary. Not just a secretary, but a certified
3 legal secretary.

4 She, however, did not want to work.

5 So, she ran away and went to San Francisco,
6 and got together with Bobbie (Boselay) (spelled phoneti-
7 cally) and Bobbie Boselay, as I am sure the Board is
8 aware, was later convicted of the murder of Gary Hinman.

9 He's a Manson Family Member.

10 And, Miss Van Houten, Boselay, and another
11 woman lived as a group of three, traveling around
12 Northern California, and then, she met Manson, through
13 Boselay, and then decided that she liked Manson and
14 then went down on her own to join up with Manson and
15 The Family.

16 Now, Manson, was, obviously, an ex-con at
17 the time and the thing that irritates me is that
18 people refer to Manson and The Family as hippies.

19 There were absolutely not hippies.

20 As a matter of fact, they referred to them-
21 selves as "Slippies" because they would
22 slip under the awareness of society. That society
23 would think that they were hippies.

24 Well, hippies were peace loving flower child-
25 ren. Make love, not war. Yes, they were anti-establish-

1 ment but they were very non-violent people. The Family
2 was not non-violent.

3 Manson would tell members of The Family how
4 Hitler was his hero for what he did to the Jewish People
5 in World War II and he wanted to make a master race.

6 There were no minorities in The Family because
7 Manson was a follower of (Nietzsch) and wanted to construct
8 a master race.

9 In the hearing in 1982, Miss Van Houten
10 admitted that when The Family started turning towards
11 violence and I make a distinction between talking about
12 and turning, when they actually started turning towards
13 violence, she made a conscious decision to stay and
14 not leave. Although others did leave.

15 Recently, Miss Van Houten, continuing her
16 pattern married this con man, William (Sywynn) (spelled
17 phonetically) an ex-con, I believe at Atlanta and Mr.
18 Sywynn was brought up in the hearing in 1982 when he
19 was arrested, had a female prison guard's uniform
20 in his possession from this prison and there is some
21 indication that maybe he had plans of getting her out
22 other than by having her granted parole.

23 Miss Van Houten is definite follower. She is
24 not a leader and she has a history of following unstable
25 males. From this Maacke (spelled phonetically) in high

1 school to Boselay, to Manson, to Sywynn, and I think
2 that's -- that should be of great concern to the
3 Board because if she gets released on parole, who is
4 she going to follow. I mean she is not a leader.

5 Yes, it is nice that she has been elected
6 to some office here in prison, but from reading the
7 record and knowing her as long as I have, I mean,
8 she is not a follower. She was a not a follower
9 at the time of the murders, and I doubt very much
10 that -- I mean, she was not a leader at the time
11 of the murders, and I doubt very much that she is
12 a leader today. She will follow another unstable
13 male if you leave her out.

14 Now, whether that will be a Manson type
15 that will lead her to murder, I don't think we can
16 say, I think that's one of the big problems that
17 we just don't know what she's going to do but we
18 have to learn from history, and history is the
19 best teacher we have and as late as 1982, with
20 this marriage to Sywynn, she's continuing the
21 same pattern which is not a good pattern to show
22 her suitability for parole.

23 It's nice that she is doing well in prison
24 and I commend her for that, but this is not unusual
25 because all of the Manson Family people with the

1 exception of Manson are doing well in prison. They're
2 smart. You know, there's not -- I have not met a dumb
3 Manson Family Member. These are mostly middle class
4 people with college educations. Sandy Good and Mary
5 Bruner, both college graduates. Bruce Davis had two
6 years at the University of Tennessee. Watson is a college
7 -- yes --

8 BOARD MEMBER CASTRO: Miss Van Housen, those
9 nikes are very very sensitive and if you are going to
10 whisper to your attorney, cover them up because your
11 comments are going to be on the tape.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: OH, alright, (inaudible)

13 BOARD MEMBER CASTRO: Okay, continue, Mr. Kay.

14 MR. KAY: Watson is a college graduate and
15 their, they know that the only way that they are ever
16 going to get out is to try to impress the Board with
17 their behavior.

18 So, it's not surprising that they are all
19 well-behaved. Miss Van Houten is not the only well-
20 behaved one.

21 But, I think that we have to, decididing on
22 her suitability that the Board really has to look at the
23 history in this case. What she did and not only what
24 she is like now, but kind of the pattern that she is
25 established about falling in with these unstable males.

1 I would respectfully ask the Board to find
2 Miss Van Houten unsuitable for parole at this time
3 and deny her parole for a three year period.

4 Certain reasons that I would suggest are
5 important, are the gravity of the offenses. I think
6 that these crimes are among the most brutal senseless
7 crimes in the history of American crime.

8 People that were murdered for no good reason
9 at all. And these crimes scared society. I mean, L.A.
10 was in shock at the time of these murders because it
11 could have been anybody. Anybody living in L.A. who
12 was white middle class could have been murdered by
13 these people who were just looking to start a race war
14 and here, she wants, she's here today asking to be
15 released on parole to a society that she attempted
16 to destroy.

17 I mean, the whole purpose of these murders
18 was to destroy society. To start a race war. To blame
19 the murders on the blacks and then have the whites
20 start killing the blacks, and the blacks killing the
21 white, so that everybody except a few black people
22 would be killed, except, of course, Manson and The
23 Family who, eventually, because they felt that the
24 blacks were not capable of holding power would then
25 rush to Manson and The Family and turnover all power to

1 them so that Manson would rule at least the United
2 States. It was never clear whether it was the world,
3 but at least the United States, and for her to believe
4 in this, enough to go out and murder innocent people,
5 is -- almost defies belief.

6 I think that an important consideration here
7 is how the public views these crimes and the public
8 unquestionably views these crimes as the -- at the
9 top of the spectrum of crime in the United States.

10 And I mean, that has to be considered. The
11 petition drive last year, the thousands and thousands
12 of petitions against parole, not only for Miss Van
13 Houten but for her crime partners.

14 At the time of the crimes, we have to look
15 at what she did. I mean she described herself as
16 feeling like a shark, stabbing Mrs. LaBianca.

17 Well, do we want to release a shark into
18 society? I think not.

19 She was a very willing participant in the
20 murders as the facts show. Extremely willing.

21 I mean, she even decided that she wanted
22 to participate in the murders before Manson asked her.

23 Some of the Family Members blame Manson for
24 everything, but here she admitted it at trial that she
25 wanted to join the conspiracy even before she was asked

1 and that she thought about it on her own.

2 It wasn't that Manson programmed her and put
3 all these words into her head.

4 She weighed for two days the question of
5 whether or not she could participate in murder and
6 she decided that she would. And she, in fact, did.

7 I think the callous activity on her part
8 after the murders, at least she admitted drinking
9 chocolate milk from the LaBianca's refrigerator.

10 Again, that defies comprehension, how anybody
11 could have the stomach for food after these brutal
12 murders, after these two innocent people were butchered
13 blood all over the place, blood writing being written
14 on the walls and yet, to have an appetite to go in
15 and drink chocolate milk from the refrigerator.

16 She was not in a daze or a trance or anything
17 at the -- at the time of the murders. I mean, immedi-
18 ately after the killing, she went around wiping off
19 finger prints, which is what a clever criminal would
20 do, so they wouldn't be caught, and, of course,
21 she was successful, because there were no fingerprints
22 of any of the murderers found out the LaBianca residence.

23 She took clothes, to change clothes, and
24 when she got back to the Spahn Ranch, immediately
25 collected firewood and started burning the clothes again

1 to destroy evidence and then, sat on the bed to count
2 money.

3 I mean this is -- yes, the crimes happened
4 a long time ago but her degree of participation, her
5 serious degree of participation in this. She was not
6 a lookout, just standing outside the front door,
7 warning them when somebody was coming. She was a
8 very active participant and this is not your usual
9 run of the mill murder cases.

10 I mean, this is one of the most serious
11 not that every murder case isn't serious, but one
12 of the most serious in the history of the United States.

13 And plus this, her pattern continued pattern
14 of following with unstable males.

15 For all these reasons, I would respectfully
16 ask the Board to find Miss Van Houten unsuitable for
17 parole and to deny her parole consideration for a
18 period of three years.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Kay.
20 Counsel?

21 MR. MROTEK: One comment, again, (inaudible)
22 find my client unsuitable on the basis (inaudible)
23 -- the trial, evidence as to which I (inaudible)

24 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: That's it?

25 MR. MROTEK: Thank you, yes.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Okay, we are going
2 to take a -- well, let me ask for the record, does
3 the prisoner wish to make any comment?

4 MR. MRDEK: No.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: (inaudible).

7 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright. Certainly.
8 The time now is 11:19. The prisoner has to be escorted
9 out first, then we will clear the room.

10 (Thereupon the room was cleared
11 and the hearing of the Board of
12 Prison Terms recessed for
13 deliberation by the Board.)

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RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

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3 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: We're back in
4 session after a recess of deliberation and all partici-
5 pants who were in the room prior to the recess have
6 reassembled.

7 It is the unanimous decision of this Panel
8 that we find the prisoner unsuitable for parole.

9 And unsuitable insofar as that if given
10 projected parole date at this time, would result
11 in an unreasonable to the community safety at large.

12 The findings include the following:

13 The Panel gave considerable weight to the
14 life crime that literally shocked the conscience of
15 our society.

16 Here were a group of individuals that included
17 the prisoner, who planned the killing of innocent
18 people, randomly selected in order to follow through
19 with their objective of a racial disharmony among our
20 society.

21 The degree of violence administered with use
22 of knives on the murdered victims in the sanctity of
23 their own home, revealed a callous disregard for
24 human life.

25 The ultimate act of writing threats on the

1 walls of the victim's home gave further evidence of the
2 prisoner's contempt for the victims by not even granting
3 them any degree of dignity, even after their death.

4 And further degradation by eating their
5 food and stealing their property.

6 The Panel considered the prisoner's early
7 evidence of unstable behavior at the age of fifteen.

8 When extensive use of dangerous drugs such
9 as LSD became her lifestyle.

10 The concern for the victim was revealed by
11 her mother who anticipating a personality disorder
12 of some type, being experienced by Leslie Van Houten,
13 resulted in family counseling, until it became evident
14 the sessions were not resulting in any change.

15 The prisoner, prisoner's willingness to join
16 a marauding group of individuals whose purpose was to
17 commit crimes against society requires continued
18 monitoring of the prisoner who was involved in one of
19 the most heinous crimes on record.

20 The prisoner is commended for her continued
21 good work, grades, her educational achievements, that
22 include a Bachelor of Arts Degree and her ability to
23 remain disciplinarily free during the past three years
24 earning laudatory chronos for her conduct.

25 The Panel concluded that the denial would be

1 for one year, due to the prisoner's good adjustment.

2 It is recommended by this Panel that the
3 prisoner continue to program as reflected by the most
4 current Board Reports.

5 That concludes this hearing, at 12:15 P.M.

6 I want to indicate to the prisoner that
7 as noted, during the hearing, it became a little
8 disconcerting that the prisoner under advice of counsel
9 was not able to speak and yet if she continues to
10 program the way it's been noted, her suitability for
11 parole, the issue of suitability is much closer than
12 she might realize, although it's a disappointment to
13 her. It is recommended that you continue to do what
14 you have been doing.

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Thank you, very much.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: Alright.

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Good luck to you.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Thank you.

19 MR. MROTEK: Thank you.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER CASTRO: The hearing ends
21 at 12:16 p.m.

22 (Thereupon this hearing before the
23 Board of Prison Terms was adjourned
24 at 12:16 p.m.)

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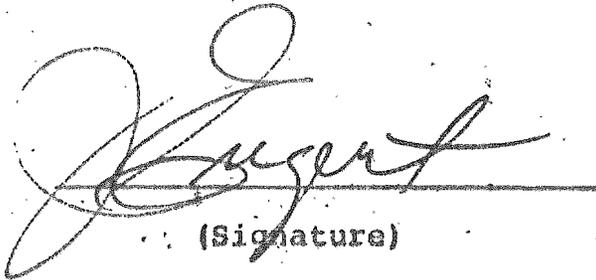
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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2
3 I, J. Engert, an employee and
4 transcriber for WM. E. HENDERSCHIED & ASSOCIATES, do
5 hereby certify:

6 That I am a disinterested person herein; that the
7 foregoing Board of Prison Terms hearing was transcribed
8 by me into typewriting from electronic tape recording
9 produced by the Board of Prison terms.

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

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
14 this 22nd day of June 1985

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(Signature)