

1 LIFE TERM PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

3 BOARD OF PRISON TERMS

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

7 SUSAN DENISE ATKINS.

CDC No. W-8704

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11 CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

12 16756 CHINO-CORONA ROAD

13 FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

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16 ORIGINAL

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19 TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1980

20 9:45 A.M.

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25 Reported by:

DIANE M. HOLNBACH
C.S.R. License No. 4022

PANEL MEMBERS

1
2 Mr. Ray Brown, Presiding Member

3 Ms. Loretta Collier, Board Member

4 Mr. Percy B. Crow, Hearing Representative

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10 APPEARANCES

11 For Inmate Susan Denise Atkins:

12 RICHARD CABALLERO, Esq.
13 280 South Beverly Drive, Suite 200
14 Beverly Hills, California 90212

15 For the County of Los Angeles:

16 STEPHEN R. KAY, Esq.
17 Deputy District Attorney
18 210 West Temple
19 Los Angeles, California 90012

20 ALSO PRESENT

21 Mr. Gilbert Vasquez, Correctional Counsellor II

22 Mr. Richard Brooks, San Bernardino Sun

23 Ms. Linda Deutsch, Associated Press

24 Ms. Mary Lou Fenili, Esq., observer
25

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PROCEEDINGS

---c00---

PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Let's get on the record.

This is a subsequent parole consideration hearing for inmate Susan Atkins whose B number is 8304. The hearing is being conducted at the California Institution for Women in Fontana on July 29, 1980, and the time is now approximately 9:45 a.m.

The following persons are present in the room.

My name is Ray Brown. I am a member of the Board of Prison Terms. I will be presiding at your hearing this morning. To my right is Miss Lorretta Collier, who is also a member of the Board of Prison Terms. It should be noted for the record that she was present at last year's hearing. Also to my left is Mr. Percy Crow, a hearing representative of the Board of Prison Terms.

The inmate is present in the room with her attorney, Richard --

MR. CABALLERO: Caballero.

PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: -- Caballero, C-a-b-a-l-l-e-r-o. Representing the County of Los Angeles, the District Attorney's Office, is Stephen Kay.

MR. KAY: (Nods head.)

PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Also present in the room is G. R. Vasquez, Correctional Counsellor II, representing the institution. Under Board of Prison Terms Rule 2029, an

1 observer at the hearing today who will not participate in
2 the hearing, an employee of the Board of Prison Terms, is
3 Mary Lou Penilli at the table.

4 Also, under Board of Prison Terms Rule 2011, there
5 are two members of the press present at the hearing this
6 morning -- Linda Deutsch, D-e-u-t-s-c-h, representing the
7 Associated Press and Richard Brooks, representing the San
8 Bernardino Sun.

9 The hearing is being conducted pursuant to State
10 Code Sections 3041, 3042 and the regulations of the Board of
11 Prison Terms governing parole consideration hearings for
12 life prisoners.

13 The purpose of today's hearing is to consider your
14 suitability for parole. In doing this, we will be consider-
15 ing the number and nature of the crimes for which you were
16 committed to State Prison, your criminal history or lack of
17 it prior to this commitment, and your behavior since your
18 commitment.

19 We will reach a decision and inform you whether
20 we find you suitable for parole or not and the reasons for
21 our decision. If we find that you are suitable for parole,
22 the length of your confinement and the specific factors lead-
23 ing to this determination will be explained to you.

24 The hearing will be divided into four phases. The
25 first is the commitment offenses themselves. The second

1 phase is the prior criminal history. The third phase is
2 post-conviction factors or institution adjustment. And the
3 last phase is any parole plans that you may have.

4 All of the members of the panel will participate
5 in this discussion. And our purpose is to make certain we
6 understand the facts involved in your case and that we
7 explore all potential factors of parole suitability. Our
8 questions and our interests will be directed solely to the
9 issue of whether you can be released on parole.

10 After the discussion phase of this hearing, we
11 will recess the hearing, clear the room, deliberate, make a
12 decision, call you back in the room, and tell you what that
13 decision is.

14 At the outset we would say that Section 3042 re-
15 quiring notices to be given of this hearing has been
16 complied with in this case. And we have received responses
17 from the Los Angeles Police Department dated 7/9/80 from a
18 Captain W. Cobb and a response from Judge Choate, dated
19 6/3/80. They will be considered as required by law.

20 Also, you have a right during the hearing today
21 to testify, if you choose to do so.

22 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

23 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: If you are going to
24 testify today, and if that decision has been made, I'll place
25 you under oath at this time.

1 MR. CABALLERO: Why don't you place her under oath
2 And this way, if we do decide she will already be under oath.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: And Mr. Vasquez, are you
4 going to testify to the institutional adjustment today?

5 MR. VASQUEZ: If I'm questioned.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Well, let's rise and both
7 of you will be placed under oath. Rise and raise your right
8 hand.

9 (Thereupon Inmate Susan Denise Atkins and
10 Mr. Gilbert R. Vasquez were, by Presiding
11 Member Brown, sworn to tell the truth,
12 the whole truth, and nothing but the
13 truth.)

14 MR. VASQUEZ: I do.

15 INMATE ATKINS: I do.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Be seated. The inmate
17 has certain rights at this hearing. I'd like to make sure
18 that those rights have been met. The first is that you're
19 ready to proceed this morning.

20 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, we're ready.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: You have had an oppor-
22 tunity to review the documents in this case, the C file?

23 MR. CABALLERO: Yes.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: And that you've had
25 adequate notice?

1 MR. CABALLERO: Yes.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: And do you have any
3 reason to feel that anyone of the three panel members cannot
4 give your client a fair trial or hearing?

5 MR. CABALLERO: No.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Do you have any reason?

7 INMATE ATKINS: No.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: All of the information we
9 have been considering is contained in a listing of the
10 documents which both of you should have. I have perused
11 in some dates on some of those documents to further identify
12 which documents we are talking about. If those are in fact
13 the documents you have, then I'll make that a part of the
14 hearing today and make it Document Number 1.

15 MR. CABALLERO: Thank you.

16 MR. KAY: Okay.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Okay. It will become
18 Document Number 1.

19 (Thereupon the above-mentioned document
20 was, by Presiding Member Brown, marked
21 as Board Exhibit Number 1 in evidence.)

22 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: You'll notice the hearing
23 is being recorded. You're entitled to a verbatim transcript
24 of the hearing today. And the way you get that is, after
25 the hearing is over, you see your correctional counsellor.

1 There is a form that you get to fill out and send to
2 Sacramento.

3 INMATE ATKINS: # 02-hub.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: It takes about 30 days
5 for the company to transcribe the material. It's sent back
6 to you. You may use the document itself for any appeal
7 purposes that you may decide to pursue, if any. And appeal
8 rights are found starting at Section 2050 in the Board of
9 Prison Terms Rules.

10 At this time, I'm going to read into the record
11 what the commitment offenses are in this case. We note, that
12 the inmate was received on 4/23/71, one count of murder in
13 the first degree, Los Angeles County Case Number A-253156,
14 Count Number 1. The minimum eligible parole date in this
15 offense is 10/6/76, and that is by reason of the fact that
16 there is a later parole date in Case A-267861. She was also
17 received on this same case number for murder in the first-
18 degree, Count 2; murder in the first degree, Count 3;
19 murder in the first degree, Count 4; murder in the first
20 degree, Count 5; murder in the first degree, Count 6; murder
21 in the first degree, Count 7. And there is one stayed
22 count in this case, a conspiracy to commit murder, which is
23 Count Number 8.

24 The inmate was also received on 6/1/71 with a term
25 to start on 5/28/71, one count of murder in the first degree.

1 in this case.

2 First, does the inmate's counsel have any prelimi-
3 nary objections that you'd like to make at this time?

4 MR. CABALLERO: No, none at all.

5 MR. KAY: No, I don't have any either.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: All right. Let's proceed,
7 then. Are there any comments from the inmate or the inmate's
8 counsel relative to the commitment offenses?

9 MR. CABALLERO: No comments.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Kay?

11 MR. KAY: Well, I don't have any comments, if
12 you're just going to read that. I would like to comment
13 later on some of the activities that the defendant did during
14 the offenses, but I don't --

15 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Well, I think this is the
16 time to do that. If there is anything to do with any of the
17 murder offenses, specifically related to the murder offenses
18 themselves, this is the time to do that.

19 MR. CABALLERO: I have a statement in that regard.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: All right.

21 MR. CABALLERO: We have, as you indicated, three
22 phases to discuss.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Four.

24 MR. CABALLERO: Well, as far as the first two phases
25 are concerned, the past background and the crimes involved,

1 we've had, in all of the these reports that we've indicated
2 by Document Number 1, what's included in the reports, in the
3 background, and what you've all read.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Yes.

5 MR. CABALLERO: It's in there over and over again,
6 what Mr. Kay has to say, again and again, unless there has
7 been some new evidence discovered. I don't see why we have
8 to go through phase one and two when we already have it
9 here. If we're going to re-try and re-live the incidents
10 every year before we come before the Board, and every year
11 we have a parole hearing, and the parole officers read it
12 for the first time, and we are going to re-build on that
13 which is already in there just to re-emphasize that which
14 is already in there, what we're doing is being redundant
15 and placing what I consider to be unfair and undue emphasis
16 on the incidents that occurred over 12 years ago.

17 If there is something new, then I say we should
18 hear it. But if there is nothing new, then why should we
19 reiterate that which is already before you which you've
20 indicated by Document Number 1 that you already have?
21 And I don't see why we have to go through that again. And
22 this is my objection.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Your objection is over-
24 ruled. The Board of Prison Terms rule provides for the
25 opportunity for comment to be made upon each of the various

1 phases of the hearing we go through today. There may be
 2 information here already, but there is still an opportunity
 3 both for you and for the District Attorney's Representative
 4 to make any comments that he wishes to make relative to those
 5 two areas. He is aware of what the transcript of last
 6 year's hearing is and so is the panel. But he's still
 7 allowed to comment. So, your objection is overruled.

8 MR. KAY: Actually, in last year's hearing we
 9 didn't discuss the crime as much as we did in the first
 10 parole hearing, which took place two years ago which I
 11 believe you have.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: We have that transcript
 13 also.

14 MR. KAY: That's part of the file. Mr. Caballero
 15 represented Miss Atkins during the first hearing, and Miss
 16 Atkins represented herself at last year's hearing. I just --
 17 I wonder if I can inquire, before making comments, whether
 18 the members of the Board are familiar with the transcripts
 19 of the first hearing --

20 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Yes.

21 MR. KAY: -- since that is the more complete, has
 22 a more complete discussion of the crimes and Miss Atkin's
 23 participation in the crimes.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: We have both the '78 and
 25 the '79 transcripts.

1 MR. KAY: Okay. I'd just like to make a few
 2 comments about Miss Atkin's participation in the three
 3 different murders. Originally, she participated in the
 4 murder of Gary Hinman, which was a robbery murder and
 5 involved the torture of Mr. Hinman. Miss Atkins participated
 6 in that torture. She admitted at the penalty phase
 7 of her trial in the Tate-LaBianca murders that she stabbed
 8 Mr. Hinman. Mr. Hinman was stabbed a number of times, with
 9 Mr. Beausoleil actually inflicting what I believe to be
 10 the fatal stab wound on Mr. Hinman.

11 But Miss Atkins participated in the torture of
 12 Mr. Hinman, got him, when he was dying, in a very weak
 13 condition, to sign over his property, the pink slip to two
 14 cars. She participated in searching his house for property,
 15 because Manson and the family believed that Mr. Hinman had
 16 come into an inheritance. And they wanted to get his
 17 property to use it to increase the wealth of the members of
 18 the Manson family. Miss Atkins, admittedly, she pled
 19 guilty to the Hinman murder, that she held the pillow over
 20 Mr. Hinman's face.

21 Miss Van Houten testified at her trial, which is
 22 in the record here, that when Miss Atkins came back to the
 23 ranch after the murder that she had so much remorse that
 24 she came back with a big grin on her face, stating, "We
 25 killed him." And she spent the next several weeks sharpening

1 knives, waiting for the next opportunity.

2 The next opportunity came on the early morning
3 hours of August 9th when she participated in the murders at
4 the Tate house. She was an active participant in those
5 murders. She stabbed Voytek Frykowski in different parts
6 of his body. He ended up being stabbed 51 times, probably --
7 well, I believe that most of those stab wounds were
8 inflicted by Tex Watson. But Miss Atkins did administer
9 some of those stab wounds.

10 She also, along with Mr. Watson, participated in
11 killing Sharon Tate. And I think that one of the most
12 shocking statements that I think I've ever heard in my
13 13 years as a deputy district attorney was made in the
14 confession by Miss Atkins to two of her cellmates as to how
15 she killed Sharon Tate. She said that -- Miss Atkins said
16 that Sharon was the last to die. And she laughed when she
17 said that. And she said, Miss Atkins said, that she held
18 Sharon Tate's arm's behind her, that Sharon Tate looked at
19 her and was crying and begging. I should state that Sharon
20 Tate was eight and a half months pregnant at the time.

21 Sharon Tate said to her, "Please, don't kill me.
22 Please, don't kill me. I don't want to die. I want to live.
23 I want to have my baby. I want to have my baby."

24 Susan Atkins then said she looked Sharon Tate
25 straight in the eye and said, quote, "Look, bitch. I don't

1 care about you. I don't care if you're going to have a
2 baby. You had better be ready. You're going to die, and
3 I don't feel anything about it." And then, she killed her.

4 She told one of her cellmates that "I just kept
5 stabbing her until she stopped screaming." And Watson came
6 in and inflicted some stab wounds himself. After the murder,
7 Miss Atkins took a towel and dipped it in the blood of
8 Sharon Tate and wrote on the front door of the Tate residence
9 the word "pig" she also stated that she tasted the blood of
10 Sharon Tate.

11 The victims at the Tate house suffered 107 stab
12 wounds, total. Sharon Tate had 16 stab wounds inflicted on
13 her.

14 The motive, of course, is spelled out in the prior
15 transcripts. And I believe the motive to be Helter Skelter,
16 as I have stated previously, and that that motivated Miss
17 Atkin's conduct. Also, the testimony at the trials was that
18 the defendants were not on drugs at the time of the murders.

19 The next night, which would be the third incident,
20 the night of the LaBianca murders, Miss Atkins -- oh, I
21 do want to point out one thing. Before she left on the Tate
22 murders, she talked to one of the ranch hands, Juan Flynn,
23 who was the young man back from Vietnam. And she tried to
24 get him to go along with the murders. She said, quote,
25 "We're going into to town kill some mother-fucking pigs."

1 And that "pigs," in the parlance of the Manson Family,
2 referred to white, middle-class people, which is what they
3 were after.

4 On the night of the LaBianca incident, they spent
5 many hours traveling around the County of Los Angeles look-
6 ing at random for people to murder, including stopping at
7 a church where they were going to look for the priest or a
8 minister, but they didn't realize what denomination the
9 church was. It turned out to be a Congregational Church.
10 But they were going to kill the minister or the priest and
11 string him up to the cross in the front of the church.

12 Miss Atkins was ready to kill again that night.
13 She wasn't asked to go into the LaBianca residence. That
14 was Miss Krenwinkel, Mr. Watson and Miss Van Houten that
15 actually went in. But then, Miss Atkins went from that
16 point to the Venice area where she and Mr. Grogan, who was
17 along that night, and Linda Kasabian were instructed to kill
18 an Israeli actor who had befriended some members of the
19 family before. And Miss Atkins was instructed to slit the
20 actor's throat and Mr. Grogan to shoot him.

21 Ms. Kasabian testified at the trial that she
22 didn't want to kill anybody. So, she knocked on the wrong
23 door that she knew was the wrong door, since she was the
24 only one there before. And when somebody else answered, she
25 said, "I have the wrong house." And they went back to the

1 ranch after that. But on the way back, Miss Atkins had such
2 remorse for her actions that she was singing most of the
3 trip back to the ranch.

4 I don't believe that other than the factors that
5 I've related in the prior hearings, especially at the first
6 hearing where I think I spent over an hour detailing her
7 participation, that I have any more comments at this time.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Caballero?

9 MR. CABALLERO: I have heard nothing new, and
10 comments and responses and Susan Atkins' comments and
11 responses are adequately set forth in both of those trans-
12 cripts before you.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Panel members, any
14 questions relative to the commitment offenses?

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Not at this time.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I have no questions.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Let's turn, then, to
18 the prior record in this case. And the prior record, again,
19 was discussed at last year's hearing. It starts at page
20 45 of the transcript of last year's hearing and goes on to
21 pages -- to page 52, as well as there is a description in
22 the CI and I rap sheet, which is a part of the hearing
23 package today. There are two pages of that document and
24 the transcript references to the CI and I document. And
25 the panel has that in front of us in terms of what the prior

1 record is in this case.

2 We can incorporate that by reference and then
3 allow leave to comment on the prior record if either of
4 you desire to do that. First, Mr. Caballero, any further
5 comments?

6 MR. CABALLERO: No. I have read this and the
7 prior transcript that I participated in. We have nothing
8 to add.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Kay?

10 MR. CABALLERO: Nothing has changed, and there is
11 nothing new to my knowledge.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Kay?

13 MR. KAY: The only thing I'd like to bring to the
14 attention of the panel members is to point out, again, that
15 offense up in Oregon where she was arrested. I know we
16 talked about it last year, but she was arrested on the car
17 theft. And she had a loaded gun on her. And when it was
18 discovered, she told the Oregon police officer, "I should
19 have killed you." Other than that, I have no comment.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Okay. Let's turn, then,
21 to the third phase of the hearing, which is the institutional
22 adjustment. Mr. Crow will lead a discussion in this area.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. Last
24 year's transcript contains 24 pages of testimony and dis-
25 cussion relative to institution adjustment, which appears to

1 have been somewhat of a resume of institutional problems
2 and various items that had occurred up to that point.

3 Rather than covering the same ground that has been covered
4 before, I'd like to incorporate this part of the transcript
5 by reference as to bringing institution adjustment up to
6 that point, and then proceed from there for the following
7 year. Is that agreeable?

8 MR. CABALLERO: I've no objection to that at all.
9 I have read the reports.

10 MR. KAY: I have no objection.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. The
12 main source of information for this following year seems
13 to be classification memorandas. It appears that Miss
14 Atkins is seen approximately every 90 days for a classifica-
15 tion review.

16 Beginning in July, she was continued in her pre-
17 sent program, in which she was working as watch clerical.
18 There was some discussion regarding permission to marry
19 that had been denied, and an appeal was being made to
20 Sacramento. Would you care to comment on that?

21 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, only that Sacramento concurred
22 with the institution's decision that I not be allowed to
23 have a service in regards to a marriage and that in August
24 of last year, after thinking through my engagement and having
25 a little bit more time to talk with Mr. Holbrook, I came to

1 the conclusion that he wasn't all he had purported to be to
2 me. And I broke the engagement in August of 1969.

3 MR. CABALLERO: Seventy-nine.

4 INMATE ATKINS: Seventy-nine, excuse me. Seventy-
5 nine.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Yes. There was
7 some discussion last year relative to the engagement. And
8 as I recall, in reading the transcript, you had indicated
9 that you had withdrawn from that situation, and you
10 weren't as eager for the marriage as you had apparently
11 been before.

12 INMATE ATKINS: Right.

13 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: But then, then it
14 warmed up again, apparently?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I think you're mistaking a
16 previous involvement I had with a man in '77 that I broke
17 an engagement with in '77.

18 BOARD MEMBER CROW: Oh.

19 INMATE ATKINS: I became involved with Mr. Holbrook.
20 And then, almost a year of knowing Mr. Holbrook, in '79,
21 in August of '79, I determined that it was not a good,
22 healthy relationship for me, being that I am inside and
23 he's outside. It wouldn't be the best for him either,
24 knowing that I have no idea how long I'll stay here.

25 I decided that it was best for the both of us to

1 break off the engagement. So, I broke the engagement off
2 in August of '79. And then, he couldn't take no for an
3 answer. So, it took several months thereafter to convince
4 him my decision was set and it was firm.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. The prior
6 discussion relative to that seemed to be centered around
7 whether or not you'd be able to consummate the marriage.
8 That was the first relationship?

9 INMATE ATKINS: Well, we had discussed that.
10 And I could not conceive of marrying without being able to
11 consummate a marriage. But the lack of the ability to
12 consummate the marriage was not my prime reason for
13 breaking the engagement.

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. At any
15 rate --

16 INMATE ATKINS: That just helped make the
17 decision a little easier.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: At any rate, at
19 this time, then, that issue has been resolved?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. Your
22 appearances before Classification have been numerous.
23 You've made many requests for change in programs.
24 Apparently, after your last Board appearance, your --
25 I don't know whether this is a green card, or it's been

1 described differently at times, but this is apparently an
2 identification card that allows you to leave PTO to come
3 out on the campus for various activities.

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: And your primary
6 purpose in applying for classification or appearing at
7 Classification has been to get somewhat of a relaxation
8 of what you will be allowed to do on campus. Is that
9 correct?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, that's correct.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: ~~All~~ right. There
12 is an indication that you applied for participation in
13 college business education courses in November.

14 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: You were continued
16 in your present program. I note that Dr. Winters was
17 present. And he evaluated you as having a fixed
18 personality disorder with inability to adjust to your
19 surroundings and poor interpersonal relationships. That
20 would seem to indicate there was something going on at the
21 time for him to inject that into the classification
22 hearing. Would you care to comment on that?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. I have never -- I had
24 never had an interview, an extensive interview, with
25 Dr. Winters. And I had sought his help around that time as

1 to how to deal with my decision to break the engagement.
 2 And I only saw him on one occasion prior to that
 3 classification hearing. And that one brief interview with
 4 him lasted no more than five minutes, in which he told me
 5 that he didn't have time to talk to me, that he had women
 6 in the Psychiatric Treatment Unit that were indeed mentally
 7 ill. He did not view me as a mentally-ill patient. He
 8 did not view me as somebody that needed psychiatric
 9 evaluation. Therefore, he did not have time to talk to
 10 me. And that was our -- our interview.

11 And then, the next time I saw Dr. Winters was at
 12 the Classification Committee. And he did not make any
 13 comments to me in the Classification Committee at all. We
 14 had no interaction between he and I in the committee
 15 meeting. And I can't find any reason why he would state
 16 that in his -- in the Classification Committee chronoc,
 17 when he told me the exact opposite, that he did not view
 18 me as anybody that needed psychiatric evaluation or help.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: In reading the
 20 chrono, it appeared that you were present during this
 21 particular meeting --

22 INMATE ATKINS: I was.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: -- that occurred.

24 INMATE ATKINS: I was. And he sat there, and
 25 he didn't say a word during the whole -- and I imagine I

1 was in there for maybe 10, 15 minutes at the most talking
2 with the Institutional Classification Committee about a
3 broadening of my program.

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Well, while it's
5 a departure from the order in which I have prepared this,
6 perhaps it would be worthwhile to discuss with you the
7 fact that you were a victim of an attack by another inmate
8 on January the 30th of 1980. At least that's the date
9 of the incident report.

10 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Maybe you could
12 tell us why that came about or what some of the details
13 were?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, to this day I don't know
15 why the lady attacked me. She doesn't know why she
16 attacked me. The incident occurred in a dining room. She
17 was on one side of the dining room, and I was on the
18 other. And I got up to leave the dining room and was
19 busing my tray at the scullery window, and I turned around
20 to leave, and she was coming at me. And I had no way out,
21 because it was a corner. And I just -- I turned around
22 and covered my head. And the next thing I knew I was on
23 the floor. And, uh, then I was in the clinic after that.

24 MR. CABALLERO: I would call to your attention
25 the report of January 30, 1980, indicates that the other

1 inmate herself stated, quote, "There was no particular
2 reason why she physically assaulted Atkins." Unquote.

3 Apparently, unfortunately, Susan Atkins just happened to
4 be the person there. And I don't think it has anything to
5 do with her -- her demeanor or conduct in the institution.

6 INMATE ATKINS: I'd like to state, also, that
7 it is a matter of record within the institution that two
8 weeks prior this same lady had attacked another woman in
9 the dining room without provocation. She just came up behind
10 somebody and pulled her on the floor and started hitting
11 her and kicking her. So, it was something that the lady
12 had problems. You know? And she was in the unit for
13 those reasons.

14 I talked to her two days after the incident. And
15 she apologized. And I accepted her apology. And there was
16 nothing more to the incident after that between us.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. The
18 reason I brought it up was for you to discuss if you saw
19 any connection between the doctor's statement that you had
20 problems with interpersonal relationships and this attack
21 on your person.

22 INMATE ATKINS: No. There is no connection. In
23 fact, the lady and I were cordial to each other and had
24 conversations with each other for several months. I've
25 known her for quite a few years and have never had any

1 problems with her.

2 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. Getting
3 back to the classification and the various programming,
4 it's indicated that you were allowed to participate in the
5 Chaffey College business education program to begin the
6 next semester. And that was in December when that action
7 was taken.

8 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: In February, it
10 appears you were approved for a job change to remove
11 yourself from the job as the clerk at PTU and take on a
12 job which is described as "PTU House." Maybe you can tell
13 us what your duties entailed in that.

14 INMATE ATKINS: Okay. I'm what's termed the
15 third lead house girl. My duties are maintaining the
16 cleanliness of the floors -- it's janitorial work -- and
17 helping on the upkeep of the cottage that I live in,
18 making sure that the unit is a clean unit for the women
19 to live in. And if they need extra volunteer -- extra
20 work, then that will fall on me. If one of the women is
21 not able to complete her job assignment, then I will do
22 her assignment for her.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: I have a little
24 problem integrating into my head why you were so intent
25 upon getting into college programs that would enhance your

1 business education.

2 INMATE ATKINS: Why I left?

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: But at the same
4 time, you wanted a job change from a clerical job and get
5 into doing janitorial work.

6 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I was, three and a half years
7 ago, placed in a position of being a clerk in the
8 administrative office in PTU. I had no typing skills at
9 the time, or I knew very little typing. I had no office
10 skills at all and began for two semesters to take typing
11 and was working on my secretarial skills. I found that I
12 enjoyed it.

13 However, the lady that I worked for -- how can I
14 put it -- she had been used to being able to pick her own
15 clerks. And I was not one of her -- she did not choose
16 me to be a clerk. I was sort of forced on her. And I
17 was forced to do the work. So, I tried to make the best
18 of it and found that I enjoyed it.

19 However, the lady, being a secretary for some
20 seven years in the institution, found that my work did not
21 meet her expectations. And there began to be some conflict
22 and problems within the office. And because I was not a
23 good enough clerk to meet the expectations, for the good of
24 the office and interpersonal relationships, I asked to be
25 removed from the office job and put into the house.

1 I have hopes that in September, when the new
2 school program starts with Chaffey College, I will be able
3 to continue taking my college courses in business education.
4 I would like to continue to refine my office skills.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. At the time
6 this job change was approved, the Classification Committee
7 noted that you were in a state of depression. They
8 referred you to Dr. Winters for followup, for treatment,
9 or whatever was indicated. Could you tell us about that?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I was -- I was depressed.
11 And I did request to see Dr. Winters about it. And Dr.
12 Winters refused to see me for the same reason I earlier
13 indicated. He said I was not psychotic. And he was there
14 to deal with psychotic inmates and women that had mental
15 illness and brain damage. And therefore, he would not see
16 me.

17 I worked through the depression on my own and
18 came out of it. I'd like to add it's not unusual for
19 inmates to have periods of depression. It's a very normal
20 function.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. The
22 next action was May and June. It appears, just kind of
23 summarizing this without all the details, that you had made
24 some requests previously to be involved in doing some
25 pottery work, ceramic work of one kind or another. You

1 were then applying to be able to be included in a pottery
2 class that was held from one to four on Sunday. This,
3 apparently was not approved. And it was noted that there
4 was no staff participation, and there were some concerns
5 expressed that you'd take advantage of program expansion.
6 What does that mean to you?

7 INMATE ATKINS: That I would take advantage?
8 I don't know.

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: The staff did
10 discuss this with you at that time; did they not?

11 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I was told that the reason
12 why -- I don't know where you got that, that I would take
13 advantage of --

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: From a chrono dated
15 5/7/80.

16 INMATE ATKINS: I never saw that chrono. And I
17 know that I normally see all chronos that are written on
18 me.

19 During the ICC interview, I was told that I
20 would not be able to participate in the ceramics class
21 because there was no staff supervision there and that the
22 lady that was leading the class was new in the institution.
23 Miss Donna Pemberton was just beginning her program. And
24 until she had established herself and gotten herself
25 organized in this new department, they felt that to bring

1 me over there was too much to put upon her at this time.

2 That's the reason I was told I was not allowed
3 to join the pottery class. However, I was allowed to take
4 a college class from La Verne -- I believe it's La Verne
5 College -- in Ceramics I at the same time. So, I had asked
6 for two classes, and they only gave me one.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Uh-huh.

8 INMATE ATKINS: I might add, too, that in the
9 La Verne College class there was no class supervision there.

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: That was not at
11 the same area?

12 INMATE ATKINS: It was not in the same area.
13 It was in another building. And there was no staff
14 supervision during the classroom session at all.

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: That was on
16 Thursday, half a day?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. Yes.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. Let's
19 progress to your work. Your work grades at PTU House
20 have been average, the last two reports of April 1st and
21 May 30th. Prior to that, you were evaluated in your clerk
22 job as average, on the last report I had available, and
23 that was January of '80.

24 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Do you have any

1. comments about your work?

2. INMATE ATKINS: Just that I do what is required
3. of me. And when it's required of me, I do it. I -- if
4. there's extra work to be done, there are times when I have
5. the energy and the desire to volunteer to do things that
6. will help keep the upkeep of the house better.

7. HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. We'll
8. progress, then, to your disciplinaries. I note that you
9. have one 115 since last year.

10. INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

11. HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: December 10, 1979,
12. for using an inter-institution telephone. I note that last
13. year you had a problem with using a telephone. And I assume
14. that's why the institution is so concerned about your use
15. of the telephone. And the last incident, apparently,
16. involved making unauthorized calls out of the institution
17. to some personality or something that used it on television
18. and radio.

19. INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

20. HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Two different
21. interviews.

22. INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

23. HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. There are
24. two incidents reported during the last year of you -- one
25. by chrono, and one by 115 -- of using institutional

1 telephones, one in November 27th of '79, which was a chrono
2 I assume that's the reason you got the 115 for it, because
3 of the second offense on December 10th.

4 INMATE ATKINS: No. Those are two different
5 offenses. And I'd like to answer the one on the 115 and
6 the one on the chrono.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Sure.

8 INMATE ATKINS: Okay. I did use the inter-
9 institutional phone. My green pass that you had mentioned
10 was a designated green pass in which part of the procedure
11 of that pass was, when I left my unit to go anywhere where
12 I was designated to go, the staff had to call and notify
13 the place where I was going that I was on my way. When I
14 arrived there, the staff at that designated area had to
15 call back to my unit and report that I had arrived. When
16 I came back, the staff had to call and let them know I was
17 coming back. And when I arrived, it was upon the staff to
18 call and let the place where I had just left know that I
19 had come back to my unit.

20 I had come back to the unit from Mass, and the
21 staff were having a staff meeting. And the clerk's office
22 that I had worked in and used the phone numerous times was
23 open. And so, I went in without permission and picked up
24 the phone and called the priest and let him know that I
25 had arrived back at my destination. The secretary had seen

1 me pick up the phone, and she wrote me for using the inter-
2 institutional phone without permission. And I did do that.
3 And that was the reason why I did do that. It was that
4 simple.

5 The second offense was a misunderstanding in
6 communication. I want to say, too, that I did use the
7 phone without permission, and that was wrong. And I
8 admitted that in the 115. And I received just punishment
9 for that.

10 In the chrono, I had asked Miss Mendoza, who is
11 the occupational therapist in our unit, if I could call
12 canteen about an order that I had through canteen that was
13 backlogged. And Miss Mendoza told me to go ahead and use
14 her phone. I did not use her phone. I went to the clerk's
15 office where I had worked and used that phone. A staff
16 saw me, asked me, and I told the man that Miss Mendoza told
17 me I could call canteen. And he went and checked with her,
18 and she reported to him that she did not tell me I could
19 use the phone to call canteen, that if any calls were to be
20 made to canteen they were to be made from her office.

21 So, he wrote me for using the phone without
22 permission. And I saw that as I used the wrong phone. She
23 had given me permission to use her phone. And I chose to
24 not use her phone.

1 December 4th, there was what's described as a verbal
2 altercation with another inmate. Perhaps you could tell
3 us about that.

4 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I had confronted a lady
5 about -- I was on a high-protein diet at the time. And she
6 had stolen part of the food that was in my diet from the
7 kitchen. And I went, and I confronted her about it and
8 asked her if she, in fact, took the food. And she told me
9 no, And I told her I couldn't accept that answer, because
10 people had seen her taking the food out of the kitchen and
11 had told me so. And she got very hostile. And at this
12 point Lieutenant Dowell intervened and said, "Let's go
13 talk about it in the office." And I said, "Okay." And we
14 went to walk into his office, and the lady got angry and
15 threw ice on me.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Got what?

17 INMATE ATKINS: She got angry and threw -- she
18 had like a glass of ice water, and she threw ice water on
19 me. And Mr. Dowell told me to go to my room. So, I went
20 to my room. And she -- I don't know what he did with
21 her. And that was the end of the incident. And she left
22 three days after that. She was paroled.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. We haven't
24 had any discussion to this point from you on what you've
25 been doing with the ceramics class and your request for a

1 went so that you could get involved in teaching it or
2 something of that nature.

3 INMATE ATKINS: Right. In February a Mr. ~~Yerr~~
4 Stanford came into the institution and talked with me and
5 several other inmates about a program that he ~~was~~
6 to get involved in CIW that was in some other ~~institution~~
7 where inmates who have skills in art disciplines ~~would be~~
8 given grants from the California Arts Council to teach
9 other inmates the art discipline that they knew. And I
10 asked him, I said, "Well, an example would be if I am a
11 potter, and I know pottery and ceramics, then I would be
12 allowed to teach other inmates?" He said, "Yes, and you
13 would be paid for it, like a regular job."

14 ' So, after about two or three months of thinking
15 this through very carefully, the pros and cons -- did I
16 want to give that much time? Did I want to attempt to do
17 something, as large a project as that would be? It would
18 be for a six-month period -- I made the decision to go
19 ahead and try. I felt it was a good challenge for me. It
20 would be an opportunity for me to have some responsibility
21 to see it through and not only better myself but be able
22 to help somebody else in the institution learn something
23 that would give them a real skill and a feeling of self-
24 worth and self-esteem.

25 So, I filled out the paperwork and sent it in and

1 began to really dedicate myself to refining my skills.

2 I am a self-taught potter. I learned the skill here through
3 the institution. I have been a potter for six years.

4 Out of 15 applications within the institution
5 from women, the institution chose six disciplines, six
6 disciplines, to support and actively support through
7 grants being granted to the women in this institution. And
8 I was one of the six. It was the first time CIM had said
9 to me, as an institution, as an administrator, "We believe
10 you can do this. We believe in your ability. We believe
11 in your talent. We want to give you the opportunity to go
12 ahead and do this." I was the only close-castody discipline
13 to be given institutional support and the only discipline in CIM
14 to be given this kind of support.

15 I received back from California Arts Council three
16 weeks ago a denial. They denied my grant. Out of the six
17 women, five of the women received their grants, and I was
18 not one of them. No -- I have no knowledge as to why I
19 was not given the grant at this time. I have not received
20 an official denial from the California Arts Council as
21 yet. But I do know that only one grant was given to the
22 discipline of ceramics and pottery out of the thousands and
23 thousands and thousands of grants that were submitted to
24 the California Arts Council. And that grant was given to a
25 man over in CIM.

1 I intend, for myself, to continue in my study of
2 pottery. I plan very much on availing myself of Miss
3 Pemberton's talents and teaching in the Arts and Crafts
4 Department. I now have a straight green pass, which allows
5 me to go anywhere on campus at any time between seven and
6 4:30. So, I can attend her class now.

7 I make and support myself in the institution
8 selling my wares up in the display case in ADM where the
9 women who make handicraft items sell their items and make
10 a little money for themselves. So, that's where I -- I
11 do make a living off of it. It's not just a hobby with me.
12 It's a means of income with me as well as a discipline,
13 an art discipline.

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: When did you
15 receive this rejection?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Three weeks ago.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay.

18 INMATE ATKINS: About two weeks ago. Excuse me.
19 Let me clarify that. About two weeks ago I received that.

20 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: The reason I asked
21 that was to trail onto your psychiatric reports. You have
22 been seen by psychiatrists for report purposes --

23 INMATE ATKINS: Right.

24 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: -- at least once
25 this year.

1 INMATE ATKINS: Right.

2 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: And his report is
3 rather glowing and makes much of your enthusiasm --

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: -- and your looking
6 forward to this.

7 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: I wonder what
9 comments you might have about your psychiatric reports.

10 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I feel very good about the
11 report. I did not know the doctor. I'd never met the man
12 before. So, I feel that it's a very honest report. It's
13 not prefabricated. He saw me at face value, as I am today.
14 He talked a little about he had gone through all of my
15 C file and he had read over my C file. And he had read all
16 the psychiatric evaluations, and that I really was
17 enthusiastic, excited about the opportunity to be able to
18 teach ceramics, which I have done, by the way, on a
19 voluntary basis.

20 Many women in the Psychiatric Treatment Unit have
21 asked me to help them with pottery, with their pottery. So
22 I have taught on an independent basis. And I hope that in
23 the future -- I know that in February there will be grant
24 applications again. And I'll reapply.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Okay. Well, I was

wondering if the rejection had dampened your enthusiasm.

INMATE ATKINS: No, not at all. No, No. I think what helped me not have my enthusiasm dampened was the fact that Miss Pemberton, the art teacher, also had applied for her grant. And she's a professional potter, owns a studio out on the streets. She was denied her grant, too. And that kind of helped me, helped me take the blow, that it wasn't just such a personal thing. I viewed it as the Arts Council did not see ceramics as a worthy discipline at this time to be given a grant.

HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. At this time I'll ask the other panel members if they have any questions. Miss Collier?

BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I have some questions, but I can cover them on parole plans.

HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. Mr. Brown?

PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: I'd like to know, since your last hearing -- is it since your last hearing that you completed one semester in business?

INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: And one semester in ceramics?

INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Since the last hearing?

1 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Okay. Could you tell me
3 what significant changes, if any, have taken place in you
4 as a person since your last year's hearing?

5 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I'm more self-confident in
6 my ability to take challenges -- how can I say it -- to
7 take something at its inception, an idea, a concept, like
8 the grant, and weigh the pros and cons, the good and the
9 bad, should I or shouldn't I, and consciously go through
10 through making a decision. I think that I'm not as afraid
11 of failure, as much afraid. In fact, I am not afraid of
12 failure anymore; whereas for years I have been afraid of
13 failing, which has kept me from independently making
14 decisions on my own.

15 I feel like I can evaluate a situation and make
16 a decision on my own, without seeking outside counsel or
17 outside help -- not to demean the counsel of other people.
18 I think that's valid and has its place -- but ultimately
19 making decisions for myself, not because it will appease
20 somebody or make somebody like me better.

21 I think that I've gotten to the point with my
22 education where I have weighed, as I said, the pros and cons
23 of it. And I want to continue on with my education in the
24 business field in secretarial skills. I feel I have a
25 real keen ability to incorporate who I am with the business

1 world. I like secretarial work, and I find that I can
2 develop. I develop very well as a human being in that
3 realm.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: What would keep you
5 from becoming involved in the same kind of thing that
6 caused your coming to prison when you get out?

7 INMATE ATKINS: The utter horror of what I've
8 done. The realization of what I've done. It repulses me
9 as a person.

10 I believe the one factor that would keep me from
11 doing or becoming involved is the fact that I know I can
12 stand on my own, and I don't need somebody to tell me what
13 way to go, right or left. I can make that decision for
14 myself. I have the ability to differentiate between
15 right and wrong. My moral values are totally different
16 than they were 12 years ago.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: How about the drug
18 issue?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Unless I were physically ill and
20 it meant my health, I would never take drugs again. I know
21 what drugs do to people. I know that drugs and the misuse
22 of drugs causes, in many people, irreparable damage. I
23 live with women on a daily basis that are still living the
24 horrors of drugs. I could never -- I could never take
25 drugs again. I don't want them. I have no need for them

1 in my life. I am satisfied with who I am today.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Okay. That's all that
3 I have in regard to questions.

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: All right. I think
5 we've covered the subject, then, Mr. Brown.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Do you have any
7 comments --

8 MR. CABALLERO: I have no comments..

9 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: -- on the institution?
10 Mr. Kay?

11 MR. KAY: No comments.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Okay. Parole plans,
13 Miss Collier?

14 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Miss Atkins, we
15 understand that in view of the fact that you don't have a
16 set parole date it might be difficult for you to make any
17 established, firm parole plans. But in looking at the
18 report prepared by G. R. Vasquez, V-a-s-q-u-e-z, who is
19 present at the hearing today, it's noted that with regard
20 to employment you don't have any employment offers on file.
21 But you claim to possess employable skills in the
22 secretarial field and also in instruction of ceramics and
23 pottery-making. And we've heard your response to questions
24 regarding these particular skills.

25 Did I understand you to say that in September you

1 were going to be taking other courses in business.

2 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. Yes. I plan to take
3 shorthand. And I haven't been able to take shorthand for
4 a year and a half because the way the shorthand program
5 works is the teacher begins with Shorthand I, she starts
6 and then she'll run through Shorthand II, Shorthand
7 Shorthand IV. And it takes up almost a year and a half to
8 take the complete course. And I passed Shorthand I.
9 I have been waiting for her to complete her course so
10 I can begin taking Shorthand I the coming September. And
11 I do plan on doing that.

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. The last time you
13 took a typing test, what was your typing speed?

14 INMATE ATKINS: I type --

15 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Minus errors.

16 INMATE ATKINS: Without mistakes? Without errors,
17 about 75 words a minute, 75 to 80 words a minute.

18 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. So that I -- also
19 I think I heard you mention that the reason that you were
20 not able to keep the job in administration as a clerk was
21 because of personality conflict with your supervisor.

22 INMATE ATKINS: That was part of it, yes.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: So, you're saying it was
24 not your work?

25 INMATE ATKINS: She stated that it was my work.

1 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Did she state exactly what
2 criticism she had of your work?

3 INMATE ATKINS: That she had to retype everything
4 I typed. That was her statement.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Was that true?

6 INMATE ATKINS: No, it wasn't. Many times I criticized
7 her work. Many times program administrators, as well as
8 other staff, would come to me and ask me to type their
9 chronos or their reports for them. I had -- and it was
10 unfortunate that in this institution there are staff that
11 do not take the time to write chronos. And I have asked
12 staff that I have worked for to please write chronos. But
13 none of them would write a chrono stating that, to the
14 contrary of Miss Funk. So, I have nothing on record to
15 back up what I'm telling you now.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: When did you have that
17 assignment, what year? Seventy --

18 INMATE ATKINS: I was given the assignment in,
19 I believe, December of '76.

20 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Since that time,
21 because you say you're interested in possible employment
22 in the secretarial field, have you sought out another
23 clerical assignment to sharpen your skills and increase
24 your typing skills?

25 INMATE ATKINS: There is no -- there is no other

1 clerical job available to me under the restrictions of my
2 pass. The only office skills that were available to me
3 were within PTU.

4 I did, for a time -- I was under the direct
5 supervision of Miss Funk for almost two-and-a-half years.
6 And during that time a new position opened, which was called
7 third watch clerk, where a girl that also could not get
8 along with Miss Funk wanted to do her secretarial work.
9 And the lieutenants in PTU do have a lot of paperwork that
10 they have to have done. So, a new position was created
11 called the third watch clerk.

12 When this lady left that position, I asked to be
13 put into that job. That took me out of Miss Funk's
14 supervision and put me under the direct supervision of the
15 lieutenants. During that time, for a period of about
16 three or four months, I had no problems with my supervisors.
17 The problems began when Miss Funk would ask my supervisor
18 to give me work to do that was not my designated work. And
19 pressures began to be put upon me where complaints would
20 come back to me that everything that I turned in to my
21 lieutenants was turned in to Miss Funk, and then Miss Funk
22 had to retype everything I typed.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Are you still under
24 restriction? Did I understand you to say that you now have
25 a green pass or a green card?

44
1 INMATE ATKINS: No, I'm not. I just received,
2 about three weeks ago, maybe about a month ago, an
3 undesignated green pass.

4 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: So, then that pass should
5 make it possible for you to obtain skills in other areas
6 of the institution?

7 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. In 90 days after receiving
8 that pass I will be reviewed by the Inmate Institutional
9 Classification Committee where I plan on asking for a move
10 to campus, a full or at least a half-day school program
11 in business education, and hopefully clerical work. I
12 haven't as yet screened what's happening on campus, as far
13 as jobs go, because I've got another 60 days before I can
14 appear before the Institutional Classification Committee.
15 And there can be many jobs open and close within that time,
16 so that it may be a week or so before I appear before the
17 Committee. I will then look to see what jobs are open and
18 what jobs are available to me.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, regarding
20 community resources, I might state for the record that
21 there are quite a few letters of support that have been
22 received, primarily from those people who are involved in
23 and who are in the Christian Ministry or who are involved
24 directly with or call themselves Christians. Okay?

25 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

1 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I only saw one letter
2 against parole, and I think that might have been from the
3 Sheriff of Los Angeles County.

4 I have several questions regarding the resources.
5 As Mr. Brown stated, I was on the panel last year.

6 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: And I think I might have
8 also stated at that time, and I'm about to state now, that
9 each year that you've come up for parole your parole plans
10 have changed. I think in 1977-78 you were going to parole
11 to a Mr. and Mrs. Le Boeuf, L-e- B-o-e-u-f, right?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

13 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Who were in charge of the
14 prison ministry.

15 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: All right. Then, last
17 year, you were going to get married to -- was it Michael
18 Holbrook?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Holbrook, yes.

20 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. And interspersed
21 between that period of time, I guess going back four years
22 or so, you were either going to get married; you were either
23 going to do something with Mr. John Work, who reportedly
24 was a person -- who was your agent on this book that you
25 said you wrote that you received no proceeds from.

1 INMATE ATKINS: Right.

2 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Now, I see that you're
3 going to live with your parents.

4 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: What's happened between
6 last year and this year to change your plans?

7 INMATE ATKINS: Okay.

8 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: And interspersed with
9 all of this, your contention was that you were going to
10 either be a minister in the Christian faith, or you were
11 going to teach Sunday School. And it seems that every
12 single year that you come up for parole your parole plans
13 change, with no particular thread of continuity. Okay?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. I think the only thread of
15 continuity is my interest in the church and working in some
16 capacity within the church.

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: But that's not indicated
18 in here this year.

19 INMATE ATKINS: You stated something that I find
20 great value in, that you realize that not having a date
21 it makes it very difficult to make specific parole plans.
22 That has been my major problem in not having a date. I've
23 not had something to look forward to and build to. So, I
24 have been inconsistent, and I admit that inconsistency.

25 This year, prior to a phone call on Father's Day,

1 I had no parole plans. I did not know what I was going to
2 tell you. I had nothing to offer you as valid parole plans.
3 And I called home. And my dad and I have not had a real
4 good relationship. And it's been progressively getting
5 better. And my dad had, all of the last three or four
6 years, said, "Susan, when you get out, we'd like to see
7 you for a few days."

8 Well, when I called home, my dad -- and I told
9 him I was coming to the Board. Excuse me. I told him
10 My dad asked me to please come home. And he hasn't asked
11 come home in that way to me in 14 years. And I can't think
12 of any place better or any place that I'd rather be than
13 to go home and start fresh and new. And it doesn't
14 disqualify or take away from my interest in the church.

15 I'd like to go home and re-establish communication
16 and relationships with my family that had been estranged
17 for years. I don't care if that's this year or next year,
18 10 years from now, if my dad's still there, 20 years from
19 now, if my dad's still alive. I want to go home.

20 I know that if I need a job, it's not going to be
21 easy, but my step-mother and my dad have told me that they
22 would help me to find a job. I know I'm not going to run
23 around being the famous Susan Atkins. I'm not into that.
24 I will no doubt, as I have discussed with my lawyer, change
25 my name, where to the general public I won't be known. At

1 home and to my family and my few friends, of course, they
2 are going to know who I am. I'd just like to work at
3 whatever job I can get as a secretary under a new name and
4 attend church, possibly do Sunday school work, possibly
5 work with a choir, possibly do whatever voluntary work I
6 can do within the church, very quietly.

7 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. I think that covers
8 my discussion, Mr. Brown. Any questions?

9 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: I don't have any in this
10 area.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: I have no questions.

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Back to you.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Vasquez, can you
14 add anything to what has been said as to the institutional
15 adjustment and parole plans -- you wrote the Board Report --
16 or is it pretty well covered?

17 MR. VASQUEZ: I think the Board Report pretty
18 well covers my observation and evaluation of Susan's
19 behavior within the institution.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Anything in the area of
21 parole plans?

22 MR. CABALLERO: Other than to further articulate
23 the very last statement she just made, she has discussed
24 with me her change of name, which I think is a good idea.
25 Her participation in church would be limited to the point

1 that at no point will she allow herself to be exploited as
2 Susan Atkins. She will participate in church with her new
3 name, not going around saying, "Look, I'm the Susan Atkins
4 having become, you know, converted."

5 She's still religious, but in a way that she
6 realizes the potential of people using her. Rather than
7 have that, she intends just to lead as normal a life as
8 possible. Only her family will know who she is. And that's
9 how she wants to keep it.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Kay, parole plan?

11 MR. KAY: I have no comment.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: We have reached that
13 point in the hearing where there is a time for any summation
14 and recommendations, first by Mr. Kay, and then by the
15 inmate's counsel, and lastly by the inmate. Mr. Kay?

16 MR. KAY: Thank you. I would ask the Board to
17 find Miss Atkins unsuitable for parole, based principally
18 on her actions during the course of the three murders she
19 participated in and was convicted of. We can't loose
20 sight of the fact here, of course, that there are three
21 separate offenses -- that she participated in the Hinman
22 murder, showed no remorse; then participated in the five
23 murders at the Tate house, showed no remorse; and then
24 participated or at least was ready to participate in the
25 LaBianca murders. She was convicted as a co-conspirator.

1 an aider and abettor in that offense, because she actually
2 didn't kill anyone. But she was ready. She was ready to

3 All of these victims, except for Gary Hinman,
4 were strangers to her. She didn't know them. They were
5 all people, including Gary Hinman, who were supposedly
6 safe in the security of their own homes when they were
7 brutally murdered.

8 The motive for these murders, which I spent
9 considerable time in prior hearings discussing and I know
10 that the members of the Board are familiar with, is an
11 extremely bizarre motive. I think it's just a terrible
12 motive for anyone to have to want to start a race war and
13 to kill people to try and start a race war. And after
14 having participated in prosecuting the four Tate-LaBianca
15 trials, I'm convinced beyond any doubt that that was the
16 motive for the murders.

17 Miss Atkins brought up at one hearing that, well,
18 her motive was to do a copycat killing at the Tate house
19 to compare with the Hinman murder. But the similarities
20 were very, very few and tenuous between the Hinman murder
21 and the Tate murder. And that's clear from all the evidence
22 that was just overwhelming that the motive was this
23 Helter Skelter philosophy.

24 I think the callousness of her participation in
25 those murders can't -- we can't avoid that. I read what

1 her confession was as to the killing of Sharon Tate, which
2 just is horrendous.. And it's hard to find anything that
3 would match that callousness.

4 The fact of even going to the extent of testing
5 Sharon Tate's blood, writing on the door in Sharon Tate's
6 blood, sharpening knives after the Hinman murder, and
7 grinning, being happy about it, apparently singing on the
8 way back from the LaBianca -- the night of the LaBianca
9 murders, is just activity that's very hard to understand.
10 And it causes a certain degree of consternation, almost
11 fear in a person to think that this person, Miss Atkins,
12 might be out and might do it again.

13 She says she won't do it again. She says she's
14 a changed person. But yet, here she kills on the orders
15 of another, not paid for it. And how can we predict that
16 she won't do it again? She's a very complex personality.
17 It's hard to put your finger on what she is going to think
18 at any particular time.

19 I think Miss Collier was hitting on it. Well,
20 you change from time to time. Sure people change. That's
21 not odd for people to change. But with Miss Atkins,
22 knowing her past and the way her mind has worked in the
23 past, one wonders what she would do if she got out and
24 things weren't going well for her. If she had a job
25 conflict like she had here with the head clerk, what

1 would happen? What would she do? Who would she fall in
2 with?

3 We discussed last year her plans to marry this
4 ex-convict from Colorado, which she apparently is not going
5 to do now. But is she going to fall in with somebody like
6 that who's going to lead her astray? I think Miss Atkins
7 is not, in spite of what she said here today, that she's
8 more her own person now, I don't think that she is. My
9 experience with her is that she is not her own person,
10 that she will do whatever the group she is with wants to
11 do.

12 She has been, in the past, committed to external
13 forces, such as Manson. Of course, he's the main example.
14 And you just can't predict what she's going to do. That's
15 the big problem with Miss Atkins. You can't predict. And,
16 of course, we have to take into consideration the lack of
17 remorse that she has shown during the course of the murders
18 during her trial. You have the letter. Miss Collier said
19 there was only one letter against parole. Of course, over
20 a period of time there were a lot and, I think, a very
21 interesting letter from Judge Older, who was the presiding
22 judge at her trial, talking about the way she behaved at
23 the trial, disrupting the proceedings all the time, showing
24 no remorse at all.

25 The gravity of these offenses, again, is hard to

1 comprehend, the horror that these people went through. You
2 can just imagine a woman eight and a half months pregnant
3 being confronted by Miss Atkins and her knife and her
4 callousness, her callous disregard of the fact that Sheron
5 Tate wanted to live and to have her baby. Sheron Tate had
6 bothered no one. None of these people had bothered anyone.
7 They were just complete strangers that were being killed
8 for this God-awful purpose of starting a race war.

9 I think that although Miss Atkins has received
10 a number of letters from these purported Christians, I
11 was very interested in reading them that it seemed about
12 every second or third letter had about the same wording.
13 It looked like somebody had sent out a mimeograph form,
14 "Please write to get Susan Atkins paroled, and say that
15 you're a good Christian and she's a good Christian and
16 parole her." I mean, I wasn't terribly persuaded by those
17 letters.

18 I can guarantee the Board, if I was to make a
19 public appeal for letters from the public against Miss
20 Atkins, that you would be here for a week reading letters
21 from across the country against Miss Atkins being paroled.
22 The public is not going to forget Miss Atkins or this case.
23 This case captured the American public, because of the
24 brutality of it, because of the callousness on the part of
25 the defendants. And Miss Atkins was certainly one of the

1 main participants, along with Hanson and Krawitzke and
2 Watson. And I think that parading her into the public at
3 this time is just too great a risk and I would ask the
4 Board to find her unsuitable.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Mr. Caballero?

6 MR. CABALLERO: Going back to what Mr. Kay has
7 said about the public -- and first of all let me say I'm
8 going to speak very briefly, because I feel that nothing
9 new has been said here that I did not respond to when I
10 appeared here in 1978, copies of which are before you.
11 But, you know, the public, like Mr. Kay, lives in 1969.
12 What you hear is everything that happened then. We hear
13 a lack of remorse in 1969. You hear about her conduct in
14 1969. They say, "How can you predict what she's going to
15 do?" They say the past's a way of predicting what the future
16 will be, except that the past is not just 1969. The past
17 is 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, and on to 1980. And the public
18 doesn't know what's been happening since that time.

19 Counsel has not made any reference to what's
20 happened since that time, other than to indicate that
21 perhaps Susan Atkins, from year to year, may change some of
22 her plans. When she doesn't know what her future is, when
23 all she has, like all of the prisoners have, is a little
24 bit of hope, she clings on to those hopes and makes plans
25 accordingly. Right now, her hope is to be with her parents

1 Let's predict from the past, this being the past of next
2 year. What's going to happen next year? If her father
3 should die or not be available or ill, so that he can't
4 take her in, she'll have to make other plans. She won't
5 be going home. Or, she may meet someone else that she's
6 interested in, or she may not be able to get into the
7 clerical school, and she'll have other plans. Does that
8 mean that she's indecisive? Does that mean that we can't
9 predict what she's going to do? All that means is that
10 she's human. But she's certainly trying.

11 What do we have in the past year? What has she
12 done in the past year, other than try to help herself?
13 She, herself, is the one that got out of that relationship
14 with this gentlemen she was supposed to marry last year.
15 She, on her own two feet, did that. She herself took the
16 trouble to write, knowing it would be in the file, that she
17 can't get along with that supervisor. "Please get me out
18 of here, even if I have to wash floors." She herself did
19 that. She's doing these things. She herself wants to
20 change her name.

21 In the past few years, what has she done in here?
22 What has she violated? Two telephone calls within this
23 jurisdiction, right within the institution. Two. Okay?
24 And one of those she admitted her guilt immediately. The
25 other one she said was a matter of misunderstanding. That's

1 it. That's what she's done.

2 She's certainly planned for the future, works
3 for the future. And the past we're talking about, what
4 happened in 1969, the remorse, the lack of remorse, all of
5 this is well-answered in what I said before in 1978.

6 What's significant is the very thing that the
7 District Attorney is using here today to show you, the way
8 she was are the very things they also used to convict
9 them. And by that I mean they were happy at that time to
10 be able to show that Manson had this control over them.
11 And all of her actions at that time were predicated on the
12 fact -- not that they were the truth.

13 She's explained her involvement in the killings
14 adequately, and so have I. So, I'm not going to get into
15 that. The answer is is that the answer is already in here.

16 She is not the person she is made out to be.
17 She acted the way she did because that was her way of life
18 at that time. But what's happened in the rest of the past,
19 in these past 12 years? The past is not just -- the past
20 is not just 1969. The past is what has happened since then.

21 We should have killed them. They all should have
22 been executed. I believed in that then, and I believe in
23 it now. But we didn't. So, what do we do? What do we do
24 from that point on.

25 If that's not the law, then let's follow what the

1 law says now. Let's see what she's doing. Let's see what
2 progress she's made. Let's see if she's worthy of going
3 out into the community.

4 She has shown and evidenced everything, in my
5 opinion, based upon what I've seen of her, to indicate that
6 she's reaching that point. We should consider her for
7 that purpose and not just live on one past. Again, that
8 is not just 1969 past, but these 12 years. And what she
9 has done in these 12 years is become a different, self-
10 sufficient person. And I ask you to consider that and also
11 to consider the arguments I made in 1978, when I was before
12 this Board. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Miss Atkins?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Last year the primary reason for
15 denial for parole was that the heinousness of my crimes,
16 the grievousness of my offenses, will never outweigh
17 the good that I have done in the last 11 or 12 years or
18 will ever do..

19 Last year my reason for denial, had I been doing
20 good and growing as a human being been solely for the
21 purpose of one day leaving this institution? Based on
22 what I was told last year and the year before that and the
23 year before that? "Susan, all of your good doesn't mean
24 anything, because you're bad, and your past is so bad we
25 can never see you." For today, I concur with that. I

1 agree with that. Nothing that I do from this day forward
2 will ever undue or outweigh the ugliness of my past.

3 Well, I am human. And I will continue doing
4 good and growing as a human being, because that's what's
5 right. And that's what's good. And I want to. I want
6 to grow. Some day I hope to leave these walls and work
7 and live as normally as possible.

8 I don't have an address to give you. I've got
9 this job secure, and this employer has told me he will
10 hold this job for me for the next 20 years -- I can't
11 give you that. I cannot give you a written guarantee of
12 what the future holds for me. I don't think anybody
13 present in this room can give me a written guarantee that
14 they will not make the same mistakes that they made in the
15 past. But I can say honestly I will never again put
16 myself or allow myself to be in the type of situation that
17 I was in 12 years ago. I just -- I won't allow myself to
18 do that. And I know that in my heart. And I understand
19 your position.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Okay. The time is now
21 approximately 10 minutes after eleven. We'll recess the
22 hearing for the purposes of arriving at a decision. I will
23 ask everyone to leave the room except the panel.

24 (Thereupon the room was cleared
25 and the hearing before the Board

of Prison Terms was recessed for
deliberations by the Board.)

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PRESUMPTION OF PROBATION

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3 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: Let the record show that
4 the time is now approximately 12:18, and all those present
5 in the room at the start of the hearing are present in the
6 room again. At this time, the following is the decision
7 of the panel, which is unanimous in this case. The prisoner
8 is found unsuitable for parole, based on the following
9 reasons:

10 (1) The prisoner has a history of involvement
11 in criminal activity. The prior history usually involved
12 other crime partners or associates. In 1966, the prisoner
13 was involved in an auto theft and placed on probation. At
14 the time of this arrest, the prisoner was carrying a loaded
15 firearm.

16 In 1968, the prisoner and crime partners were
17 involved in the production and possession of fraudulent
18 drivers' licenses. In 1968, the prisoner pled guilty to
19 possession of marijuana and was placed on probation.

20 (2) The prisoner committed and/or participated
21 in a series of especially violent, heinousness, atrocious
22 murders resulting in eight deaths. Multiple victims were
23 attacked. With one exception, the victims were attacked
24 in residences. They were not acquainted with the crime
25 partners and were randomly selected in order to precipitate

1 a race war -- a bizarre motive indeed.

2 The victims were assaulted multiple times in a
3 fashion which almost defies description. The offenses
4 occurred over a period of approximately two weeks. Three
5 separate locations were involved. One victim, Estuza, was
6 tortured. Other victims were killed while pleading for
7 their lives. The victims involved males and females, the
8 young and the old. One victim was pregnant. Some victims
9 were shot, others stabbed or hit with blunt objects. A
10 victim's blood was used to write on the premises in the
11 case.

12 The totality of the offenses clearly establishes
13 the dispassionate, calculated action of the prisoner and
14 crime partners as well as an exceptionally callous disregard
15 for human suffering. Remorse was not evidenced at the time
16 of the trial.

17 (3) The prisoner's institutional adjustment
18 has improved over the years in the California Department
19 of Corrections. The prisoner's disciplinary records,
20 psychiatric evaluations, and academic efforts have
21 improved. However, the institutional adjustment does not
22 provide sufficient evidence to support a panel finding that
23 the prisoner is a reasonable parole risk at this time. When
24 the institutional adjustment is measured against the bizarre
25 nature and magnitude of the commitment offenses, a further

1 period of observation and evaluation is warranted.

2 Recommendations to the prisoner: (1) Is to be
3 disciplinary free; (2) keep participating in vocational
4 and academic upgrading. We are going to leave you on
5 psychiatric referral, and the reason for that is the nature
6 of the commitment offenses.

7 You will be entitled to another hearing at
8 approximately one year. You will have an annual hearing.
9 I have already explained to you the way to obtain a copy
10 of the transcript of the hearing today, today's hearing,
11 and what the Board of Prison Terms appeal rules are and
12 where you might find them.

13 Any comments by the panel members?

14 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: I have no comments.

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE CROW: No comments.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER BROWN: That is the decision of
17 the panel. The time is now approximately 12:15. This
18 concludes the hearing.

19 This is a copy of the tentative decision in this
20 case, which will not become final until 60 days has passed.
21 That concludes the hearing. Go off the record.

22 (Thereupon the hearing before the
23 Board of Prison Terms in the matter
24 of Inmate Susan Denise Atkins was
25 adjourned at 12:15 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

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 Board of Prison Terms hearing was reported in shorthand by me, DIANE M. HOLNBACK, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of course an 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 24th day of August, 1980.

Diane M. Holnback

DIANE M. HOLNBACK
CSR License No. 4022