

initiated a transcript 5-26-82

LIFE TERM PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF PRISON TERMS

In the Matter of the Subsequent)
Life Term Parole Consideration) CDC Number W-13378
Hearing of:)
LESLIE VAN HOUTEN)

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN
FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1982
10:35 A.M.

DEBORAH A. PURRINGTON
Shorthand Reporter

ORIGINAL

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MEMBERS PRESENT

- 1
- 2 Peggy Jellison, Presiding Member
- 3 Daniel Lopez, Hearing Representative
- 4 Robert Carter, Board Member
- 5

MEMBERS ABSENT

6
7 None.

ALSO PRESENT

- 8
- 9
- 10 Leslie Van Houten, Inmate
- 11 Paul Fitzgerald, Inmate's Attorney
- 12 Stephen Kay, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County
- 13 Pam Douglas, Correctional Counselor
- 14 Joan Goulding, Observer, United Press International
- 15 Linda Deutsch, Observer, Associated Press
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19
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21
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Page

Proceedings	1
Case factors	5
Pre-commitment factors	21
Post-commitment factors	29
Release plans	68
Recess	97
Resumption of Proceedings for Finding of the Board	98
Adjournment	101
Certificate of Reporter	102

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: The time is approximately 10:35 a.m. The date is April 22nd, 1982. We are at the California Institution for Women at Frontera. This is a life parole consideration hearing for Leslie Van Houten, W-13378.

Before we go any further, I'm going to identify the persons assembled in the room today. I am Peggy Jellison, a member of the Board of Prison Terms. To my immediate left is Mr. Daniel Lopez, who is a Hearing Representative for the Board. To my far left is Mr. Robert Carter, who is a member of the Board.

The prisoner is in the room and representing the prisoner today is Mr. Paul Fitzgerald. Representing the People of Los Angeles County is Deputy District Attorney Stephen Kay. We have also with us Pam Douglas, who is the inmate's correctional counselor. We have two observers in the room today; Miss Joan Goulding of the United Press International and Miss Linda Deutsch of A.P.

The prisoner was initially received in State prison on April 28th, 1971, under the sentence of death for Count VI, Murder First Degree. The victim in this count was Leno La Bianca.

MR. FITZGERALD: Leno.

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1 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Leno, thank you.
 2 In Count VII, Murder First Degree, the victim was
 3 Rosemary La Bianca, and Count VIII, Conspiracy to Commit
 4 Murder. This was Los Angeles County Case, A-253156. On
 5 August 11th, 1978, after a retrial, the prisoner was
 6 resentedenced to State prison on Count VI, VII and VIII.

7 This hearing is being conducted pursuant to
 8 Penal Code Sections 3041, 3042 and the regulations of the
 9 Board of Prison Terms governing parole consideration
 10 hearings for life prisoners. The purpose of today's hearing
 11 is to consider your suitability for parole. In doing this,
 12 we will be considering the number and nature of the crimes
 13 for which you were committed to State prison, your criminal
 14 history or lack of it prior to this commitment and your
 15 behavior since your commitment.

16 We will reach a decision and inform you whether
 17 we find you suitable for parole or not and the reasons for
 18 our decision. If we find that you are suitable for parole,
 19 the length of your confinement and specific factors leading
 20 to this determination will be explained to you. You've been
 21 through this several times before, but I'm going to explain
 22 the way we are going to conduct the hearing today.

23 I will be chairing and I will be handling the
 24 offense itself and your prior record. Mr. Carter will be
 25 handling your in prison behavior and Mr. Lopez will be

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

7 After this is done, we will recess, clear the room
 8 of everyone but the panel and make our deliberation. We
 9 will then call everyone back in the room and announce our
 10 decision to you.

11 Counselor, I'm going to go over the rights with
 12 you at this time. Have you received timely notice for this
 13 hearing today?

14 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Have you had a chance
 16 to review the inmate's file?

17 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Miss Van Houten --

19 MR. FITZGERALD: I might add, though, that I
 20 brought along with me -- and I didn't anticipate there would
 21 be any problem -- an attorney Maxwell Keith, K-e-i-t-h.
 22 Mr. Keith represented Miss Van Houten at all three of her
 23 trials. He represented her for a portion of the first
 24 trial and completely represented her in her second and
 25 third trial. He is here not to participate, and it's my

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1 understanding that he has been refused admittance and is
 2 outside. He's here not to participate in the hearing as
 3 Leslie Van Houten's counsel, but if necessary, to comment
 4 to the Board on the facts that were produced at all three of
 5 these trials in terms of the event itself. I would like the
 6 record to show, and I would like you to consider if you have
 7 problems in connection with the facts, circumstances
 8 surrounding the crime and you choose to allow Mr. Kay to
 9 comment on facts and circumstances surrounding the commission
 10 of the offense, that you allow Mr. Keith to make a statement,
 11 or answer any questions with respect to the offense itself.
 12 Just that limited area.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. We were
 14 apprised of Mr. Keith's coming here with you, Mr. Fitzgerald,
 15 however, the panel decided that because there was no prior
 16 notice of his attending today, that he would not be able to
 17 come into the hearing. If the panel decides at some time
 18 in the hearing that it is necessary for his attendance, we
 19 will call him. Is he going to be available; is that what
 20 you're saying?

21 MR. FITZGERALD: Apparently, yes.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Going on with what I
 23 was saying, a transcript of this hearing will automatically
 24 be supplied to you and no decision made here today is
 25 effective for 60 days. You do have appeal rights under

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1 Board of Prison Terms Rule 2050. I'll state now for the
2 record that there were 3042 notices sent out as required by
3 law. We received a letter from a Los Angeles Police Depart-
4 ment, which was not supportive of a finding of suitability.
5 We also received approximately 997 letters and postcards
6 in support of a finding of suitability. We have also
7 received approximately 1,554 letters not supporting parole
8 suitability.

9 Will the prisoner be talking with us today,
10 counselor?

11 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Would you stand, please,
13 and I'll swear you in.

14 (Thereupon Inmate Van Houten was, by
15 Presiding Member Jellison, sworn to
16 tell the truth, the whole truth, and
17 nothing but the truth.)

18 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: We will be considering
19 confidential information today, counselor. Would you look
20 at this checklist, please, and see that it meets the informa-
21 tion that you were given.

22 MR. FITZGERALD: I'm not clear what you mean
23 about confidential information.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: There is confidential
25 information that this panel has been supplied that we will
be considering when we make our deliberation. I will tell

1 you that some of that information is letters I referred to
2 as non-supportive of a finding of suitability. All those
3 letters are automatically put in a confidential file for
4 safety purposes for those people who have signed that.

5 MR. FITZGERALD: And this confidential information
6 will not be provided to us?

7 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: No, it will not.

8 MR. FITZGERALD: Are you going to tell us the
9 nature and character of it?

10 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I just did.

11 MR. FITZGERALD: You said the confidential informa-
12 tion includes, but you didn't say it was limited to.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: All right. The
14 confidential information includes, but is not limited to
15 those signatures which are not supportive of a finding of
16 suitability.

17 MR. FITZGERALD: Is there other -- can you
18 characterize the other confidential information?

19 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: No.

20 MR. FITZGERALD: You refuse to, actually?

21 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I can't.

22 MR. FITZGERALD: Because of rules?

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Because of the safety
24 of the institution.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: It's the Olson

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1 Decision, counsel. It deals with any confidential informa-
2 tion.

3 MR. FITZGERALD: I understand that, but I think
4 the record should reflect there is information you are con-
5 sidering and the nature and character of that information;
6 don't you agree?

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: You heard what
8 the chairperson said. The chairperson already made the
9 statement.

10 MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah, I heard it.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Okay.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: I have been shown these materials.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. Mr. Kay.

14 MR. KAY: Yes.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Miss Van Houten, I
16 will mark this Exhibit No. 1. It will remain a permanent
17 part of the record of this hearing. Before we go any
18 further, I'm going to state these are not adversary hearings.
19 All the questions and comments should be directed to the
20 chair. I think both attorneys know that, since they have
21 both been to these hearings before. You are entitled to
22 a fair and impartial hearing panel. Is there any reason
23 you feel that you cannot receive a fair and impartial
24 hearing?

25 MR. FITZGERALD: I might inquire of a representative

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1 of the Board, Carter, Mr. Robert Carter. I might inquire,
2 through your good offices, it's my understanding --

3 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Excuse me. You may
4 speak directly to Mr. Carter.

5 MR. FITZGERALD: Fine. My opinion was that you
6 were a former policeman with the Los Angeles Police Department.
7 I wanted to know if you were a police officer in 1969 and in
8 your official capacity with the police department, if you
9 were employed at that time, if you had any facts or were
10 in possession of any facts or circumstances surrounding
11 this Tate-La Bianca homicide?

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Question No. 1 is was I
13 employed? Yes, I was. Question No. 2, did I have any
14 facts? No, I was not involved in any investigation, didn't
15 know anything other than what I read in the paper.

16 MR. FITZGERALD: All right.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Anything else?

18 MR. FITZGERALD: No.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Prior to our going on
20 record, you asked me some questions about Sacramento County
21 Jail. Do you wish to ask me any questions?

22 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. Perhaps the record should
23 reflect that I did ask you if you were employed by Sacramento
24 County and if you worked in the Sacramento County Jail and if
25 you had contact with other so-called Manson Family members;

1 specifically Lynette Fromme and Sandra Good. I believe you
2 responded in the affirmative that you did.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Yes. I was working as
4 a booking officer, reserve booking officer in Sacramento
5 County Jail. I did have contact with both Lynette Fromme
6 and Sandra Good, but it was extremely limited. I worked a
7 graveyard shift and when I worked, they were sleeping.

8 MR. FITZGERALD: So that contact won't influence
9 you one way or the other?

10 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: No. In fact, I had
11 very little contact, as I said. Anything else, counselor?

12 MR. FITZGERALD: No.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: With that, do you feel
14 you can get a fair and impartial hearing today?

15 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. Subject to statements already
16 made, yes.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. I will
18 state for myself that I am in no way prejudice against your
19 client. Are there any preliminary objections before we
20 proceed, counselor, other than what you stated so far?

21 MR. FITZGERALD: No.

22 MR. KAY: No.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: As far as the statement
24 of facts, I am going to ask that we incorporate by reference
25 the statement of facts from the decision summary, which is

1 in the package of the January 17th, 1980 hearing, and those
2 are pages 2 and 3.

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: 1980 hearing?

4 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: 1980, yes. It's in
5 the packet. It would be in the actual packet, as opposed
6 to the transcript.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: You're looking at
8 the transcript. It's a packet..

9 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Do you have a packet?

10 MR. FITZGERALD: No, I don't have it with me.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: This packet.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: I don't have it present. It's
13 in my car.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I'll share mine with
15 you, counselor.

16 MR. FITZGERALD: I was here in '80.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: It will read exactly
18 what's in the transcript. The reason we do this is because
19 most people have the packets and oftentimes not everybody
20 has the transcript.

21 MR. FITZGERALD: Well, I have that.

22 MR. KAY: If we are going to stipulate to the
23 1980 one; rather than the one last year, the 1980 one at
24 the bottom of page 3, we have to add a few words because,
25 if you notice page 3 in the 1980 one leaves in midair where

1 it says, "Rosemary La Bianca's death was --" and it ends
2 there. We had to add, "caused by multiple stab wounds to
3 neck and trunk."

4 MR. FITZGERALD: That's the top of the next page.

5 "Rosemary La Bianca's death was
6 ascribed to multiple stab wounds to the
7 neck and trunk."

8 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: No. There is something
9 missing on this copy. Let's do this. Let me retract that.
10 Let's incorporate by reference from the January 31, 1979
11 hearing. It will give us that line, also.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Fine.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: So nothing has changed,
14 as far as what's in the statement of facts.

15 MR. FITZGERALD: No, and frankly it would be our
16 intent, as we proceed, to stipulate as often as possible to
17 incorporate; rather than reciting all these things because
18 it's down and there is a continuity of representation here.
19 We would like to make this as expeditious as possible.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Right. So you concur
21 then, counselor?

22 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mr. Kay?

24 MR. KAY: Yes, as long as those words at the
25 bottom are added so it makes sense, that's fine.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: That's from the 1979
2 hearing and that will be the order. This in no way,
3 Miss Van Houten, precludes you or your attorney from stating
4 anything you wish to state, add to the statement of facts,
5 the crime itself; nor does it preclude the panel from asking
6 you any questions that we may have.

7 At this time, I would like to ask one question.
8 I have read all three of the transcripts and all the informa-
9 tion that was given to us over the years, all your briefs
10 and so forth, counsel and there was discussion in every theory
11 about your stabbing Mrs. La Bianca after she was deceased.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I would ask you at
14 this time, that night, do you recall giving any thought to
15 whether or not she was deceased when you were stabbing her?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: At the time that Tex handed
17 me the knife and I turned around, I assumed that she was
18 dead.. At the time that she was alive, I -- there was a
19 point when the initial attempt on her life was taken where
20 I was holding her and Pat was trying to stab her that in my
21 reliving those moments in my mind and trying to evaluate
22 my own behavior then, that there was a chance or an
23 opportunity that I could have taken the knife from Pat
24 and attempted to stab her myself. I personally believe
25 that I knew that she was dead and that that did have a

1 difference in my stabbing her.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: How did you know she
3 was dead?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She was laying there with no
5 movement and no life and when Tex handed me the knife, she
6 seemed dead to me. If that's what you're asking, did that
7 make a difference to me, I believe that it did.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I was just wondering
9 how you could tell she was dead, you know, without actually
10 feeling for a pulse or something. She could have just been
11 unconscious. Do you understand what I am saying?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I didn't think in terms
13 of her being unconscious or -- I understand what you're
14 saying, but it was just -- I had a feeling as though she
15 were dead.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: You've answered my
17 question. Thank you. I don't have anything further in
18 this area. Mr. Lopez?

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: No, I don't have
20 anything.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mr. Carter?

22 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: I don't have anything.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mr. Kay?

24 MR. KAY: Well, yes. I would like to go over some
25 of the facts here. Sometimes I save it for the argument,

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1 but it seems more appropriate at this point to refine some
2 of the facts about what went on and what Miss Van Houten's
3 state of mind was.

4 Miss Van Houten did not participate in the Tate
5 murders, which occurred on August 9th, 1969. But when those
6 participants got back to the ranch that day on August 9th,
7 Patricia Krenwinkle filled Miss Van Houten in on what
8 happened at the Tate house. Miss Van Houten was very upset
9 that she didn't get to go on the Tate murders and she was
10 hoping that if they went out again that she could get to go.

11 She admitted on cross examination at her trial,
12 the trial in 1977, that she weighed in her mind the question
13 for at least two days as to whether or not she could kill
14 anyone and that she decided that she could, even before
15 Manson asked her to join the conspiracy to kill.

16 So when she was asked by Manson, she was a ready,
17 willing participant. Miss Van Houten, Manson and the
18 others met in the bunkroom at Spahn Ranch and Manson was
19 upset with them because the people who went out on the
20 Tate murders caused too much fear and panic in the people
21 and Manson said he was going to go out this night and show
22 them how to do it.

23 They then proceeded to drive around the County
24 of Los Angeles for four hours looking at random for people
25 to murder. Miss Van Houten, Tex Watson, Patricia Krenwinkle,

1 Susan Atkins, Steve Grogan, Linda Kasabian and Manson.
2 Probably the worst of places they stopped, other than the
3 La Bianca house, which was the worst because they actually
4 murdered two people there, but they even stopped at a church
5 in South Pasadena for the purpose of killing the minister,
6 or the priest, and stringing him upside down to the cross
7 in front of his church. They went throughout the Pasadena
8 area, they went out to the beach area in West Los Angeles
9 and eventually drove back. Manson went into -- they ended
10 up in front of the La Bianca's house. No one knew the
11 La Biancas. Manson went into the La Bianca house. He had
12 a gun. He got a drop on Mr. and Mrs. La Bianca. This is
13 about 2:30 Sunday morning. They had come back from a water-
14 skiing trip with their son at Lake Berryessa, their son
15 remained and they brought the boat back. Manson tied up
16 Mr. and Mrs. La Bianca on the sofa, tied their hands behind
17 their backs and assured them he was not going to harm them.
18 One of the things he did was to steal Mrs. La Bianca's
19 wallet and later that night, plant it in what he felt was a
20 black area in hopes that a black person would use the credit
21 cards in the wallet and get blamed for the murders. Because
22 the motive for not only these murders, the La Bianca murders,
23 but the Tate murders the night before was Manson's and the
24 family, Miss Van Houten's desire, to foment a black-white
25 race war.

1 When Manson then came out of the house, he asked
2 Miss Van Houten, Tex Watson and Patricia Krenwinkle to get
3 out of the car, met with them behind the car. He told them
4 there was a man and woman up in the house, that he had tied
5 their hands, but had assured ~~them~~ he was not going to harm
6 them. He said, "Don't cause fear and panic like you did
7 last night and don't let them know that you are going to
8 kill them." The purpose was to kill them. I mean they
9 were going to get killed no matter what.

10 Manson then told them to hitchhike back to the
11 ranch after the murders and he would see them there.

12 Manson and the others then drove off.

13 Miss Van Houten, Patricia Krenwinkle and Tex
14 Watson then entered the La Bianca's residence. At the time
15 of entry, Watson was the only one with the weapon. He had
16 a bayonet. The La Biancas were very upset and concerned
17 when they saw the three people enter because before there
18 had only been one. Watson assured them at that time that it
19 was only going to be a robbery. He untied Mrs. La Bianca's
20 hands, but left Mr. La Bianca on the sofa. Miss Van Houten
21 and Patricia Krenwinkle then took Mrs. La Bianca. Patricia
22 Krenwinkle went into the kitchen and got two knives, one for
23 herself and one for Leslie Van Houten, gave the knife to
24 Leslie Van Houten, kept her own and then Miss Van Houten
25 and Patricia Krenwinkle took Mrs. La Bianca into her bedroom

1 for the purpose of murdering her. When they got her into
2 the bedroom, Miss Van Houten put a pillowcase over Mrs. La
3 Bianca's head and pushed her down on the bed. At that point
4 they were going to kill her, but Mrs. La Bianca heard her
5 husband being murdered in the livingroom, bolted up from
6 the bed, cried out the husband's name and even with the
7 pillowcase over her head, was able to grab a lamp near the
8 bed and attempt to hit Miss Van Houten with it, just swinging
9 it wildly, since she couldn't see.

10 Miss Van Houten knocked the lamp out of
11 Mrs. La Bianca's hands, wrestled her down to the bed and
12 held her down for Patricia Krenwinkle to stab her.
13 Patricia Krenwinkle stabbed her with such force, hitting a
14 bone, the collarbone, that the knife bent. Miss Van Houten,
15 then realizing that these kitchen knives were kind of flimsy,
16 went to the bedroom door, called for Watson, who she knew
17 had a bayonet, to come in and help out. Watson then came
18 in and proceeded to stab Mrs. La Bianca, at some point
19 handing the knife to Leslie Van Houten and she also stabbed
20 Mrs. La Bianca. After Mrs. La Bianca was killed,
21 Mr. La Bianca, of course, was already killed. They wrote
22 in blood -- Patricia Krenwinkle wrote in blood on the walls
23 "Death to Pigs" in the livingroom, the word "Rise" above
24 the inside part of the front door, and "Helter Skelter" on
25 the refrigerator. These terms were all significant from the

1 Beatles' music, which Manson and the Family felt that the
 2 Beatles were speaking to the black people to rise up and
 3 start the revolution, that's why the word "Rise." Helter
 4 skelter was the name of the revolution, also the name of the
 5 Beatles song, and "Death to Pigs" -- pigs did not refer to
 6 police officers. They referred to white middle-class people
 7 that had jobs from nine to five.

8 Miss Van Houten then went around the house wiping
 9 off fingerprints from places they had touched. She was
 10 very much together. Not only that, but she drank chocolate
 11 milk from the refrigerator of the La Blancas, the others
 12 also had things to eat. Miss Van Houten changed her clothes
 13 in the house and took property from the La Blancas. They
 14 then hitchhiked back to the Spahn Ranch, walking down from
 15 the Silver Lake Area near Griffith Park and got a ride.

16 The first thing Miss Van Houten did when she got
 17 back to the ranch is collected firewood, built a fire in
 18 the fireplace of this little bunkhouse she was staying at
 19 and burned her clothes. She also then proceeded to count
 20 the money that she had taken from the La Blancas that
 21 didn't amount to much but some change. I think it amounted
 22 to \$8. Eight dollars and some change and I think a signi-
 23 ficant thing at the time of the murders is that Miss Van
 24 Houten was not on drugs. The only one that had taken any
 25 drugs that night was Tex Watson, who had taken some speed

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1 to wake him up to be more alert because he was so tired from
2 participating in the Tate murders the night before. None
3 of the others were on drugs, not only Miss Van Houten,
4 but none of the others. That's all I have at this time

5 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. Counselor?

6 MR. FITZGERALD: No comment.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Is there anything you
8 care to comment on, Miss Van Houten, regarding the crime
9 itself?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: The actual facts or answering
11 Mr. Kay?

12 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Is there anything at
13 all, anything at all that you wish to comment on regarding
14 the crime itself? At the end of each of these sections,
15 I will give you and your attorney the last chance to comment.
16 If you don't care to, just say no.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I think that Mr. Kay
18 simplifies all of the surrounding factors of the crime
19 itself. He speaks about us driving around and us finding
20 the house and I was not active in selecting the house. I'm
21 always a little frightened to comment too much because I
22 don't want it to seem as though I'm not carrying my share
23 of the responsibility for what happened and that's not
24 my intention. But I was not a motivating factor in the
25 crime.

1 I had given my will and my thinking over to
2 someone else and I believed Charlie to be more than a man and
3 I was not able to see his sickness. I was active in support-
4 ing that sickness, not understanding it, and much of what
5 Mr. Kay says is true and he'll point out documented facts
6 and present them according to his interpretation. I think
7 many times Mr. Kay comes in here and argues First Degree
8 Murder --

9 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Excuse me. We are not
10 here to talk about Mr. Kay. What I would like to do is just
11 if you care to state anything about the crime itself, fine.
12 I don't want to get into personalities and so forth or get
13 personal.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, that's difficult because
15 he presents -- you know -- he comes and presents over and
16 over again his interpretations and then, you know, I don't --

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: What I'm doing is
18 giving you an opportunity to present your interpretation.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I no way would say that the
20 crimes in '69 were not frightening and heinous and callous,
21 but there were other surrounding factors of a period of time
22 of my mental state of the nightmare that I was caught up in
23 and unable to get out of that I also feel were contributing
24 factors to the ultimate behavior of all of this.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Is there anything else

1 before we move on?

2 MR. FITZGERALD: I'd like to observe that the facts
3 produced at the various trials, clearly indicated that she
4 was not a decision maker and that perhaps that since it's
5 been conveyed that she wasn't the one that decided that
6 perhaps the minister or priest ought to be the victim of a
7 homicide.. She was not the one that selected the La Blancas.
8 It was Charles Manson. He was there and the appreciation of
9 the facts, which I'm sure you appreciate because you've read
10 the transcripts of '79, '80 and '81, any appreciation of
11 the facts takes into consideration the dominant and
12 predominant role that Charles Manson played.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you, counselor.
14 Let's go into your prior history. Rather than start with
15 the criminal history, I'm going to start with the social
16 history and take it basically in chronological order. That
17 might be easier. The record indicates you came from a
18 stable homelife, you lived with your mother, who was
19 divorced and that the family at one time attended family
20 counseling in order to better deal with the divorce and
21 separation. I think you attended five sessions and then
22 attended no more because you felt that it really wasn't
23 doing any good. It wasn't what you thought it was; is that
24 true?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I had a nervous feeling

1 about family counseling back then. What was I, 14? I'm
2 not really sure of the time period. I think most of us
3 children felt that we were having someone intruding and
4 we weren't very comfortable with it. It wasn't like an
5 acknowledgement on any of our parts that it was necessary.
6 I think Mom saw the necessity for it and we didn't and
7 it just was more uncomfortable than anything else.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Okay. In school you
9 were a homecoming princess, class secretary. You belonged
10 to the Bluebirds, but in your junior and senior year, you
11 started having some problems. You began using drugs at
12 age 15, approximately?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I started smoking
14 marijuana at 15 and I started taking LSD at 16.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I think in prior
16 transcripts, you indicated that the first time you tried
17 marijuana, you saw your brother and some of his friends
18 smoking and you tried it and that Bobby Mackie turned you
19 on to LSD.

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. Mackie.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mackie?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: At that time, you hung
24 around with older kids and took drugs, however, you did
25 graduate from high school.

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I did.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: When you were in high
3 school, you were pregnant and had an abortion?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I did.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: How old were you then
6 when you had the abortion?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I was in my -- I think I was
8 17. I was in my senior year during Christmas vacation.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: But you did graduate
10 high school in June of '67. Then in '68, you graduated as
11 a certified legal secretary from a business college. In
12 August of '68, you met Bobby Beausoleil and Catherine Share.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: And in September or
15 October of '68 is when you joined the Manson Family?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: As far as your criminal
18 record goes, I'm looking at the CII rap sheet and these
19 were all mentioned before in prior hearings. I'm just going
20 to go over them.

21 In April of '69, Los Angeles, you were arrested
22 for Grand Theft Auto under the name of Leslie Mary Sankston,
23 S-a-n-k-s-t-o-n, and were released for insufficient evidence.
24 Then in August of '69, under the name of Leslie Sue Owens,
25 Grand Theft Auto, again you were released on that.

1 September of '69, Los Angeles, under the name of
2 Louise Susan Alexander, you were arrested for Burglary and
3 released on that. In October of '69, you were arrested in
4 Independence under the name of Luella Maxwell Alexandra for
5 10851, Grand Theft Auto, but that was dropped when you were
6 arrested for the murder and that brings us up to the crime,
7 the murder itself. Were you going to say something?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I thought that arrest
9 was for aiding and concealing stolen property. It doesn't
10 matter.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I don't see anything
12 here that indicates that. It says 10851 VC - GTA on the
13 sheet.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: But you say it was
16 for what?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I thought back then it was
18 for receiving stolen property -- no, aiding and concealing
19 stolen property.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: This doesn't indicate
21 it was. That's your history. Is there anything you care
22 to comment on regarding either the criminal or social
23 history that I mentioned?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, just that my criminal
25 history was the only criminal history once I got to the

1 ranch and that the majority of the charges were -- I think
2 there were up to 15 of us charged with the same Grand Theft
3 Auto. It was a way the Malibu Police Department, or
4 whichever area we were in, tended to try to break up groups
5 of hippies.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: At this time in your
7 life, looking back on that portion of your life, how do
8 you feel about it? I'm not trying to get into the psychiatric
9 area, but I'm talking about the Manson clan, the way you
10 were living then.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I've gone through different
12 phases of how I've looked at it in the different years that
13 I have been here and away from it. Now it's more difficult
14 for me to understand why I wasn't able to read my internal
15 signals more carefully. I feel that during that time period,
16 I was just extremely confused and looking for someone that
17 had answers and feeling that I had met someone that did and
18 that his approval meant more to me than anything else,
19 beyond my own self-preservation. As I look back on these
20 people and what some of them have become today and what we
21 all were as a group back then, it's very difficult for me
22 to see myself back there. Sometimes it's like looking at
23 a different girl that had a lot of problems that didn't seem
24 to understand that they were problems.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mr. Carter, anything

1 in this area at all?

2 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: What were the problems that
3 you felt you had at that time?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: You mean now looking back?

5 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Yes.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I was unable to see that though
7 there are imperfections in a system, that the system still
8 has a valid worth. One of Charlie's things is that he'd
9 find an imperfection and he would make it black and white
10 without any sort of justification for it. I think that
11 partly my youth and partly the extremity that LSD causes, I
12 wasn't able to understand that though a society and a system
13 may not be perfect, there are things and ways within it that
14 you live and you deal with life. I've always tried to make
15 a point of not feeling that my parents divorce had a sense
16 of causing an alienation in me, but the older I get, I can
17 see where it did.

18 My father told me he was leaving my mother before
19 he told her and I think that that caused me to feel a
20 stronger distance with her and many times in my angers, my
21 mother became my focal point and Charlie was very good on
22 attacking parents. He attacked all institutions within a
23 society that give a child morals and a sense of social
24 conscientiousness or awareness.

25 I feel like at the time I had all of these things

1 that were going in me. I don't think I really ever dealt
 2 with the abortion and I think that that gave me a lesser
 3 sense of self-worth and that at the ranch, I felt a together-
 4 ness, but then again, even at the ranch, I was not one of
 5 the well looked upon, you know, I was one of the ones that
 6 always had to try to prove herself just a little bit more.

7 So I look back and I see in my early years as a
 8 teenager, I was very successful and I put myself in a position
 9 where I was scorned upon even by the people at the ranch.
 10 So I view that kind of behavior within myself as having a
 11 lot of problems in a -- you know -- self-perspective, self-
 12 esteem, that those things were ideas and notions that I
 13 couldn't deal with; that the idea of being at the ranch and
 14 trying to lose me and becoming the same kind of thinking
 15 process as Charlie and the rest of the people at the ranch
 16 wanted, the whole idea of the cult unit became my answers
 17 at that time.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mr. Lopez?

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: I don't believe I
 20 have any questions.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Mr. Kay?

22 MR. KAY: Well, of course, I think one thing that
 23 we all probably understand, or should understand, is this
 24 was not the normal hippie cult that Miss Van Houten joined,
 25 A lot of people came in contact with Manson and the Family

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1 and didn't join and left. Manson didn't just talk about
2 sweetness and life. He talked about Hitler being a hero for
3 what he did to the Jewish people, he talks about the master
4 race. There were no minorities in the Family because Manson
5 and the Family believed in the master race and they were
6 going to create a master race. It talked about hatred of
7 society. They all hated society.

8 Miss Van Houten seemed to have everything going for
9 her when she was younger. She was popular at school, smart,
10 she is a very intelligent woman, I'm sure you can see that.
11 She always has been. She has a high IQ, in the range from
12 121 to 125. But she was never happy or satisfied with the
13 way things were going, so she always wanted to experiment
14 with different things. Like this Mackie guy she got involved
15 with. He was a hippie, he was an outcast in school, yet
16 she sought him out. She admitted on cross examination at
17 the trial when she started taking LSD, there was only one
18 other girl she could find that was taking LSD. None of her
19 peer group was and she had to search this girl out and
20 start taking LSD.

21 She went to Sawyer's Business College and
22 graduated as a legal secretary, top one in her class. But
23 when she didn't get a job, she dropped out of society. She
24 went up to San Francisco, called her mother and told her
25 mother not to love her anymore, to forget about her and then

1 she met Bobby Beausoleil one day and went off with him the
2 next and eventually joined the Family.

3 But people talk about, well, gee, this is the
4 60's and maybe Miss Van Houten is a product of the 60's,
5 being a hippie and joining a hippie group. But let us never
6 lose sight of the fact that these were not hippies. This
7 was not part of the hippie generation. These were mutants,
8 these were not flower children. These were people who
9 thought and believed differently than other hippies. These
10 weren't people looking for peace, these were people looking
11 for war. That's all I have.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you.

13 MR. FITZGERALD: No comment.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Anything you'd like
15 to say at this time?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No. I think I said pretty
17 much what I wanted to say.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. If there
19 is nothing further, we will go into the area of your
20 institutional adjustment and Mr. Carter will be heading
21 that discussion.

22 BOARD MEMBER CARTER:— Once again, we find that a
23 year has passed and in that year, you have continued to
24 program excellently and I don't find any 115's this year
25 or any other year to talk about. I find that your few

1 nonpositive contacts with staff have dealt with trying to
2 get your custody reduced and trying to get a vacation.
3 Quickly, would you please fill me in, at least, on what a
4 vacation means.

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, when you work a year
6 here, normally you get a week vacation.

7 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: What does that mean?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: You just don't go to work. You
9 can stay in your room and sew or do -- it's like free time
10 and because I don't have a parole date, I have to stay on
11 close custody and because I'm on close custody, I don't get
12 the weekly vacation, which is -- you know --

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Did you say you had received
14 a vacation before and they only recognized recently that
15 they didn't --

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. Suddenly this year it
17 became an issue.

18 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: So your custody remained in
19 closed custody and as a result, you don't get a vacation,
20 you haven't gotten a vacation?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, not yet.

22 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: I guess you are quite
23 satisfied that you have completed a B.A. in literature and
24 writing from Antioch?

25 /////

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

2 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And I think last year there
3 was some conversation as to whether you were going to get
4 an advanced degree or something like that. At that time
5 you didn't now. Do you know now?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I think I'm about ready
7 to start looking into a Master's Program, but I didn't want
8 to just keep -- you know -- kind of gathering degrees unless
9 it was something that I really wanted to learn and get
10 into. Recently I've been able to start preparing workshops
11 for some of the women that aren't inclined to reenter educa-
12 tion and if I find that this is something I enjoy doing and
13 that I think in the future I could use it in the area of
14 maybe with delinquent children, that I will go ahead and
15 look for a Master's in Business Administration with the
16 connection being trying to design programs that would
17 encourage people who aren't motivated towards education and
18 to finding a sense of value in it.

19 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Continuing on with your
20 adjustment, apparently you are still working as a secretary
21 for the Education Department?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And what do you do there?
24 Generally what a secretary does?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I help do some of the

1 administrative assistant kind of work for Antioch University.
2 When Antioch first started here, I was the only student and
3 my family was helping me with my degree. Now, because of
4 independent donations on the street to the University
5 itself, we have been able to extend our college program
6 from the B.S., which is contracted with the State, to a
7 B.A. Degree, also with Antioch. So I spent quite a bit
8 of time designing and developing the program for Antioch.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: So you're saying some of
10 the money that was originally generated for you is now
11 being used for other people?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No. Mine was my family was
13 able to help me. But some women don't have that and as a
14 result of my performance, people that are in touch with
15 the University out in the Los Angeles area, took interest
16 to the idea of the college coming into the prison and so
17 there has been like a grant -- I don't know what it's
18 called -- a foundation or something set up so that the
19 University can come in and teach now on a broader scale
20 without State contracting.

21 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Interesting.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: So I spend time doing that and
23 being headquartered in the Education Department.

24 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: So all of these things, you
25 are sort of tutoring and your work kind of blends?

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I find a great
2 satisfaction in that area. I don't feel like I'm doing a
3 State job. I'm able to get a greater sense of involvement.

4 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: I think last year there
5 was some talk that you were in MARA?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And now MARA is temporarily
8 defunct or what?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: The entire department seems
10 to be reevaluating the self-help groups, so there's been
11 a lag in time periods. I'm still supportive of them, but
12 my main interest is in the Long Termers' Organization.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: I know very little about
14 the Long Termers' Organization. Would you tell me about
15 that?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It was in existence about five
17 or six years ago and went out of existence and last
18 November, it came back in and what it is, it's a group where
19 women who are doing lengthy amounts of time can belong.
20 Other people can belong, too, but the main focus is for
21 women doing lengthy amounts of time so that we can encourage
22 each other in finding ways of doing positive time and at the
23 same time, understanding some of the phases and attitudes
24 that you go through while you're looking at years ahead.
25 So it's just to help each other.

1 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: In some of the reports we
2 will go into later in the psychiatric evaluations, there's
3 some mention of stages and things like that. I'll try to
4 remember that and maybe you can enlighten us or give us
5 some observation on what those stages are.

6 Apparently you've been attending small group
7 discussions or small therapy groups with Dr. Jimakas.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Do you feel as though you
10 are gaining anything out of that?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I do.

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: What have you picked up from
13 that?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, what I've been trying to
15 work on in the small therapy groups is how to become more
16 assertive, or how to be able to state clearly what I'm
17 feeling with someone else and not -- kind of to protect my
18 space and not keep things piling up until I overload with
19 someone or become overly aggressive or remain passive in
20 my relating to other people. Sharing groups with other
21 women gives me a chance to see that some of my problems and
22 the things that I think are centered around me, are shared
23 experiences with other people; that life has its similarities,
24 as well as its differences. Miss Jimakas is a very good
25 therapist.

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22 the things that I think are centered around me, are shared
23 experiences with other people; that life has its similarities,
24 as well as its differences. Miss Jimakas is a very good
25 therapist.

1 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Miss?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think it's Ms. She is
3 direct and firm in her conducting of the therapies and she
4 focuses on honesty to yourself when you are relating your
5 impression of yourself. I enjoy the therapy very much.

6 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: You mentioned previously
7 it's not just that it's an enjoyable thing to do, it's also
8 a worthwhile thing for you?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, yeah. I leave there feeling
10 a little bit stronger and better and when I have a problem,
11 I look forward to going.

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: I'm going to read some of
13 your chronos into the record that you have earned since
14 last year. I think your hearing last year was almost a
15 year to the day. There is one dated 10/6/81 from
16 Correctional Counselor B-e-h-r-e-n-s, Behrens, and it deals
17 with your appearance before the ICC Committee for a routine
18 program review. It notes that you received your B.A. and
19 that you wish to continue full-time as an education clerk
20 and drop school for the time being. It notes that you
21 have programmed without any discipline since reception
22 and you have an excellent work record, you are a stable
23 influence on the living unit and you have a positive involve-
24 ment in the self-help program. She recommends you for
25 a custody decrease. There's another education progress

1 report that's dated 10/81. You received a B-plus and
2 three semester units for Philosophy 230.1. There's some
3 insight here. It mentions that you are a little inconsistent
4 in that you missed an A by writing a mediocre final exam.

5 MR. FITZGERALD: An experience we have all had.

6 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: There's another chrono dated
7 1/11/82, again the Classification Committee is reevaluating
8 what do you get; a 90-day evaluation?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I'm on the superintendent's
10 case load and so every 90 days, I go before the ICC Committee.

11 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Much of it is the same. The
12 differences that you are cited for: assisting an instructor
13 in introducing and designing the course material for a
14 philosophy class that meets Fridays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This
15 is by Douglas, Correctional Counselor Douglas. She concurs
16 with the past recommendation for reduction.

17 In a commendation dated January 11, '82, you also
18 participated in a Christmas program. You helped pack and
19 distribute 1,000 Christmas goodie bags to other inmates.
20 One of seven people and that was written by Robert L. Pope
21 and B.J. Bunnell, The Associate Superintendent cited you for
22 basically the same thing; is that true?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

24 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: There's an information chrono
25 dealing with -- first of all, it's dated 2/5/82 and written

1 by Paul F. Cook. It's dealing with correspondence from
2 Patrick and you identified Patrick as Patrick D. Wilson of
3 San Clemente. He is a visitor of someone else in the
4 institution and he has been corresponding with you for some
5 time.

6 In one of his correspondence, there was a reference
7 to "the escape letter" and people here asked you, staff
8 here asked you about that. It doesn't say that you don't
9 know what that refers to, but it does say that "he writes
10 crazy and weird letters and makes all kinds of crazy,
11 far-out statements."

12 Do you know what that referred to, the escape
13 letter?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. He wrote me a letter and
15 it had one line in it that said, "I know you are planning to
16 escape. Good luck." Then he wrote another letter and
17 said:

18 "I wrote that because if the authorities
19 had questioned you, then we could prove to
20 the Board how little the authorities here
21 know you because clearly you wouldn't escape."

22 He's written the Board letters about every other
23 week, I think, and so I talked with my Unit 2 supervisor
24 and my counselor and the Deputy Superintendent and it was --
25 you know -- it was settled and cleared. I s get letters,

1 but now he doesn't put a return address. He just sends the
2 letters.

3 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Apparently the staff is
4 satisfied because they say:

5 "Total assessment indicates that Leslie
6 has no responsibility for contents of his
7 letters and the matter does not present a
8 security or management concern."

9 Another notation from the Classification Committee,
10 basically the same information and final chrono dated
11 4/13/82, from A. Van Duvall that says:

12 "Inmate Van Houten continues to show
13 great progress in her programming. She is
14 a very pleasant individual, an asset to
15 Barneberg Cottage and helpful to staff as
16 a soundingboard for some of her peers.
17 Leslie never has to be reminded to report
18 to her work assignment and uses time
19 constructively. Hygiene and housekeeping
20 habits are exceptional."

21 Are there any other chronos or notations that you
22 would like us to get in the record?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I can't think of any.

24 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: All right. We covered what
25 you do with your day and your group involvement, work

1 involvement, schooling. I feel as though something is
2 missing because we didn't talk about 115's, but there aren't
3 any. Does anybody else on the panel have anything?

4 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I don't have anything.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Well covered.

6 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: We are going to go into
7 the area of psychiatric evaluations after this. But does
8 the District Attorney have anything further?

9 MR. KAY: No.

10 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Do you?

11 MR. FITZGERALD: No.

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Let's go into the psychiatric
13 evaluations. In last year's hearing, there is some mention
14 of a report in 1980 completed by Dr. Ruth E. Loveys and I've
15 gone through that report. I have some questions to ask you,
16 Leslie, about that report.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm not real fresh on the
18 report.

19 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: All right. One of the lines
20 in the report says:

21 "The underlying philosophy of the
22 home was that self-effacement and suffering
23 are the great goods."

24 I wanted to know if that was one of the things
25 that was taught at your house?

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: That's --

2 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Self-effacement; putting
3 yourself down, reducing yourself.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, my mother was always
5 when I had my victories, mother always wanted me to be
6 sensitive to people that didn't have victories. In other
7 words, when you have, you don't become insensitive to people
8 that don't have.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Is that bad or good or how
10 do you view that?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I didn't view it as any par-
12 ticular way. I think that --

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Now as a more mature person?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I can understand where
15 she was concerned about losing a sensitivity to other people
16 and becoming too absorbed in myself, but I think that maybe
17 a little bit stronger credit might have helped, but, you
18 know, it sounds like she wrote it as a pretty strong
19 Calvinist view that you're born guilty and though that
20 certainly was part of the household--I mean, we were brought
21 up Presbyterians from a long line. My mother wasn't a fire
22 and brimstone woman.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: All right. Also in the
24 report, it is written:

25 "Later in life, in Leslie's teenage

1 years, the successes seemed imminent
2 and inevitable and was, in fact, extremely
3 frightening for her and steered great guilt
4 because of its psychological meaning of
5 loss of her mother's love and sympathy."

6 Did you think if you were successful you would lose
7 your mother's love?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I can't -- you know -- one of
9 the things about Miss Loveys is that Miss Loveys tended to
10 put a lot of attention on the mother-daughter relationship,
11 where like others put them on the father-daughter. I can't
12 say that I was living in fear that I would lose my mother's
13 love. In fact, I didn't like my mom very much then.

14 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: You did not?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

16 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: How about now?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: We are very close. Sometimes
18 we have our problems, you know.

19 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Earlier you mentioned that
20 while you were with the Manson Family, you felt as though
21 you had to prove yourself and you were sort of an outsider.
22 That's the inference you've made.

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, there were like circles,
24 sort of, of acceptance and there were the very young girls,
25 14, 15 and 16 that were very close to him and stayed in

1 George's house, George Spahn, and there were others that
2 dealt with the bikers and cowboys and cleaned the barn and
3 were not as held in a high regard and I was one of those,
4 mainly because I was considered older at 18.

5 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: It wasn't because you came
6 from a middle class orientation on anything?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, he judged me very
8 harshly for that. He'd oftentimes, in a group, start poking
9 fun at the fact that I probably missed my mother and father
10 and that I couldn't let go, that I still held onto all of
11 the hangups that they had given me and I stayed around
12 wanting to prove to him that I could overcome that.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Also in Miss Loveys' report,
14 she says later:

15 "When she," being you, "deliberated
16 as to whether she could kill for Charlie,
17 her belief was that she had to do
18 something enormously hard to prove herself
19 worthy of acceptance. It is significant,
20 I believe, that her immediate feeling
21 after the La Bianca murders was one of
22 unworthiness that she had failed as a
23 'soldier' in not having taken the more
24 active role"; is that true?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I judged myself harshly

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1 because in the house, I responded in ways that I felt I
2 shouldn't have.

3 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Such as?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, running for Tex when
5 Pat couldn't stab Mrs. La Bianca, wiping off fingerprints;
6 rather than writing in blood or doing other things that
7 Charlie had wanted us to do, which I didn't.

8 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: What was one thing he wanted
9 you to do and you didn't?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Cut eyeballs out and stick
11 them on the walls and make it a completely visually horrible
12 situation and I judged myself because I knew that inside
13 myself, I hadn't reacted as I thought I should have.

14 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Were you reprimanded by
15 the group as a result of that, for failing to do any of
16 these things?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

18 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Somewhere else in here, one
19 of the other psychological evaluations, there's an indication
20 that you felt relieved after the La Bianca murders, that
21 something had been lifted off of you. How do those two
22 feelings mesh? Do you recall telling someone that?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: That I felt relieved?

24 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Yes, that a burden had been
25 lifted off you.

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, that was a long time
2 ago; wasn't it?

3 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Yes, back in '77 or '71.
4 That was to Dr. Coburn in '71. It said:

5 "She felt like a drudge had been
6 lifted from her back."

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, that I felt suddenly
8 like I had made a step.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Step toward what?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: True commitment. I don't know.

11 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Acceptance by this group?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: So you were now one of
14 them?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Right, that I had stepped
16 over, but internally, I also felt that I hadn't responded the
17 way I thought I would. When I talked with Dr. Coburn, I
18 was still very into the whole ranch thought processes.
19 It wasn't until several years after we were in SSU that I
20 really started to be able to grow away from, or understand
21 that I was growing away from it by being removed from the
22 way the group was.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: So this reaction, or this
24 statement, is more or less reliable or --

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I would say that the reaction

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1 that I judge myself for my behavior in this is more reliable.
2 We had been told not to talk about it with the other people
3 at the ranch.

4 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And --

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, you asked did the
6 others in the group get on me about it.

7 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Right.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And, you know, Tex, after that
9 night when I had burnt the clothes in front of Diane Lake,
10 Tex came and confronted me and told me that I was not to
11 speak about it and so there wasn't a lot of discussion until
12 later.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: This report goes on:

14 "On the deepest and most profound level,
15 I believe Leslie's actions were a horrifying
16 symbolic attempt to shock her mother in to,
17 at long last, recognizing her need."

18 Do you feel that? Doesn't say that you believe,
19 she says, "she believes that."

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: That I think the reason I was
21 there was to make my mother --

22 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: The writer of the report
23 says:

24 "I believe that Leslie's actions were
25 a horrifying symbolic attempt to shock her

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mother into at long last recognizing her need."

Where does she get that?

INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I don't necessarily connect that what I was doing at the ranch was a statement to my mother.

BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And she goes further to say:

"The symbols, such as this kind of an act, allowed her, as they do others, to avoid the painful truth about her life. It also goes without saying that her own passive-aggressive tendencies found ready expression in the antisocial hostility of the group."

Repeating the first part:

"Symbols allow her, as they do others, to avoid the painful truth about her life."

What was that truth that was painful that this referred to here? Do you have any idea?

INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm sorry. I'm having a hard time following.

BOARD MEMBER CARTER: "Symbols allow her, as they do others, to avoid the painful truth about her life."

What is the truth, the painful truth, or what was

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1 it?

2 MR. FITZGERALD: What were you trying to avoid,
3 cover up, hide, whatever?

4 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Or does this relate to you?
5 Can you relate to it?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I view my situation at
7 the ranch, as I said earlier, I obviously was a troubled
8 person for being there. Healthy people don't end up in
9 places like that and go to those extremes, but I can't say
10 that it was -- I believe that it was probably a lot of
11 factors involved and not one particularly focused kind
12 of a thing, if that's what you mean.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Well, I chose this report
14 to talk about because it had been -- it's a very in depth
15 report in that it is five pages and that it was referred
16 to in last year's hearing. I just wanted to see if you
17 agreed or could relate with a lot of the conclusions and
18 statements that are in this report and apparently, at the
19 very best, we are batting 500 here.

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I feel Miss Loveys focused on
21 my mother a little too much and I talked with my mom about
22 it after my session with her and I -- you know -- I told her
23 that I felt that Miss Loveys was trying to bring up a lot
24 of feelings that I didn't ever really feel were there and
25 Mom reminded me there was a time we didn't get along very

1 well, which is true. But to say that everything that I did
2 was an action against my mother, I can't necessarily agree
3 with that. I think that's a little too simple. Maybe a
4 little too Freudian.

5 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Would you characterize your
6 childhood as significantly different than a lot of people
7 that you knew?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Well, then help us understand
10 how you took the road you took and other people took less
11 severe roads.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think a lot of it was I was
13 uncomfortable with my successes as a young teenager in high
14 school. I wasn't comfortable being a winner, which caused
15 me to find a boyfriend that was not part of the social set.
16 I did have a curiosity about marijuana when I found my
17 brother and his friends smoking it.

18 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Tell us how you were different
19 or what things led you differently, because most of the
20 things you said so far, I would suspect that a great deal
21 of people at that time, at that age, were doing the same
22 things.

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, after the abortion, I
24 gave up LSD and I decided, along with Bobby, that we were
25 going to be renunciates in a Yoga Monastery. So while I was

1 going to business college, that was because the monastery
2 needed secretaries and they said that while I was waiting
3 that year to be a novice, I could go ahead and get the
4 training. My father jumped on the chance because he figured
5 it was probably his only opportunity to get me a trade and
6 he didn't care if it was under the guise of me being a nun
7 in a monastery or whatever. So that's how I got the legal
8 secretarial training.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: But by the time you got the
10 training --

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Halfway through it I had given
12 up the idea of the Yoga Monastic life and I had started
13 meeting the men around the Bay Area and that's where I was
14 living. I wasn't able to relate to them very well in their
15 ambitions. I still had some of the kind of the hippie
16 reality of not having ambitions towards comfortable money
17 situations.

18 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: What kind of fellows were
19 you dating?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Young executives that were
21 trying to get involved with TWA and going to business
22 schools and all of that.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Upperly mobile type people?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Highly ambitious. So after
25 that, I went back and saw some of my old friends from when

1 Bobby and I were together. I went back to looking for my
 2 acid friends and I ended up in San Francisco with a friend
 3 of mine and her husband and they were in the process of
 4 divorcing. At the point when I didn't think I'd be able to
 5 stay there another night, I--you know, looking back, I could
 6 see I could have probably called my parents and they would
 7 have helped me get rent and get settled as a Kelly Girl so
 8 that I could start working in the area. But my idea of
 9 independence didn't allow me to. Bobby Beausoleil and
 10 Catherine Share came by in their truck and said, "Come on.
 11 We just live for the day and --"

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Sounded like a good idea at
 13 the time?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.. I understand that the
 15 idea of the ranch immediately -- you know -- being different
 16 than other hippie communes is not necessarily the way it
 17 was for me. Charlie had an ability to talk to people in
 18 different ways. What he would have told Danny De Carlo,
 19 a biker, about his philosophy would have been different than
 20 what he told us girls. I mean, that's part of the art that
 21 you know -- he would tell someone one thing and someone
 22 another thing and with the bikers and with some of the men,
 23 Charlie did speak very prejudicially and Hitlerian because
 24 that is more to the gearing of those kinds of gangs and at
 25 the same time he would explain to us that while he was doing

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1 that, he had other ideas, too.

2 In the beginning when I went to the ranch, I
 3 saw Charlie as a very loving man. I know that sounds crazy,
 4 but Charlie has an ability to put on faces. I don't know if
 5 he still does or not, but he had one and as time went on
 6 and it began to snowball in the early spring of 1969, I was
 7 already in too deeply for myself to be able to get myself
 8 out. I misread my signals. Something seemed wrong and
 9 instead of me thinking "This is wrong and I feel like
 10 Ella does and I'm going to leave," I would say, "I feel this
 11 is wrong, but that's only because I can't get rid of my
 12 parents and I can't get rid of my education and I can't get
 13 rid of my church upbringing. I'm hung up. I need to try
 14 harder so that he'll know that I am with him more because
 15 if this is the Messiah, if this is the man with all the
 16 answers and I can't bring myself to be with him, what hope
 17 do I have of ever having a salvation."

18 I mean it's a complex form of manipulation, but it
19 happened.

20 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And there is some voluntarism
21 involved in it?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Sure. An eagerness to want to
23 be part, an ego trip on my part for wanting to be near the
24 man, you know, the guy sent down from the heavens and all
25 of those things came to play. I see my entire circumstances

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1 leading up and into those things as just a series of events;
2 rather than like one huge kind of neurotic tendency that just
3 put me immediately into that situation, if you see what I'm
4 saying.

5 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: I think it's fair to say
6 that most things that people do are not motivated by one
7 single thing. It's a step-by-step kind of thing. All right.
8 Let's go to Dr. Schmale's report dated December 15th, 1981.
9 He says:

10 "I find the resident has maintained
11 her improvement over these past months
12 and continued to grow in her self under-
13 standing and emotional stability. Her
14 recent marriage is seen as a step to further
15 maturity and emotional growth. Continuing
16 to be involved in various activities that
17 are helpful to her fellow inmates indicates
18 an altruistic attitude that I consider to
19 be essential to emotional maturity.

20 "Diagnosis: No mental disorder.

21 "Conclusions: I believe the offense
22 was largely a function of the resident's
23 psychopathological state. During her stay
24 here, she has shown much psychiatric
25 improvement. I consider the improvement to

1 continue when she returns to the community.
2 She should be removed from special calendar
3 because psychopathology is not significantly
4 related to future criminal behavior. Her
5 violence potential is considered to be less
6 than average."

7 However, he does go on to recommend out patient
8 psychotherapy. Now, let's talk a little about that. How
9 many times did you talk to Dr. Schmale?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Once.

11 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: How long?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think maybe one or two
13 hours.

14 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: The report, while short,
15 there's a report of you that kind of follows the trend.
16 One part of it I'd like to talk to you about. Your recent
17 marriage is seen as a step to further maturity and emotional
18 growth. Do you feel that's true?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

20 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: How long did you know your
21 husband before you were married?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: About six months.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: What did you know about him?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I knew mainly what he was
25 making me feel like. I knew he was a parolee. I knew

1 that he was coming to California to try and get his life
2 in order by leaving his past associates behind. I mainly
3 knew that in my relationship with Bill, I was being able
4 to experience things that spending my adult years in prison
5 hasn't allowed me to.

6 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Physical things?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, physical and emotional,
8 like as healthy a relationship as this kind of environment
9 allows and that I could start experiencing new avenues in
10 an intimate relationship that I haven't had.

11 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: You knew he was on parole?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Could that be interpreted
14 to be sort of a parallel between when you went out of your
15 way to find someone who was not in the mainstream of your
16 school, the first guy you went with?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I don't think so. I
18 think a lot of it is just my situation.

19 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: How about --

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Someone with a growing career
21 or something would have quite a bit to lose by marrying
22 me. I mean, I think a lot of it is just my situation
23 now.

24 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: How about when you were going
25 with the guys in San Francisco or dating guys who were

1 upperly mobile and so on and then you didn't want to --
2 you couldn't relate to them?

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I can relate now to
4 people that are ambitious and career oriented, but --

5 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Of all the people in the
6 world, you had a chance to affiliate with, you affiliated
7 with someone who you knew was a parolee.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I think that, you know,
9 also my name, the stigma surrounding me, if someone is
10 trying to establish themselves somewhere, they are not
11 as -- the opportunity of meeting someone like that in this
12 kind of environment doesn't really offer itself that often
13 and I have male friends that are successes and yet, at the
14 same time, you know, they are successes and they are not
15 going to jeopardize by me -- I mean, we are friends, but
16 we are not married and I feel like, realistically, with my
17 record, with my infamy, that it's not that out of line
18 as to what would be available to me. May I ask something?

19 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Go ahead.

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: At the same time I've learned
21 to grow and understand commitments and part of my problem
22 after the crimes and going through the trials with Charlie
23 was that I believe that once you commit yourself, that those
24 commitments cannot be broken and I had a distorted sense
25 of loyalty. I just would like you to know that I don't feel

1 that way any more. I believe that there are times when
2 commitments, if the agreements aren't met and if a commitment
3 becomes a negative, then you can break that commitment and
4 still think well of yourself and continue living. At this
5 point, with my relationship with my husband, there are
6 concerns that I have which I have spoken to him about and
7 if they aren't understood and addressed, then our relation-
8 ship will have to be reevaluated.

9 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: One final thing in regards
10 to your husband. You say he came to California to establish
11 himself?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: As what?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: He's an accountant, but mainly
15 just to settle down and to try to find something that he
16 wants to do. So far he hasn't been able to do that and
17 that's one of my concerns about our relationship, that
18 there aren't certain things that he doesn't seem to be able
19 to get a handle on that are not -- there's nothing I can
20 do or would do -- in other words, he has to find more of
21 what he is and what he is doing if our marriage is to
22 continue.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Let's go to the report
24 dated 3/4/82 by Dr. Maria Jimakas. The report is -- I don't
25 want to use the word "complimentary," but I can't think of

1 another one. It's very positive. In the third paragraph
2 it goes on to say:

3 "While friendly and attentive, Miss
4 Van Houten appeared consciously to maintain,
5 a positive idealistic outlook, despite
6 periods of discouragement and depression.
7 Her tendency to be compliant, as has been
8 previously noted, extended to assisting her
9 adjustment to long-term internment, since
10 her passive responses to the rules and
11 regulations of prison has kept her relatively
12 free from negative disciplinary notations."

13 So she is saying that you have a tendency to be
14 compliant, to sort of bend and flow, I guess.

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. Well, I mean there's
16 ways to do time where you aren't, you know, into the completely
17 passive role and not get 115's. I mean, I don't think that
18 I run around doing a yes sir, yes sir. I understand my
19 limitations and I communicate civilly and I'm not really
20 sure what she is meaning. I don't feel that I immediately
21 put myself on a --

22 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Well, she says basically
23 you have adopted a behavior that suits where you are.

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. I think that's true.

25 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: And she goes on to say:

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"In a similar pattern, her courteous and sometimes over considerate ways appear to be over compensatory manifestations of her continued sense of insecurity and self-criticalness."

Do you feel a sense of insecurity and are you over critical of yourself?

INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I'm working on getting that in line. It's a little difficult when

BOARD MEMBER CARTER: She goes on to say:

"Miss Van Houten stated that since her marriage, she has felt greater stability and grounding than before and she is more involved in the mundane daily aspects of normal living than she had an opportunity to experience in the whole length of time she has spent in prison. She said she has become more self-validating and assertive through the security of her marriage."

My question to you is what security has the marriage provided you?

INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Bill seems to, by my marrying him, I seem to have a sense that there was someone there and I don't -- in a different way than friends and family because I have a very strong sense of friends and family.

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1 But in being married to him, I was able to feel a continuing
2 life, where a lot of times in here and year after year with
3 parole reviews, I felt that my life was going on, in spite
4 of the fact that I am living in here and that there were --
5 it was an opportunity for me to continue my growth and by
6 marrying Bill, I experienced a greater -- it was like I
7 suddenly wasn't Leslie who all of my friends come and visit
8 and sort of just Leslie removed and away, but it was
9 Leslie and I have my own life, too, even though --

10 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Did you get that from Bill
11 or marriage?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think I got it from marriage.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: On the second page of the
14 same report it states:

15 "In terms of improvement, it appeared
16 that Miss Van Houten has matured significantly
17 over time and gained from both the chrono-
18 logical aging, as well as the intentional
19 effort she has made to rectify her life.
20 She stated she was beginning a project to
21 assist more disadvantaged residents who are
22 beginning college by teaching them some of
23 the skills necessary to work in the environ-
24 ment at the beginning of their studies when
25 they are most vulnerable to dropping out."

1 You have told us about that. Well, throughout the
2 last five years or so of your living here, of your incarceration
3 tion, there has been many mentions of how constructive you
4 are and how helping you are and how much of a positive
5 influence you are. Nothing but good can be said about that,
6 but it takes me back to the earlier psychiatric evaluation
7 where, in this evaluator's opinion, these kinds of traits
8 taken to their outer limits were negative. Am I making
9 sense to you?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. Do you want me to tell
11 you what I'm thinking or saying?

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Yes.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Here the reports say how
14 positive I am and you are wondering if maybe that isn't
15 going to the same extreme of

16 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Well, earlier apparently
17 your mother told you, or the philosophy that was espoused,
18 either directly verbal or was hinted at, was that you should
19 avoid success, you should always help other people and that
20 was viewed as negative by this evaluator that in -- only
21 two years ago.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Right.

23 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: But that is you. You are a
24 helping, positive kind of a person, at least in here.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

1 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Is that negative or not?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I don't think so. I mean I
3 don't -- the things that I do aren't to the point of becoming
4 self sacrificing. I have a balance. I do things -- if I
5 am at work and if I see the problems that occur at the school
6 building where I can help during those hours or if that's
7 where my interests are going, then I do that. I try to
8 focus on positives. I don't believe in reinforcing negative.
9 I mean, I wouldn't be very comfortable if I ran around here
10 with a chip on my shoulder, you know, feeling like the world
11 owes me something or the negative behavior patterns, I'm
12 not comfortable with that. At the same time I don't do
13 these things so I can be patted on the back. It's just how
14 I prefer living. I prefer doing positive things.

15 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: To finish up in the area of
16 your psychiatric evaluations, Miss Jimakas goes on to say:

17 "It is estimated that she will no
18 longer be a danger to the community. Her
19 violence potential, which can only be
20 measured by past behavior, was considered
21 to have been greater than average in the
22 past, outside a controlled setting and
23 has presently decreased considerably to
24 what may be currently considered below
25 average when compared to other CIW.

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1 residents. This potential is estimated
2 to remain low. No mental disorder was
3 noted."

4 That concludes her report and in many ways, that
5 concludes my part of this hearing. This might be a good
6 place to take a recess.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I was thinking we would
8 complete this area. I'll go around the table and before
9 we go into parole plans, then the final statements of the
10 attorneys, to take a break at that point. That will mean
11 we will have been here approximately two hours.

12 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Do my panel members have
13 anything in this area?

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: I had one question,
15 Miss Van Houten. One of the statements that you made in
16 trying -- you were visualizing, or the impression you had
17 at the time was that Charlie Manson was somewhat of the
18 Messiah, the answer to whatever you were undergoing at that
19 time. Was this before or after the killings of the
20 La Blancas?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Before.

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: At this point in
23 time, again, based on your previous religious upbringing
24 and what you have learned, as you said, prior to Presbyterian
25 Church, Calvinism; did that, at any time, enter your mind

1 that you were getting into an area that was going to be
2 disastrous?

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No. I knew I was in a heavy
4 situation, but I figured that I was also a very lucky person
5 for being able to meet a man like him.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: In other words,
7 you put aside your entire upbringing, background, based on
8 some things Mr. Carter already covered here; the relationship
9 you had at the time with your family, what you had been
10 pretty well programmed into; is that what you are saying, to
11 reject society because society was rejecting this particular
12 group?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. He spoke like when
14 Christ came the last time, he was crucified and that when
15 he came this time, people wouldn't recognize him and that
16 man had used the teachings to cheat his fellow man. You
17 know, he talked it all, using like quotes and familiar
18 verses.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: The reason I'm
20 asking this question is because Mr. Kay pointed out something
21 in his summation previously during the facts of the incident
22 itself that this was unlike a hippie commune, it was unlike
23 a -- this was something entirely different and did this,
24 at any point, ever enter your mind that it was beyond,
25 perhaps, some of the experiences you've had prior to this

1 up in the Bay Area?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. Charlie himself dis-
3 claimed us as hippies and he said that this time Christ
4 wouldn't turn the other cheek and that came a little later
5 on. Is that what you're talking about? Did I have a sense
6 that it was different like that? He said that he felt that
7 the hippies were still holding onto the system because the
8 hippies were confronting the politics at Berkeley, the
9 hippies were still part of society and that they weren't
10 completely cutting loose.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Well, then what
12 Mr. Kay stated would be true?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, with his intonations.

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: This was separate --

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think Mr. Kay presented that
16 all of a sudden I fell in love with this junior Hitler.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: But it was
18 different than what would be considered the type of commune
19 where kind of live and let live and not to be the aggressive,
20 assaultive types?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It was that kind of commune
22 up until the early spring of 1969 and then it changed.
23 When I first got to the ranch, there were like lots of
24 people sitting around embroidering and riding horses and
25 we ate out of garbage cans and -- you know -- from the

1 supermarkets and communal clothing, communal sleeping. It
2 was in that way a community situation, where like a lot of
3 communes, people would have like their room and their --
4 I'm comparing the two different styles.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: But I think what
6 I'm trying to get to is, at any point, was there a drastic
7 change that you could have recognized?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. The change came after we
9 went to the desert and came back down. But by then, that's
10 what I mean by I was misreading, you know, when I would get
11 a feeling that something wasn't right, I would judge
12 myself, instead of thinking, you know, "Oh brother Leslie.
13 What are you doing? Maybe you should leave." You know, I
14 would take those signals and say, "You're still holding on.
15 You are still not letting go. You still aren't completely
16 giving up yourself to him."

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: So you made a choice?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: I have nothing
20 further.

21 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Ms. Jellison?

22 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: How do you feel about
23 yourself right now at this stage of your life?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I feel pretty good about myself
25 right now. I feel like I'm a person who is finding a sense

1 of direction and I'm finding ways that I can make my life
2 seem meaningful. I'm comfortable with having gotten a handle
3 on what I've considered to be my weaknesses and using my
4 strength in positive ways. Do you want me to continue?

5 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Yes, as long as you
6 are answering the question.

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I find myself with a strong
8 desire to continue life in as positive of a manner that I
9 can within this environment. I feel that aside from these
10 hearings where I am suddenly confronted with things that
11 happened 13 years ago and I'm under a large amount of stress
12 right now, I feel that outside of these hearings when I'm
13 just living my life, that I am doing a good job of it.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: The thing that I can't
15 help thinking, for one thing, if you hadn't done what you
16 did, you wouldn't be here and you wouldn't have to face the
17 hearings. You're saying, basically, if I am understanding
18 you, that you are getting yourself pretty much together in
19 the environment you have to live in right now. Do you ever
20 give thought to the suffering of the victims' kids? Maybe
21 their life can't be so together because of what happened
22 to their parents or the fact that the victims haven't had
23 an opportunity to get themselves more together, for example,
24 or see their grandchildren or what have you. Do you ever
25 think about that at all?

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1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: How does that effect
3 you when you think about it?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Makes me feel pretty rotten
5 inside and then I have to gauge and I have to understand that
6 I can't live just in that shame alone. It hasn't happened
7 lately, but there have been times that maybe I'll be eating
8 a meal and suddenly feel very guilty that I am eating a
9 meal. It's very hard for me to come up here in the Board
10 hearings year after year and I would say it hasn't been until
11 the last couple years that I ever understood that I, too,
12 had a right to ask for a projective parole date. In other
13 words, I don't dismiss the damage that occurred and I don't
14 dismiss the children and what their lives have been like.
15 I just want you to know I take very seriously the damage
16 that's been done and I feel a great sense of shame and
17 remorse when I think of the two children and their families
18 today.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I have one more
20 question of Miss Van Houten, but I think perhaps this would
21 be a good time to have a little 10 minute recess and allow
22 everyone to refresh themselves or what have you. Let's
23 go off record at 12:25 p.m.

24 (Brief recess taken.)

25 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: We are back on record.

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1 It's 25 minutes past 1:00 p.m. We are currently in the
2 process of discussing Miss Van Houten's institutional adjust-
3 ment. I had completed with the last question. I had one
4 more question for you, but I decided it's really not necessary
5 to these proceedings, so I'm not going to bother asking.
6 I'll turn it back to Mr. Carter.

7 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Before we leave the area
8 of psychiatric evaluations, I'd like to give Mr. Kay an
9 opportunity if he has anything to say.

10 MR. KAY: I don't have anything. How's that,
11 Paul?

12 MR. FITZGERALD: I'll match that. I have nothing.

13 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Back to the chair.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. Mr. Lopez
15 will be leading the discussion in parole plans.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Miss Van Houten,
17 as you are well aware, you have now gone through several
18 hearings regarding your parole plans. As you know, it's
19 very difficult for you, of course, to project, since you
20 don't have a date and haven't had any way of developing
21 some short-range or long-range plans.

22 The panel has reviewed the transcripts of the
23 prior discussions with you in parole plans and I would
24 like to share with counsel and you and Mr. Kay, if you
25 will be willing to incorporate by reference, that would be

1 the parole plans that were discussed in 1980, page 88, line 23
2 to page 90, line 16. In that phase, Mr. Castro was the
3 representative and he indicated that you were highly qualified
4 and performed well in jobs and he was relating to secretarial
5 work and how your success reflected in the grades. You had
6 a certificate of completion and achievement. Actually
7 you've had two job offers that would be available to you as
8 a legal secretary; is that correct?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And also they spoke
11 about family support that has continued to be strong and at
12 that time, you indicated that you would live with your mother,
13 perhaps a while, but preferred to live independently and had
14 tentative plans to move in with Judith, I think it is,
15 Frutig, F-r-u-t-i-g; is that correct?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And this is a
18 person with whom you lived while you had been on your own
19 recognizance, bailed out, that is, during the period of six
20 months; is that correct?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: At that time, you
23 were working for a Mr. Douglas Draper, attorney?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

25 // // // //

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: I think there was
2 some question about you working for the British Car Service,
3 but actually you were working for Mr. Draper, but had your
4 car serviced by British Car Service; is that correct?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And they spoke of
7 your having no prior work experience prior to coming to
8 prison.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: So that pretty
11 well covered that particular phase.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. But it's agreed that may be
13 incorporated by reference, at least as far as we are
14 concerned.

15 MR. KAY: I agree to that, too.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Then I will go to
17 the next one, the transcript of '81. That would be pages 78
18 line 1 to page 85, line 10, if you are willing.

19 MR. FITZGERALD: We agree.

20 MR. KAY: We agree.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Just to again cover
22 some of the phases, the panel did review and again alluded
23 to two job offers with attorneys and you again referred to
24 your residence with Judith Frutig at that time and there's
25 a two-page letter addressed to the Board, signed by the

1 chairperson, being Mr. Gerard Gumbleton, G-u-m-b-l-e-t-o-n.
2 He's chairperson of Friends of Leslie?

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And he was attesting
5 to your progress and rehabilitation and that the message
6 was -- well, he alluded that this message had reached into
7 millions of homes and there was one question in that letter
8 asking the Board:

9 "How often, in your time as a member
10 of the Board of Prison Terms, have you
11 received such an outpouring of letters
12 in support," etc. etc., referring to how
13 well you were doing and your progress.

14 They also mentioned that at that time, there were
15 in excess of 500 letters with a message in support of release
16 and reasons for same. That was also read into the record.
17 So that pretty well covered that part of the central point
18 of the transcript.

19 So do you agree then that we shall incorporate
20 by reference into the record?

21 MR. KAY: I agree.

22 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Let's go into the
24 current plans. Now, again we have gone and found innumerable
25 letters and we have some petitions. I think you've already

1 heard it from the chairperson, Ms. Jellison, the number of
2 the letters and petitions that have come in on your behalf.
3 The letters that I am going to just allude to here is because
4 these seem to be persons who kind of stand out front.
5 Again, Mr. Gerard Gumbleton, the letter of 4/9/82, identifying
6 himself as a chairperson of Friends of Leslie.

7 Then you have a letter of 4/7/82, Jane Van Houten,
8 your mother and family.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: That is a
11 February 1st, 1982 letter from Steven Gotfried, G-o-t-f-r-i-e-d,
12 from Germany.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And there are
15 several -- well, the one letter, 11/8/81, from Mr. Patrick
16 Wilson, that was to Mr. Luttrell. Have you seen these
17 letters or had a chance to read them?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, not really.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Well, they are in
20 the file and you'll have a chance to review them. Then the
21 February 5th, 1982 letter from Ann Irving, Public Affairs,
22 I guess Director of KUSP/FM, which is up in the Santa Cruz
23 area; is that correct? She has written to you in the past?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Then I have one note

1 from a Susan Halbut.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And an April 5th,
4 '82, from

5
6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: You've never met
8 her?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: I was wondering,
11 her letter indicates that through a friend, she learned about
12 you. I guess that was involved in education. I'm just
13 wondering if you are ever going to respond to these people?
14 Anyway, these are some of the letters I thought stood out.
15 Do you have any questions as far as what I've gone through
16 so far?

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: We have, of course,
19 already indicated for the record the number of letters in
20 your behalf, petitions, but also the 1,553 that were contrary,
21 that were objecting to your being released. Let's talk now
22 more in the area of your plans for parole and release.

23 Now, again, we have two--and according to the
24 record, your Board report indicates that you have a stable
25 family background, you have a lot of support there. Then

1 we have to consider -- and that was discussed earlier, your
2 marital status. How did you meet your husband? How do
3 you pronounce his name again?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Cywin.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Okay, Bill Cywin.
6 You said you knew him about six months before you married
7 him. How did you meet him?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Through letters and the phone.

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Through letters?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: And phone calls.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: These were letters
12 based on the Friends of Leslie that went throughout?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: How did this come
15 about?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: He had read a piece I had
17 written while he was in jail and he was responding to it
18 and we began corresponding. That was his initial curiosity.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Where was he in
20 jail? In California?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Virginia.

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And then you were
23 aware of when he was paroled?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I was here.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: But you became aware

1 then?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: What were the plans
4 at that time? During your correspondence, did you plan to
5 get married?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: How did this come
8 about?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, he was coming to
10 California and I sent him the visiting form and we started
11 visiting. Then we just started talking about getting
12 married and we did.

13 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: According to the
14 information the Board had at that time, was that he was
15 a comptroller at the A-v-a-n-t-i Corporation.

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: In Rhode Island?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. And then that job,
19 I guess, was a commission or something. It didn't come
20 through, so he came out here after that.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Oh. He was going
22 to have to go to that job upon release from prison?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm not really certain if
24 that was the first job he had, but it was the strongest
25 job he had and then it didn't -- he was hoping it would be

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1 renewed. I'm not sure what it is called. It may have been
2 some form of a commission for service.

3 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: A limited time kind of
4 thing?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. It didn't go through
6 and then he moved out here.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: In the record --
8 it was read into the record already that Mr. Cywin's relation-
9 ship appeared to have had a positive effect on Leslie. It
10 is very supportive of her and I think you responded to that
11 in a positive manner; that he did have an effect on your
12 outlook, your insight, some self-awareness, as well. What
13 are your plans?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: With Bill?

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Yes.

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, Bill is having problems
17 adjusting.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Do you know what
19 kind of problems he is having?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, parole problems. I think
21 he's having problems with jobs. They are problems that I
22 didn't foresee and I've addressed these things to him and
23 as far as my relationship with Bill goes right now, I think
24 the weight is on him of whether he'll be able to straighten
25 himself up or not and if he can't, then there is no way our

1 marriage can continue.

2 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Do you know he's in
3 jail now?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I do.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Do you know why
6 he's in jail?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: From what I understand, he's
8 charged with receiving stolen property.

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And do you know that
10 he was in possession of a uniform that is used by female
11 members of the staff when they are pregnant?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: They told me that here. I
13 was detained over the weekend in the detention unit and I
14 was cleared and let back out, but I didn't know of his
15 possession of these things while he had them. That's what
16 I mean. All of a sudden there were things that I hadn't
17 really had the foresight to see that I have addressed with
18 him and I'm hurt, I'm disappointed. I'm questioning his
19 ability to get his life in order. I'm questioning the way
20 he chooses to take care of problems when the pressure is on,
21 and if Bill can't come to conclusions to change his behavior
22 then I've written him and told him that our marriage will
23 be in very big trouble because I don't live my life like
24 that.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Do you know he's

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1 subject to being returned as a parole violator to the
2 state of Virginia?

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I do.

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Well, then with all
5 of these things that are impinging on you, again, we are
6 going to get into the area of stress and what you've had to
7 face. With the progress you've indicated you've been making,
8 and I'm trying to get in my own mind how you were able to,
9 on a short notice such as this, allow yourself to become
10 involved with an individual that instead of being able to
11 upgrade yourself as you have been doing, doing constructive,
12 productive type of activities and everyone speaks very highly
13 of you by staff and all the people that are so supportive,
14 yet you still allowed yourself to become involved with a
15 person who is not helping you one bit. I'm wondering about
16 your judgment.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, when I met Bill, there
18 were parts of me that the years in here have laid dormant
19 and I think they are reflected in my psychiatric reports
20 continuously, too, my little girl nature, my -- there was
21 a sense of immaturity and I, myself, needed to have some
22 form of relationship, other than the ones that are sparked
23 or created in this environment.

24 In my relationship with Bill, I have not gone over
25 the deep end, if that's the way to say it. I have not allowed

1 For great amounts of emotional vulnerabilities. I'm hurt by
2 his behaviors, but I'm not devastated by them and when I
3 think of where I was last summer, emotionally, and the parts
4 that maybe don't come out in boardrooms and in my job, I've
5 been opened up to a whole new area of living that I really
6 didn't know existed. Because it's not like I've consciously
7 chosen to become a career woman and without a relationship
8 or -- I don't know if I'm explaining it right. I can see
9 where it's judged or seen as a bad judgment and certainly
10 I'm reevaluating it, too, at this point. But when I think
11 of the parts of me that have benefited from the marriage
12 and confronting marriage issues, talking with women that
13 have relationships with their husbands and becoming aware
14 of that part of living, I understand why I made those
15 decisions.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Did you make these
17 decisions based on his full disclosure of his background?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I have a feeling that sometimes
19 Bill hasn't really been very honest with me about a lot of
20 things. I think that Bill tends to only tell the part that
21 he wants someone else to know.

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: But did you ever
23 challenge him in that, if you had this feeling?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I didn't have the feeling
25 until afterwards and that's what I mean again. Parts of my

1 abilities to understand relationships -- there have been
 2 certain aspects of life that this environment has blocked
 3 and made it hard for me to know. There's a whole area of
 4 relating and a maturity, I think, occurs in peoples' years
 5 during their 20's when they are dating and knowing people
 6 and all that and I have been pretty much stifled, so my
 7 only -- the only thing I made sure of was that during the
 8 relationship, I never allowed myself to get carried away.
 9 I guess part of me always figured that maybe something would
 10 happen and that I --

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: You were cautious?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, sure, and still am, more
 13 than ever.

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: How many times did
 15 he visit you during this period?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Once a week and then we had
 17 two FLU visits.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: At that time did
 19 it occur to you that perhaps you should delve into his
 20 background because knowing --

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I knew he had a record
 22 for embezzling and that he did time for embezzlement, but --

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Does the panel have
 24 any questions in this specific area?

25 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: No.

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1 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: No, I don't.

2 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: All right. Let's
3 get into the area then -- now that we have set this up
4 where you can take a look at it and we have shared it with
5 you because we feel, as a panel, it's only fair to share
6 with you what we know about this marriage. What are your
7 short-range and long-range plans now that you've had these
8 hopes that this relationship would be a strong and positive
9 one for you? Do you have alternatives?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: If the relationship doesn't
11 work out, I'll keep moving ahead like I have been and I don't
12 really see that I am a controller in whether the relationship
13 works or not. I don't feel driven to make Bill's life right,
14 you know, there comes a point in peoples' lives where they
15 have to make their own lives right. Other people don't
16 solve your problems and if he can't do that, then I'll just
17 continue as I have and find my own ways.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: So you have plans
19 to transfer out of state if you were to continue with your
20 husband; is that correct?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, yes or no. I mean --

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Tentative then?

23 MR. FITZGERALD: That was before this incident?

24 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Yes.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: That's what I'm
2 saying. I imagine it's now difficult for you to kind of
3 shift gears and start thinking of what would you do other-
4 wise. Originally your plans --

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: What will I do if the marriage
6 doesn't work?

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Right.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, in terms of parole,
9 it's difficult for me to even discuss, as you said earlier,
10 but --

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Yes, we understand
12 that.

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Hypothetically, if I were to
14 be paroled, I would parole to the Southern California area,
15 in the immediate -- you know -- immediately and get myself
16 settled and by getting settled is remembering how to drive
17 a car and become functional, because some of those things
18 take time. I noticed that when I was out on bail, it took
19 me three months before I could synchronize my day. After
20 that, I would want to move up to Northern California closer
21 to where my older brother is and my eldest brother and in
22 hopes of doing that, I could maybe strengthen my chances of
23 living in private without a lot of focus. I would like to
24 begin work as a secretary, I enjoy the work and I find it
25 something I do well because I've done it now for quite a

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1 while. At the same time, I would like to spend my free time
2 looking for a more personally rewarding field.

3 I'm particularly interested in some kind of programs
4 with juveniles. I can't help but feel that when I was out
5 on bail, I talked to high school girls once in a while that
6 were starting to drink a lot. One of my friends was a P.E.
7 teacher, so she kind of siphoned them over to me and I feel
8 that I've got a lot of history that other people that care
9 about kids don't have and I can relate to them. I'd like
10 to look into that.

11 As far as designing educational programs and
12 maybe getting involved in that, I'm not really certain yet.
13 I want to do something that means something to me and at
14 the same time is a worthwhile thing. It's hard to say this
15 is exactly what I want to do. I'm finding in my work over
16 here in the school building, I keep getting motivated towards
17 that. When I see friends of mine that have spent years
18 hanging out and being just sort of in the mess of things,
19 when I see them in there, they are at the moment when they
20 just come out of the hole and they are a little tired, and
21 I find myself wanting to say, "Well, why don't you try
22 coming over here. It's not half bad."

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Well, you've been
24 very much involved in Antioch.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. In other words, what I

1 would see myself doing is looking for a place where I am
2 comfortable where I can find something that is both meaningful
3 to me and has a meaning to other people. In other words,
4 I don't see myself just staying forever as a legal secretary.

5 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: You have a Bachelor
6 of Arts?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: In writing.

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And you indicated
9 earlier during the course of the different phases that you
10 thought of perhaps working towards your Doctorate?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, or my Master's. I'm
12 enjoying administrative work which, the more I design the
13 Antioch --

14 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: If you were doing
15 that, then if you were to become involved with young girls
16 or boys, whatever it might be, that are in need of some kind
17 of redirection, how would you accomplish this? Would this
18 be something you do on the side?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I'd have to work on
20 my Master's during the evenings.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Because you are
22 talking about going into the Bay Area. Well, this is an
23 area -- and you said you want to kind of become shielded
24 from the -- well, I'll use the words "kind of protected"
25 from the outside. But this is an area where the majority

1 of these petitions are writing from, Santa Cruz.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, well then --

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: How would you do
4 this?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: That's the kind of information
6 I don't know. If that's where the bulk of the anger against
7 me is, then --

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: These are your
9 friends.

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, I thought you meant the
11 1500.

12 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: No. These are
13 your friends from Santa Cruz. You have a lot of friends
14 from Denmark, too.

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: That's nice.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: How would you work?
17 Now, you said this P.E. teacher would funnel these ladies
18 over to you, young girls, and you'd talk to them. Was this
19 based on your, I'll say, notoriety, or would you try to
20 conceal where you had been and where you are going?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, they basically just knew
22 I had been in trouble.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Do you feel this
24 is perhaps why they would be attracted to you?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: The young kids?

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Yes.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think that would be one of
3 the ways in which they probably would listen to me a little
4 bit more than someone who they see as -- the way I saw
5 people back then that tried to straighten me up, you know.
6 Well, they don't know, but I see what you're saying. There's
7 almost a conflict there. It's difficult for me to connect
8 them all. I'm full of ideas.

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: We will go back to
10 the difficulty when you can't really project plans, concrete
11 plans.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: That's really why I haven't
13 rushed into a Master's Degree right now in here either. I'm
14 just not certain exactly where everything that I am into
15 is leading me and I figure that once I get the direction and
16 I have a clear sense of it, then I will go ahead and pursue
17 it.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Very well.
19 Miss Douglas, you've prepared this report. Is there any
20 area that you feel -- I know the panel members probably have
21 some questions, but is there anything you can add to your
22 report? How long have you supervised?

23 CORRECTIONAL COUNSELOR DOUGLAS: I've been here
24 seven and a half years.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: How long have you --

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1 CORRECTIONAL COUNSELOR DOUGLAS: I've known Leslie
2 five and a half years time on campus. I've been her counselor
3 since January. Prior to January, I was housing officer and
4 so my daily supervision with her was different and it was
5 mainly in the housing unit or in the diningroom, different
6 areas. One of the things that maybe I didn't project quite
7 accurately in the report and I want to speak to is, Leslie
8 made a comment with her working with women who were not
9 inclined to education. That's kind of putting it lightly.
10 We have what we call a college unit, which Leslie has chosen
11 not to live in, and she has directed women into that parti-
12 cular housing unit. There are people probably that a staff
13 has written off, I'm going to be honest with you, because
14 when she comes back to the unit and says, "Guess who I got
15 in school today?"

16 And we say, "Who?"

17 And it's kind of a -- because it's been rowdies
18 running campus. They are in the hole constantly and so we
19 give 30 days, staff members, we give it 30 days and say
20 this can't be. Then she will pick up one of their partners
21 out there in the yard and next thing you know, they are in
22 school, too.

23 This is, I guess, going on about three or four
24 months now and it's kind of like staff are saying, "Wait a
25 minute." We know education is the answer to things. The

1 women are bright or have some ability, but she -- for whatever
2 reason, and I'm not sure why, because I've known her a number
3 of years -- she is able to assist them in narrowing what's
4 best for them and getting them into school and their behavior
5 on the housing units have changed. Staff has commented about
6 that and I credit Leslie. I think she has innate ability,
7 for whatever reason, to be able to channel some of our women,
8 and I mean our most delinquent women into school and they're
9 becoming productive. We haven't been able to do it. I
10 haven't been able to do it because some of the women I had
11 on my case load in the housing unit. I'm the one that locked
12 them up.

13 So when she came to some people on my case load
14 for years and said, "I got them in school," I thought it was
15 their way of getting out of working, but it's not happening.

16 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Okay. Anything
17 else? Mr. Carter?

18 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Nothing.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Ms. Jellison?

20 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: No comments or questions.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Mr. District
22 Attorney?

23 MR. KAY: No.

24 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Mr. Fitzgerald?

25 MR. FITZGERALD: No, thank you.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Unless you have
2 anything further, then that will conclude this part of the
3 hearing and I'll turn it back to the chairperson.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you, Mr. Lopez.
5 At this time we will entertain closing remarks by the two
6 attorneys and we will start with Mr. Kay.

7 MR. KAY: Thank you. Last night while at home, I
8 received a call from John Van De Kamp, the District Attorney
9 of Los Angeles. Apparently he had received a letter from
10 Miss Van Houten asking that I be removed from the case.
11 Mr. Van De Kamp told me some things he wanted me to say
12 today. He wanted to make it absolutely clear that his
13 position in this case is the same as my position; that
14 Leslie Van Houten should be found unsuitable for parole.

15 Mr. Van De Kamp said specifically that he feels
16 that the Board should not find her suitable for parole at
17 this time because it would be making a decision too far in
18 advance, given the seriousness of the offense. That is
19 not to say that at some future time our office won't
20 concur in the parole date for Miss Van Houten, but we
21 absolutely do not concur in it at this time and we feel
22 that it is too early.

23 I think the reasoning of the Board last year was
24 excellent in talking about the amount of time that she has
25 spent in prison for such a heinous crime. Really, she

1 hasn't spent all that much time in prison. She's been in
2 prison 11 years. Miss Van Houten received the Death Penalty.
3 She didn't get out from under the Death Penalty because there
4 was something wrong with her case. Everybody who was on
5 Death Row in February of 1972 had their death sentences
6 reduced to life imprisonment; including Charles Manson,
7 Tex Watson, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Susan Atkins. Eleven
8 years is not a long time, considering the gravity of the
9 offenses here.

10 These offenses are viewed by the public as the
11 most heinous murders in the history of American crime. We
12 all know that. All you have to do is talk to people and
13 what's the worst murder case in the history of America and
14 they will always say the Manson case, the Tate-La Bianca
15 murders.

16 So what we do here today is important because we
17 are setting an example for society and to grant Miss Van
18 Houten a parole date at this time would not be setting a
19 good example for society. That would be giving a message
20 that -- well, anybody can get a parole date because Leslie
21 Van Houten has a parole date now. If you will remember --
22 and I know you've read the transcripts from what the
23 decision was last year -- that the panel's decision spoke
24 about how half of the time Miss Van Houten has been in
25 prison, she did not have a good record, psychiatrically

1 speaking, especially. The last five and now six years, she
2 has done well and she has made progress. But again, what's
3 the rush to give her a parole date? The La Blancas will
4 never be paroled. The La Blancas' son, Frank Struthers,
5 who was the one who discovered the body, was so devastated
6 that he lives as a recluse in Colorado in the mountains,
7 coming down once every two weeks to get food and mail from
8 his sister and goes back up and lives in the mountains
9 again because he can't stand to be with people.

10 Again you have to look at the actions of Leslie
11 Van Houten during the course of events at the La Bianca
12 house. A very active, a very willing participant. She was
13 even sorry that she didn't get to go along on the Tate
14 murders, as she said on cross examination at her trial.

15 The motive for these murders -- this, obviously,
16 even apart from the publicity in the case, is not your
17 average run-of-the-mill murder case. This is a political
18 crime, make no mistake about it. The motive in this crime
19 was to start a race war. Probably the basis motive imaginable.
20 Can the Board have confidence to grant a parole date at this
21 time to one who really, in the whole scheme of things such
22 a short time ago believed in this motive, helter skelter,
23 starting a race war, to the extent that she was willing to
24 participate in murder to carry out that end? The La Blancas
25 were innocent strangers in the apparent safety of their home.

1 They didn't know any of these people, they had never hurt
2 them in any way. They were just two people minding their
3 own business living in their own home, not hurting anybody.

4 Leslie Van Houten apparently had such remorse
5 after the crime, what did she do? Did she go out and howl
6 at the moon? Did she lose her mind? No. She went and
7 wiped off fingerprints and then she ate from the refrigerator
8 of the people that had just been so brutally, savagely
9 murdered.

10 Leslie Van Houten's history is that she tends to
11 fall in with bad influences, even when things are going
12 good for her. I've never met her husband, but I hope he's
13 not going to take advantage of her. It just seems to fall
14 into the same old pattern. I don't hold that against Miss Van
15 Houten, but the things that I have heard in here are very
16 troublesome about a con, an embezzler. That's what Charlie
17 Manson is. He's a con, flim-flam man. I just don't know
18 about this guy.

19 The time, of course, is the important factor in
20 Miss Van Houten's case. Mr. Van De Kamp's position, and my
21 position, and we are in complete agreement, is that this is
22 just too early to grant a parole date in such a serious
23 crime that will have such repercussions on the community.
24 For that reason, I would ask that the Board find Miss Van
25 Houten unsuitable for parole.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you, Mr. Kay.
2 Mr. Fitzgerald.

3 MR. FITZGERALD: Mine will be brief. I would
4 like to incorporate by reference my remarks in '79, '80 and
5 '81, if I might.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Yes.

7 MR. FITZGERALD: First, let me just make some
8 comments about Mr. Kay's remarks. The Manson case, although
9 it did achieve a sort of spectacular notoriety a few years
10 ago, in the grand scheme of events, it's not a tragically --
11 it's not a significant murder case these days. We read
12 about the so-called Freeway Killer, who was responsible for
13 the deaths of at least 40. We read about people in Texas
14 and people in Illinois, whose body counts of people is in
15 the 30's and 40's. I will give the tragic example in
16 Jonestown where 900 people fell under the influence of some
17 man and their lives were taken. There's no question that
18 it has received publicity, but it's hardly the Fourth World
19 War or anything.

20 It was a substantial period of time ago. These
21 events occurred in 1969 when this 32-year-old woman today
22 was 19 years of age. Kay suggested she hasn't spent enough
23 time in jail. To spend that very important decade of your
24 life, the 20's, your entire 20's, particularly for a woman,
25 strikes me as being a catastrophic punishment in itself.

1 In the first hearing in 1979, the Board found that
2 the prisoner had a minimal criminal history and that she had
3 achieved positive institutional accomplishments, that she
4 had a psychiatric diagnosis of no mental illness and that
5 she had excellent support plans for parole. Those same
6 remarks were echoed in 1980, in 1981 and I suspect this Board
7 is likely to make the same kinds of findings in 1982.

8 We contend, therefore, that under Section 2281,
9 that she is suitable for a parole date and ought to be
10 given a parole date. That section, which you are certainly
11 well familiar with, defines suitability in terms that the
12 inmate does not "pose an unreasonable risk of danger to
13 society if released from prison." I think that has been
14 demonstrated over a long period of incarceration that she
15 does not pose an unreasonable risk. I believe it was as
16 early as 1976 that R.L. Flannagan, M.D., Psychiatric
17 Consultant to the California Institution for Women saw her
18 as not being -- she did not pose an unreasonable risk and
19 found:

20 "There are no findings that would be
21 indicative of a psychosis and no gross
22 clinical indication of neurological impairment.
23 There are no contraindications for parole
24 consideration."

25 That was as early as '76. Under subdivision C, 2281,

1 she has no previous record of violence or childhood abuse.
2 She wasn't engaged in sadistic, sexual offenses. It appears
3 while under the psychological domination and control of
4 Charles Manson, she committed these crimes and today she is
5 psychologically clear and normal. She didn't engage in any
6 bizarre conduct after the crime and her institutional behavior
7 has been excellent.

8 Section D would intend to imply, 2281, she has
9 no juvenile record. She has a stable social history. She
10 has demonstrated remorse. Her motivation under Section 4
11 was to follow the orders of two strong dominant male persons;
12 Charles Manson and Tex Watson, to the extent, I think, that
13 you are literally brainwashed.

14 She is 32 years of age and she has got a substantial
15 portion of her life ahead of her. The reports that the Board
16 ordered for this year have just tended to establish this
17 pattern of rehabilitation. There's just a significant
18 pattern that becomes better and better and better. She's
19 a remarkable individual. She has made, under the least
20 favorable conditions--it's certainly not a pleasant situation
21 in life to be a notorious murderess and try to overcome
22 that incredible obstacle and she has done as well as we
23 could have ever hoped and expected.

24 Here is a woman that achieved an education while
25 she is here and Mr. Lopez asked a number of questions about

1 she has no previous record of violence or childhood abuse.
2 She wasn't engaged in sadistic, sexual offenses. It appears
3 while under the psychological domination and control of
4 Charles Manson, she committed these crimes and today she is
5 psychologically clear and normal. She didn't engage in any
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19 a remarkable individual. She has made, under the least
20 favorable conditions--it's certainly not a pleasant situation
21 in life to be a notorious murderess and try to overcome
22 that incredible obstacle and she has done as well as we
23 could have ever hoped and expected.

24 Here is a woman that achieved an education while
25 she is here and Mr. Lopez asked a number of questions about

1 her continuing to pursue undergraduate level education. ...
2 How many people have gone through here? Unfortunately, the
3 tragic history of CIW and so many of these institutions
4 is that none of their people really pursue an education.
5 None of them really try to rehabilitate themselves. But
6 here is a woman who has genuinely made the best of very, very
7 little. To continue on would really just, I think, be
8 repetitious, particularly in terms of what we have already
9 set out in writing in reports and so on.

10 I take it that if this Board were to determine
11 suitability, they would allow us to address ourselves to
12 where the individual would fit under the Matrix. But until
13 we get a suitability determination, it would seem to be--

14 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Well, you may do that
15 now, if you like, counselor. It's up to you.

16 MR. FITZGERALD: I'll defer it.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Do you submit?

18 MR. FITZGERALD: I do.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. Miss Van
20 Houten, you've heard your counselor's remarks. Is there
21 anything you care to add at this time before we recess?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Please go ahead.

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'd like to point out that
25 I'm not -- when I ask for a parole date, I'm not asking for

1. an immediate release. I'm asking for the opportunity to
 2. know when that release will be. I've looked over the
 3. suitability requirements and I had notes, but I've said
 4. almost everything in there that I had, or my attorney has
 5. mentioned it.

6. One of the things is that when the Death Penalty
 7. was abolished and I was given a chance to regroup my life
 8. and continue living, I've done my best to make my life a
 9. principled one and to live in accord with what I consider
 10. those principles to be. I feel that I am doing a pretty
 11. good job of it. When you asked me earlier about the
 12. remorse I feel, never has it been my intention to dismiss
 13. my amount of responsibility or to not understand that my
 14. actions have caused great suffering in others and at
 15. different points in my life, dealing with that part of the
 16. crime itself, has led me through different kinds of difficulties
 17. and it's been a task for me that I have tried to understand
 18. how to live with those kinds of shames and guilts and not
 19. have them control my life and my decisions and become overly
 20. self-judgmental, which I tend to do.

21. If, in my talking here, I've reflected to you a
 22. dismissing of that amount of my responsibility, I haven't
 23. meant to. It's because I've learned how to deal and cope
 24. with it. I can only ask the Board to take into consideration
 25. that I do meet the eight suitability guidelines and that I

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1 understand that the one unsuitability, which is the crime,
2 its heinousness, the callousness, is generally outweighed,
3 or outweighs my eight positives and I would just hope that
4 this year that the positives can be looked at and that I
5 can be found suitable for a projected parole date.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Thank you. We will
7 now recess for deliberation. It's approximately 2:15 p.m.
8 I will ask that everyone but the panel leave the room, please.

9 (Thereupon the room was cleared, and the
10 hearing of the Board of Prison Terms
11 recessed for deliberation.)
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RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS.

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PRESIDING MEMBER JELMISON: It's 3:50 p.m.

Miss Van Houten, it's the unanimous decision of this panel that you are unsuitable for parole at this time, and this is going to be a three-year denial based on the following:

1. The commitment offense. The following random selection of a residence, prisoner and crime partners butchered two unsuspecting and innocent victims. These unprovoked murders of a married couple in the sanctity of their home are incomprehensible and shocked the public conscience. Prisoner could have ceased and desisted at any time, but chose to be a willing and active participant in the crime. Pillowcases were placed over the victims' heads and they were repeatedly stabbed and mutilated. Prisoner not only held the struggling female victim so a crime partner could murder her, but is personally responsible for inflicting approximately 14 of the stab wounds.

After the murders, prisoner wiped off fingerprints while crime partners wrote on the wall in the victims' blood. The record indicates victim and crime partners ate food taken from the victims' refrigerator.

Upon returning to the ranch where they were living, prisoner counted money stolen from the victims and burnt clothing in order to avoid detection.

1 This behavior can only be described as atrocious.
2 The motivation for the crimes must be regarded as unconscion-
3 able; namely, that the bizarre belief that such an act of
4 terrorism would inflame a race war wherein prisoner and her
5 crime partners would emerge as the dominant survivors.

6 Prisoner came from a fairly stable environment,
7 however, during high school, prisoner began using drugs
8 and associating with those in the drug culture. Prisoner's
9 documented history indicates an extraordinary susceptibility
10 to submitting to the rule of others, as evidenced by the
11 commitment offense and prior history. During the first five
12 years of her incarceration, she appeared to remain patho-
13 logically dominated by the influence and beliefs of her
14 incarcerated crime partners. During this period, psychiatric
15 evaluations were unresponsive of a finding of suitability.
16 Panel notes the improved psychiatric reports, however,
17 prisoner's recent marriage to a parolee, who is currently
18 incarcerated as a parole violator, is consistent with her
19 past history of selecting male companions who are lacking
20 in stability. The panel recognizes the prisoner's exemplary
21 institutional adjustment, however, the panel cannot discount
22 the magnitude and brutality of the offenses.

23 As stated by a trial judge:

24 "Even though progress has been made,
25 the balance must be drawn on the side of

1 punishment."

2 The panel feels prisoner is in need of a longer
3 period of incarceration and observation and feels prisoner
4 is not likely to be found suitable by a panel in the next
5 three years for the above-stated reasons. Section 3041.5(b)2
6 of the Penal Code permits a three-year denial if a prisoner
7 has been convicted in the same or different proceedings of
8 more than one offense which involves taking a life and the
9 Board finds that it is not reasonable to expect that a parole
10 would be granted at a hearing during the intervening years.
11 The panel finds the prisoner meets the criteria for a three-
12 year denial.

13 We are going to recommend that you remain disciplinary
14 free and that you continue with your present programming.

15 MR. FITZGERALD: May I be heard with respect to
16 one aspect?

17 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: Let me please finish.

18 MR. FITZGERALD: I'm sorry. I certainly didn't
19 mean to interrupt you.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: I am going to hand you
21 Board of Prison Terms Form 1005, which shows what we did
22 here today, Miss Van Houten, and you do have appeal rights,
23 as I stated earlier, under Board of Prison Terms Rule 2050.

24 Counselor, did you wish to make a comment?

25 MR. FITZGERALD: In terms of your recommendations,

1 would you consider doing the following, and I've had some
2 conversations with the custodial staff here. Because she
3 does not have a date, her custody cannot be modified, however,
4 if you would exercise your discretion and if you feel, for
5 example, if you were to suggest that she could be housed
6 minimally and you would suggest that you would like to see
7 her function under that kind of situation, then I understand
8 from the custodial staff that they would be in a position
9 where they could reduce her custodial situation. Do you
10 follow me?

11 BOARD MEMBER CARTER: Why don't we take it under
12 submission.

13 MR. FITZGERALD: That's an excellent idea. If you
14 would take it under consideration in the sense that you
15 could legitimately want to see her in a situation where she
16 functions, inasmuch as your decision is in a sense she is
17 easily dominated and maybe you would want to see her in
18 that situation.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: As Mr. Carter suggested,
20 counselor, we will take that under submission. Anything
21 else?

22 MR. FITZGERALD: That's it.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER JELLISON: It's now five minutes
24 before 4:00 p.m. and this hearing is terminated.

25 (Thereupon the hearing before the Board of
Prison Terms was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.)

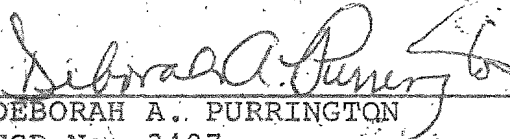
CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

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3 I, DEBORAH A. PURRINGTON, a Certified Court
4 Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

5 That I am a disinterested person herein; that
6 the foregoing Board of Prison Terms Hearing was reported
7 in shorthand by me, Deborah A. Purrington, and thereafter
8 transcribed into typewriting.

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

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
13 hand this 19th day of May, 1982.

14
15
16 
17 DEBORAH A. PURRINGTON
18 CSR No. 3407
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