

1 LIFER PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

3 COMMUNITY RELEASE BOARD

4
5 In the Matter of the Lifer)
6 Parole Consideration of:)

7 SUSAN ATKINS.)

CDC Number 8304-A

8 ORIGINAL

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10
11 CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

12 16756 CHINO-CORONA ROAD

13 FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

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20 THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1978

21 9:12 A.M.

22
23
24
25 Diane M. Holnback
C.S.R. License #4022

MEMBERS PRESENT

1
2 Ms. Ruth L. Rushen, Presiding Member

3 Mr. Rudy V. DeLeon, Board Member

4 Mr. Robert L. Del Pesco, Hearing Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

5
6 None

ALSO PRESENT

7
8
9 Ms. Susan Atkins, Inmate

10 Attorney for Inmate:

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

14 Attorney for District Attorney's Office:

15 STEPHEN R. KAY, Deputy District Attorney
16 (JOHN K. VAN De KAMP, District Attorney, Los Angeles
17 County)
18 825 Maple Avenue
19 Torrance, California 90503.

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25 Mr. Marv. Rector, Program Administrator, California
Institution for Women.

I N D E X

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PROCEEDINGS

--oOo--

PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: The panel of the Community Release Board has convened at the California Institution for Women at Frontera, California on July 20th, 1978, at approximately 9:12 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a parole hearing for Miss Susan Atkins, 8304-A.

This hearing is being recorded, and we are asking that each person in the room identify yourself by stating your first and last name and function, spelling your last name, and when we get to you, Miss Atkins, would you please also state your number.

My name is Ruth Rushen R-u-s-h-e-n, member of the Community Release Board presiding in this case. And we will go to my left.

BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: R. V. DeLeon, D-e L-e-o-n, member of the Community Release Board.

PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Counselor?

MR. RECTOR: I'm Marv Rector, Program Administrator, CIW. I'm clerking.

PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Would you spell your last name, please?

MR. RECTOR: R-e-c-t-o-r.

PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Thank you.

INMATE ATKINS: Susan Atkins, A-t-k-i-n-s, inmate,

1 8304-A.

2 MR. CABALLERO: Richard Caballero, C-a-b-a-l-l-e-r-o,
3 attorney for Miss Atkins.

4 MR. KAY: I'm Stephen Kay, K-a-y, Deputy District
5 Attorney for Los Angeles County.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Robert Del Pesco,
7 D-e-l P-e-s-c-o, Hearing Representative of the Community
8 Release Board.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: This hearing is being
10 conducted pursuant to Penal Code Sections 3041 and 3042⁴ and
11 the regulations of the Community Release Board governing
12 parole consideration hearings for life prisoners.

13 The purpose of today's hearing is to consider
14 your suitability for parole. It is necessary for us to
15 conduct this hearing under revised procedures enacted by the
16 Legislature effective July 1, 1977.

17 We will be considering the number and nature of
18 the crimes for which you are committed to state prison, your
19 criminal history or lack of it prior to your commitment,
20 your behavior since your commitment, and we will also review
21 your plans for parole.

22 We will reach a decision in this case today, and
23 you will be informed whether you are suitable or not. If
24 you are found suitable, you will be given the length of your
25 confinement and the special factors leading to our decision.

1 If you're found not suitable, you will be given the facts
2 which we considered in finding you not suitable.

3 Now, the hearing will be conducted as follows: I
4 will review your preconviction factors and the factors
5 concerning your commitment; Mr. Del Pesco will review your
6 in-prison behavior; and Mr. DeLeon will review your parole
7 plans.

8 You and your attorney may make comments at each
9 phase of the hearing. However, if you plan to participate
10 in this hearing, it will necessary to swear you in.

11 The role of your attorney today will be to protect
12 your Constitutional rights, to state any mitigating factors
13 that he feels the panel should consider, and he can also
14 talk to any relevant facts that he feels that we have left
15 out of the hearing on your behalf.

16 The role of the Deputy District Attorney today
17 will be to present the facts in the case and to make a
18 recommendation. This is not an adversary hearing.

19 I will ask the attorneys not to interrupt each
20 other. If you have objections which you wish to protect for
21 the record, I would ask that you hold them to the end of the
22 District Attorney's presentation to make them. We will
23 consider them, and we'll make a ruling.

24 I would also ask the Deputy D.A. to give the
25 counselor the same courtesy, to let him finish his

1 presentation. At the end of the hearing, make your
2 objections, and we will make a ruling on those. And that
3 way, we will keep it in the spirit of an administrative
4 hearing.

5 At this time, counsel, do you have any preliminary
6 Constitutional objections that you wish to make for the
7 Record?

8 MR. CABALLERO: No, none.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Then we will
10 proceed with the hearing. We do not have any confidential
11 information today, counselor. You have a copy of everything
12 that we will be using.

13 Primarily, we would take the facts in this case,
14 for the record, from the Probation Officer's Report: one
15 report dated June 9, 1971, and the other report dated April
16 12th, 1971.

17 MR. CABALLERO: I believe that I may have only one
18 probation report in my file. Let me double-check that.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right.

20 MR. CABALLERO: What are the two dates you
21 mentioned?

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: The first probation
23 report under Case Number A-267861 is dated June, 9, 1971.
24 That is a two-page report.

25 MR. CABALLERO: I have a two-page report dated --

1 with that date. I have that report. yes

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right That the
3 second report regarding Case A-253156 is dated April, 17
4 1971.

5 MR. CABALLERO: I have that one also Thank you

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right Referring
7 to Case A-267861, the facts of the case as stated in the
8 Probation Officer's Report appear to be as follows, and I
9 quote:

10 "On July 26th, 1969, defendant Robert Kenneth
11 Beausoleil..." that's B-e-a-u-s-o-l-e-i-l.

12 "...Charles Manson, Bruce Davis, and Mary Brunner,
13 together and separately went to the home of victim
14 Gary Hinman to solicit money from him. The victim
15 apparently failed to satisfy their request, was
16 kept prisoner for a period of time, cut and stabbed
17 repeatedly. Cause of death was ascribed to a stab
18 wound in the heart. The body was discovered on
19 July 31, 1969."

20 Under Case Number A-253156, referring to counts
21 one through five, these were concerned with the murders which
22 occurred on or about August 9, 1969, at the Polenski,
23 P-o-l-a-n-s-k-i, residence located at 10050 Cielo, C-i-e-l-o,
24 Drive, Los Angeles.

25 "As to count one, Abigail Ann Folger died from

1 multiple stab wounds of the body; count two, victim
 2 Wojcieck Frykowski..." W-o-j-i-c-i-e-c-k
 3 F-r-y-k-o-w-s-k-i, "...death was caused by gun shot
 4 wound of the left back and multiple blunt-force
 5 trauma to the head. He was also stabbed.

6 "As to count three, victim Steven Earl Parent,
 7 death was caused by multiple gun shot wounds; count
 8 four, Sharon Marie Polanski..." P-o-l-a-n-s-k-i,
 9 "...cause of death was multiple stab wounds of
 10 the body; and the victim in count five, Jay
 11 Sebring..." S-e-b as in boy r-i-n-g, "...cause of
 12 death was multiple stab wounds."

13 As to counts -- under the Case Number A-253156,
 14 counts six and seven, these refer to the murders of Leno A.
 15 LaBianca, L-a B-i-a-n-c-a, and his wife, Rosemary LaBianca.
 16 These killings took place on or about August 10, 1969, at
 17 their residence located at 3301 Waverly Drive in Los Angeles.

18 "Cause of death of Leno LaBianca was multiple
 19 stab wounds to the neck and abdomen. This refers to
 20 count six. Count seven, cause of death to Rosemary
 21 LaBianca was ascribed to multiple stab wounds to the
 22 neck and trunk."

23 Those are the facts of the cases. I will only
 24 briefly go over your preconviction factors. You did have,
 25 I believe, misdemeanor violations.

1 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Again.

3 taking these from the Probation Officer's Report, it appears
4 that in September, 1966, you were convicted of two
5 misdeemeanors; granted two-years probation, and the case was
6 transferred to California, Santa Clara County. These
7 involved possession of a concealed weapon and receiving
8 stolen property under the Dyer Act.

9 In 1968, it appears that you pled guilty to
10 violation of 14601 CVC, reproduction or possession of a
11 facsimile of a driver's license. And on 6/22/68, in South
12 Ukiah -- that's U-k-i-a-h -- there was possession of
13 dangerous drugs, and you were on probation in Mendocino
14 County.

15 In 1969, there was a no disposition on a grand
16 theft auto, and then the murders of which we have stated the
17 facts.

18 Counselor, is your client going to comment?

19 MR. CABALLERO: Yes, I would like her sworn.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Would you
21 please rise?

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Would you raise
23 your right hand?

24 (Thereupon Inmate Susan Atkins was, by
25 Hearing Representative Del Pesco, sworn

1 to tell the truth, the whole truth
2 and nothing but the truth.)

3 INMATE ATKINS: I do.

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Be seated,
5 please.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: At this time counselor
7 you may address yourself to that part of the hearing so far
8 in regards to Miss Atkins' preconviction factors and her
9 conviction factors.

10 MR. CABALLERO: You have stated what the charges
11 were and what she was convicted of. That's a matter of
12 record. You have indicated that you are relying on the
13 probation report to an extent as to the preconviction facts
14 of her -- of the case.

15 I think we have to bear in mind that this probation
16 report came at a time when Miss Atkins had just been
17 convicted of the Tate-LaBianca cases, in the first report.
18 And the second report followed shortly after she entered a
19 plea of guilty in the Hinman case.

20 If you went through all of the reports, those
21 police reports as well as statements that she made outside
22 of the police dominion, you'll find that she gave a variety
23 of quote "facts" unquote so far as her participation in these
24 events occurred.

25 People will never be satisfied as to truth of those

1 events is correct. I certainly can't profess to tell you
2 that I know which of them is.

3 The District Attorney, I'm sure, has his opinion.
4 If you had a different District Attorney here from the same
5 office, I'm sure he would give you a different opinion.

6 I might start at the outset by telling you that I
7 was involved in this case at the inception. I did not
8 represent Miss Atkins at the trial for reasons which are
9 also of common knowledge and for which other people may have
10 different opinions, but reasons of which I know, reasons
11 which I documented with tape recordings, which I had the
12 authority to do, all tape recordings being taken with Miss
13 Atkins' knowledge and consent and with court order.

14 So, I have a little more knowledge perhaps of this
15 case than perhaps a lot of people do, including perhaps a
16 lot of District Attorneys.

17 I am here today as a volunteer. I am her attorney
18 because I want to be. I found out about this hearing last
19 week. I have a very heavy calendar. I am a very busy
20 lawyer -- thank God for that -- but I would take out whatever
21 time is needed to be here with her.

22 I would not do so if I believed everything that was
23 in these reports. And I'm referring now to the actual area
24 that we are talking about now, and that's the preconviction
25 circumstances, in other words, certain types of offense.

1 I believe these statements that were made originally
2 originally about her participation in the offense were
3 accurate and true. I believe a lot of the inflammatory
4 material, that was brought out later by cell mates and what
5 is in this very probation report from her own lips is a lie.
6 I believe she lied. I'll let her address herself to those
7 remarks, when she told the Probation Officer I killed
8 meaning herself - "Sharon Tate." Yes legally she's
9 guilty. And I've explained that to her

10 I believe the circumstances that she originally
11 related to me are more accurate and in keeping with what
12 really happened there than that which was in this probation
13 report. And I'm not saying the Probation Officer made a
14 mistake. I'm saying that she deliberately lied at that time
15 to the Probation Officer because by that time she was back
16 in the scope and the realm of what we call the Manson Family
17 people.

18 I don't know if you're aware that this interview
19 with the probation department was not done on a one-to-one
20 basis. She was present with the other two co-defendants,
21 which I find highly unusual for a Probation Officer who is
22 going to make an independent probation report to do that.
23 Under the circumstances of this case, perhaps it was right.

24 I also happen to know this Probation Officer, and I
25 have a great deal of respect for Ms. Boon. I know her

1 husband, who was a co-partner of mine in the L.A. office
2 And I have a high amount of respect for her. But
3 nevertheless, what I'm trying to point out is not a criticism
4 of Ms. Boon, but the circumstances under which Susan stated
5 "I killed Sharon Tate."

6 She was at that stage of her life where she was,
7 in effect, still trying to impress the two people left to
8 her, the Manson Family members, where she had just left a
9 trial where she was standing up and interrupting the trial
10 and making all sorts of, oh, interferences with the trial,
11 as the letter of Judge Older indicates. All this was part
12 and parcel of that girl. But I don't think, therefore, that
13 girl, when she related what she did in this probation report
14 -- and I'm addressing myself to the probation report based
15 upon your remarks that this was being used here, and I see
16 it in the report -- all of this tells me that Susan Atkins
17 did not tell the truth to the Probation Officer.

18 I know that she wants to and is willing to and
19 is prepared to, at this moment, tell you why she told this
20 to the Probation Officer and to briefly state to you what
21 she feels her participation was at that time and how she
22 views it today. I have explained to her, and she is aware
23 of what you said, that we are only concerned now with the
24 facts of the case, preconviction circumstances of her
25 involvement.

1 I did want to call to your attention, though, that
2 when this probation report was made, when those statements
3 were made, the other two girls were present in the room.
4 Susan Atkins was still playing her game, about which I'll
5 get into a little more detail when I argue this case to you.
6 But, right now, I just wanted to preface her statement to
7 you with giving you this knowledge and circumstances of this
8 probation report.

9 Now, Susan, it's my understanding you want to tell
10 a little bit about what you feel your participation was.

11 INMATE ATKINS: Right. I really would like to
12 explain, as simply as I can, a very complicated reason for
13 why I lied, not only to the Probation Officer, but at the
14 original trial. And I'm not speaking of the Grand Jury
15 testimony.

16 When Richard was my lawyer, Mr. Caballero and I
17 talked at great length, and I told him the truth from the
18 very beginning. When he advised me to go to the Grand Jury,
19 I told him the truth.

20 My state of mind at that time was I was betraying
21 my so-called comrades -- Charles Manson, Pat Krenwinkel,
22 Tex Watson, Lellie Van Houten, and the rest of the so-called
23 family -- and I was having to deal with guilt for doing that
24 because I was convinced at that time what we had done was
25 right. And I was at that point the Benedict Arnold of the

1 group when I went to the Grand Jury.

2 Charles Manson had given me a message through the
3 prison system that he wanted to see me. And I went, at
4 great objection from Mr. Caballero, to see Charles Manson.
5 I was still very, very much influenced by things that he
6 had said to me. And he told me -- which I needed to hear at
7 that time -- that he was not mad at me for what I had said
8 at the Grand Jury, but that I needed to retract what I said
9 for the sake of the case and for the sake of my co-defendants,
10 and that I'd better retract what I had said, and advised me
11 to fire Mr. Caballero and hire an attorney of his choice,
12 which was Daye Shinn.

13 So, I did that, much to Mr. Caballero's regret;
14 now, much to my regret.

15 And I went into the trial and, because I so needed
16 the acceptance of the people that I was still emotionally
17 involved with, I lied and retracted my Grand Jury testimony
18 and said I lied at the Grand Jury, and said that I, in fact,
19 had killed Sharon Tate, not only at the trial, but also at
20 the Probation Officer's -- when the Probation Officer talked
21 to me.

22 I ask you to understand my great confusion at that
23 time, my emotional need at that time to be accepted of the
24 very people that I considered to be closest to me, and that
25 I could not -- and I believe I told Mr. Caballero this,

1 too -- I could not in good conscience, for whatever value
2 that was at that time in my warped thinking, I could not go
3 to a trial and testify against five more people and possibly
4 send them to the gas chamber, and myself take immunity and
5 possibly walk out in the street, because that was also
6 happening during that time before the trial. So, I went
7 ahead and lied and took the responsibility for the death of
8 Sharon Tate and for the death of Gary Hinman -- which was not
9 by my hand -- though I do now take responsibility for the
10 participation which I did have, because I was there.

11 And I just -- I want you people to understand that,
12 because I think it's very important that the truth be known.
13 And it took me a long time, a long time, almost four years
14 before I could tell anybody that I didn't kill anybody,
15 because I felt guilty. As crazy as it sounds, I felt guilty
16 for not killing anybody, because my indoctrination, my whole
17 theory at that time was that I was supposed to do that, and
18 I couldn't do it. And therefore, I felt guilty for not
19 doing it. So, I said I did it to make myself feel better
20 and make my peers have a better opinion of me as their
21 comrade. And I don't know what other word to use for the
22 relationship that I had with those people.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Do you want
24 to tell us what did happen?

25 INMATE ATKINS: At the Gary Hinman house and at the

1 Tate-LaBianca house?

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Right.

3 INMATE ATKINS: Well, we went to Gary Hinman's
4 house. It was with the understanding that we were going to
5 get money from him. And when we got there, Mr. Hinman told
6 us that he didn't have any money. And in a matter of maybe
7 15 or 20 minutes of talking with Gary Hinman, there was a
8 fight between Robert Beausoleil and Gary Hinman where Mr.
9 Hinman was hit, and a gunshot had been fired into, I think,
10 the sink at that time.

11 I was told to hold the gun during the fight. And
12 if, in fact, my memory serves me correctly, I set the gun on
13 the counter. And Mr. Hinman, during the struggle, before
14 the shot was fired, picked up the gun. I don't know whether
15 it was before the shot was fired or not. My memory -- it's
16 been a long time. My memory's not real clear on that. But
17 I know that Mr. Hinman could not hold the gun for very long.

18 Though he had me and Bobby Beausoleil and Mary
19 Brunner in a position of yielding to his will, he gave the
20 gun willingly back to Bobby Beausoleil. And I don't know
21 how much time elapsed, but Bobby Beausoleil then called
22 Charles Manson, and Charlie came over with Bruce Davis. And
23 Charlie walked in and Gary asked him to please take his
24 people away. He didn't have any money. He didn't have
25 anything that Charlie wanted. He didn't know what Charlie

1 wanted. He just wanted them to get out of the house.

2 And Charlie pulled out a long dagger and cut him.

3 Then Charlie left.

4 Mary and I took care of Gary, tried to suture up
5 his face wounds. And I think the record states that it was
6 a period of three days that we were there. We took turns
7 watching him, Mr. Hinman.

8 On the third night, or day -- I'm -- I don't
9 remember whether it was night or day, Bobby Beausoleil told
10 Mary Brunner and I to go into the kitchen and make a cup of
11 tea or something. And I heard Gary scream out to Bobby to
12 not hurt him anymore, and then I saw Gary laying on the floor
13 and he was dying. And Bobby gave instructions to Mary
14 Brunner and I to wipe off all the fingerprints, to clean the
15 house up, and to get ready to go. And we did that.

16 We left the house, and Bobby went back into the
17 house for a period of five minutes. And then he came out of
18 the house and said Gary was dead, and we left.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I have one question on
20 that. Did you have any experience in suturing? What did
21 you use for suturing?

22 INMATE ATKINS: I didn't do the suturing. Mary
23 Brunner did the suturing, and she used dental floss and a
24 needle and thread -- not -- dental floss and a needle. I
25 had no experience. I was just there.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Was there any kind of
2 anesthetic or anything given to him at that time?

3 INMATE ATKINS: I went down to the store and bought
4 gauze and antiseptic and peroxide and some soup, I think to
5 feed him, and came back. And that's vaguely all I remember
6 of the care that he received.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Who gave the orders for
8 you to stay and care for him?

9 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, Charlie.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And what happened with
11 the decision to finally kill him?

12 INMATE ATKINS: That came from Bobby Beausoleil.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Any panel members have
14 any questions of Miss Atkins regarding the Hinman ordeal?

15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: There's indication in the
16 record that even after the trial, you accepted the full
17 blame for the Hinman killing.

18 INMATE ATKINS: Up until 1974, September of 1974,
19 at a parole consideration hearing, one of the parole reviews.
20 Miss Hiller looked at me, and she said, "Susan, you didn't
21 kill Gary Hinman, did you?" And I looked at her, and I said,
22 "No, I didn't." And that was the first time, from the time
23 of the trial, of the Gary Hinman trial, that I had ever
24 admitted to not killing him and telling the truth.

25 And she asked me at that time why it took me so

1 long, and I told her quite honestly because I thought that I
2 had to carry the facade of killing Gary Hinman for Bobby
3 Beausoleil's sake, because he was still under appeal, and
4 that if I ever told the truth, that it might mean he would
5 lose his appeal, and that something would come down on me
6 because of it. So, I didn't say anything, because I felt I
7 had to protect Bobby Beausoleil.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: So, you have no such fears
9 now?

10 INMATE ATKINS: No.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, when you went to that
12 location, it was for the purpose of soliciting a loan?

13 INMATE ATKINS: No, it was for forcing Gary Hinman
14 to give us money, everything that he had, by first asking
15 him to join the so-called group. And if he didn't join the
16 group, the instructions were given to Bobby Beausoleil in
17 my presence, was that if he does not give you the money, you
18 kill him.

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Who told him that?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Charlie. And I want to put this on
21 record, because I don't think it's ever been put on record --
22 except in my book I put it down -- but I want it on court
23 record that three days before we went to Gary Hinman's house,
24 I was at Spahn's Ranch -- and I want you to know I like Gary
25 Hinman, He was my friend. And I knew him for several months

1 before he died.

2 But, three days before we went, I was sitting out
3 at Spahn's Ranch, and Charlie came up to me, and he said,
4 "Susan" -- he called me Sadie at that time. He said, "Sadie,
5 I want you to do something for me." He said, "You always
6 wanted to be out front; you always wanted to be important."
7 He said, "Well, you can do something really important for me.
8 You can go to Gary Hinman's house, and you can kill him, and
9 you can put his body in the car, and you can take him to the
10 pier down at Malibu, and you can dump his body over into the
11 ocean." And he just walked away, and he left me with that.
12 And then, three days later, he told me to go with Bobby and
13 do whatever Bobby said to do.

14 And I don't -- I want you to understand. I take
15 responsibility for my actions. But I'm asking you to try
16 and understand where my state of mind was at the time that I
17 took those actions. It's not where it is today.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you know, after -- Mary
19 Brunner, you said, did the suturing?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

21 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And he had no medication for
22 the pain or anything of that nature?

23 INMATE ATKINS: No.

24 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And where was he cut?

25 INMATE ATKINS: He was cut from his ear down the

1 side of his cheek. It was a deep wound

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did it quit bleeding after
3 the suturing?

4 INMATE ATKINS: No.

5 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did it keep bleeding for
6 three days?

7 INMATE ATKINS: On and off. It would clot and
8 then Gary would get up and move or do something and it would
9 start to bleed again. And we would change his bandages.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: During this time, did you
11 feed him?

12 (Inmate nods head.)

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did he eat?

14 (Inmate nods head.)

15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And what was the purpose of
16 staying there three days?

17 INMATE ATKINS: I don't know.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Were there continued efforts
19 to --

20 INMATE ATKINS: To obtain money, to try to get him
21 to sign over cars, and to show us where his bankbook was
22 hidden. And he just kept saying he didn't have any money,
23 he didn't have what we wanted.

24 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did you actually believe or
25 did someone in the group actually believe that he had a lot

1 of money?

2 INMATE ATKINS: Apparently Charlie did.

3 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: How had Charlie first become
4 acquainted with him?

5 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I honestly don't know. All I
6 know is that one day Gary Hinman showed up at the place we
7 were staying at prior to Spahn's Ranch, up in Topanga Canyon,
8 and that Gary was a very nice person. And he had certain
9 affections for a couple of girls at the house. And he hung
10 around a lot, because he liked Charlie.

11 Gary -- this is not a slight, and I don't mean this
12 as derogatory on Mr. Hinman. Mr. Hinman was a homosexual
13 or bisexual. I'm not sure which. And we were all at that
14 point of a bisexual-type sexual-oriented group of people.
15 So, he fit right into that category.

16 And he had -- he liked Charlie a lot, and he liked
17 a couple of the girls a lot. So, he hung around and would
18 come around quite often.

19 And at one point, Mary Brunner had gotten in
20 trouble and went to jail. Her son was taken from her. And
21 Gary Hinman opened up his home to her to give her son a place
22 to stay for the court, so that they would know that her child
23 had a place to live and that she had a place to live apart
24 from Charles Manson, so that she could get her son back.
25 So, he did nice things for Charlie and for Mary and for a lot

1 of the people.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I see Now the original
3 wound on him was inflicted by --

4 INMATE ATKINS: Charlie

5 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON -- by Charlie And this was
6 when Charlie -- when you called Charlie to the house and he
7 came to the house?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Bobby Beausoleil called Charlie
9 to the house and told him to come.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And that was when Elmer had
11 rejected your offer?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Right. And told us to get out

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: How long had you been there
14 when that occurred?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Maybe about two hours.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: About two hours. And Charlie
17 came right over. How long did it take him to get there?

18 INMATE ATKINS: About half -- oh, anywhere from 20
19 minutes to a half hour. It was a good drive from Spain's
20 Ranch to Topanga Canyon.

21 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, that was the first wound
22 inflicted on him. And when was the second wound inflicted
23 on him?

24 INMATE ATKINS: Several days later.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: By whom?

1 INMATE ATKINS Bobby Beausoleil

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And was that in your
3 presence?

4 INMATE ATKINS: No. I was told to go into the
5 kitchen with Mary Brunner. That's when I heard Bobby stab
6 him, I guess, Gary Hinman, because the next thing I saw was
7 Gary Hinman with stab wounds.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And Beausoleil was the only
9 one --

10 INMATE ATKINS: In the room at the time.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- in the room with him at
12 that time?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Right. Mary and I were both in
14 the kitchen. When we heard it, we went to the living room.
15 We stood for a few minutes, because neither one of us knew
16 what to do, and that's when we went into the living room area,
17 which was just a short little hall from the kitchen to the
18 living room.

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What type of weapon did
20 Beausoleil have?

21 INMATE ATKINS: A buck knife, to my remembrance.

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: How long a blade on the knife?

23 INMATE ATKINS: I don't remember.

24 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What kind of a handle did it
25 have?

1 INMATE ATKINS: I don't remember.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, when you left, that was
3 on the fourth day or third day?

4 INMATE ATKINS: It think it was the third night,
5 second or third night.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What time was it?

7 INMATE ATKINS: It was at nighttime. It was dark
8 out.

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And whose decision was it to
10 leave?

11 INMATE ATKINS: Bobby's.

12 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And did you all get in the
13 car before he went back to the house?

14 INMATE ATKINS: No. We had gotten -- we had come
15 out and locked the front door behind us. And Bobby heard a
16 noise inside, and he thought maybe Gary was still alive and
17 could get to a phone or something was the essence of what he
18 had talked about. And he didn't know how to get back in.

19 So, he went to the window, which was on our right,
20 and he tried the window. And he could get in the window.
21 I don't remember where the window led except into the house.
22 He went in the window and maybe ten minutes later came back
23 out and stated that he had to put a pillow over Gary's face
24 and smother him, which was what I said I did when I pleaded
25 guilty at my trial.

1 I said I did what Bobby did, and there was no way
2 I could have known that Gary had a pillow over his face
3 except Bobby had told me that.

4 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did he tell you that he had
5 also stabbed him again?

6 INMATE ATKINS: No, not that I recall. He said
7 that he had written something on the wall, too, and put a
8 paw print, like a panther-paw print, on the wall in Gary's
9 blood..

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you pled guilty to that,
11 and you admitted that knowing that you were -- or did counsel
12 ever advise you that you would receive the death penalty?

13 INMATE ATKINS: I had already received the death
14 penalty for the Tate-LaBianca trial before I pled guilty to
15 the Gary Hinman trial.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And made the statement of
17 smothering --

18 INMATE ATKINS: Right. And counsel had told me
19 that I could get the death penalty again, but that he had
20 talked to the District Attorney at that time. If my memory
21 serves me correctly, a deal was made that if I pled guilty
22 to killing Gary Hinman that I would not be given the death
23 penalty again, but that I would be given a life sentence.

24 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And that wasn't Mr. Caballero?

25 INMATE ATKINS: No, it was Daye Shinn, who was my

1 lawyer at that time.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: So, are you saying that he
3 actually told you that you would benefit by making that
4 statement?

5 INMATE ATKINS: In essence, that's what it was.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: That it would be to your
7 advantage?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Right. But my whole reason for
9 pleading guilty was because I had just gone through a nine-
10 month trial, and I was facing another long trial.

11 And for some reason, Charlie called me aside one
12 day and said, "Do you want to go through this whole trial
13 again?"

14 And I said, "No, I don't. I'd rather go out to
15 prison and face what's coming to me."

16 And he said, "Well, you can always plead guilty to
17 this case and get out of this trial. But," he said, "now,
18 you do what you want to do, but that's what I would do."

19 So, I took what he suggested and followed through
20 on it and pled guilty to it so I could get out of the trial
21 and get away from the courtrooms. I couldn't take any more
22 emotionally. I couldn't take any more of Sybil Brand. I
23 had to come here. I was sick emotionally. I was sick
24 physically.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Well, who had the greatest

1 influence on you making that decision; was it Manson and your
2 loyalty to the others?

3 INMATE ATKINS: Manson and my loyalty to the others.

4 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: That was more influential
5 than the statement of your attorney?

6 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

7 MR. CABALLERO: May I interject one comment there,
8 which I'm sure Susan will back me up on?

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Yes.

10 MR. CABALLERO: As far as I'm concerned -- I think
11 she will vouch for this -- that attorney was Manson's
12 attorney, not her attorney, so that when you speak of the
13 influence of Manson and the lawyer it is, in my opinion;
14 synonymous with Mr. Shinn. When Mr. Shinn came into the
15 picture and had her withdraw her previously-given testimony
16 from the Grand Jury, he was sentencing her to death. And
17 she went along with this; and he did this just in Manson's
18 interest.

19 Later, I will discuss with you my conversations
20 with Manson, and this will become apparent to you. So, I
21 don't want you to think that Mr. Shinn did anything contrary
22 to what Mr. Manson wanted done. It wasn't that way. I
23 always wondered about that from an ethical point of view --
24 which I won't get into at this point -- but I want that
25 understood.

1 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I understand that, you know.
2 In going back to, you know, your decision to change attorneys,
3 you've explained that, but it's very difficult to understand
4 now. I just want to ask you one question about that.

5 Did the court approve -- did the judge approve of
6 this?

7 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You informed the judge of
9 what you were doing?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, yes.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did you give the judge a
12 reason why you were doing this?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, I'm sure I did, but I honestly
14 do not remember what my reason was. I didn't know, when I
15 agreed with Charlie to fire Mr. Caballero, who was my -- who
16 my new lawyer was going to be. I had no idea.

17 The next day, or a day or so after, I received a
18 visit at Sybil Brand Institute from Paul Watkins. Is that
19 his name, Paul Watkins? And on a piece of paper, he held up
20 to the window Daye Shinn, attorney for Charlie. He didn't
21 want to say it over the telephone, because he was afraid
22 that the telephones were monitored and that the call, the
23 visit would be recorded. And he didn't want anybody to know
24 that Charlie had sent Daye Shinn to represent me.

25 MR. CABALLERO: You should know who Paul Watkins is

1 if I may at this moment.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I was just going to ask.

3 MR. CABALLERO: Paul Watkins was Mr. Manson's
4 primary courier during this entire period that he was
5 incarcerated. He subsequently became a state witness, and
6 that was as a result of an attempt made on his life by the
7 Manson people who tried to, in effect, burn him to death.
8 I'm sure the prosecutor could fill you in on that.

9 Paul Watkins is also the man who threatened me,
10 prior to her firing me, so to speak. And Paul Watkins is the
11 man that Charlie Manson was using to communicate with the
12 various people. And he's the one that went to see her
13 immediately after -- this came immediately after the meeting
14 with Charles Manson and myself and Susan, when he told her
15 to get rid of me and the kind of defense I had in mind.

16 Now, Paul Watkins shows up. He shows her this
17 piece of paper that says Daye Shinn. Daye Shinn, up until
18 this period of time, had been doing leg work --

19 INMATE ATKINS: For Charlie.

20 MR. CABALLERO: -- consistently for Charlie Manson.
21 Anyway, this is just to put this in the proper perspective
22 of who these parties are and what the situation was.

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I have nothing further.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mr. Del Pesco?

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Yes.

1 Miss Atkins, you voiced a great affection for Gary
2 Hinman, and yet I wonder how you reconciled the fact that
3 you were in his company for several days while he was in
4 obvious fear and pain and especially in fear of his life.

5 INMATE ATKINS: How do I reconcile that now?

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: No. Well, how
7 did you then? How do you -- or now -- how do you account
8 for -- see, I can't quite conceive of how you could have this
9 great affection and yet -- what I'm -- in my mind's eye,
10 in the normal setting, I perceive someone being shocked and
11 incensed by what happened to Gary Hinman and interceding for
12 someone that you had so much affection for. Why did not it
13 go that way instead of the way it did?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Okay. I don't want to
15 overemphasize my affections for Gary. At that time I liked
16 him. I was not in love with him. I did not have any emotional
17 ties to him. I just liked him as a person.

18 When the fight happened between Gary Hinman and
19 Bobby Beausoleil and I was given a gun to hold on Mr. Hinman,
20 I set the gun down. When Mr. Hinman picked the gun back up,
21 Bobby Beausoleil looked at me, and he told me -- he used
22 vernacular which I don't care to use -- but he told me, in
23 effect, that that could possibly cost me my life, too, if I
24 didn't do everything that he said to do from that point on.
25 And so, I too, feared for my life.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: How long --

2 INMATE ATKINS: With Mr. Hinman.

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: After the
4 Hinman affair, how long did you remain with your crime
5 partners?

6 INMATE ATKINS: All the way up until our arrest.

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: That's what I'm
8 asking. What was that time period? What did it cover?

9 INMATE ATKINS: I don't recall when --

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Was it days,
11 weeks, months?

12 MR. CABALLERO: Can you help on that?

13 MR. KAY: She was arrested -- the Hinman murder
14 was about the 26th of July --

15 INMATE ATKINS: July.

16 MR. KAY: The Tate-LaBianca murders were on August
17 9th and 10th. She was arrested in Death Valley at the Barker
18 Ranch around October 10th of 1969.

19 INMATE ATKINS: I was there.

20 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: You had ample
21 opportunity to leave during that time, I presume?

22 (Inmate nods head.)

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Why didn't you
24 choose to leave if you were in fear of your life?

25 INMATE ATKINS: Fear.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO Why didn't you
2 leave the group?

3 INMATE ATKINS: Well, my son was there

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO Couldn't you
5 take him?

6 INMATE ATKINS: I had tried several times I had
7 left several times and had gone back several times to get my
8 son. And one time in particular I left, and I went and I got
9 some friends from Topanga Canyon. I'm sorry, that was
10 another time.

11 I met a young man from the Hollywood area, and he
12 realized that I wanted my son, and he said, "I will go back
13 with you to get your child."

14 I feared for this man's safety, also. And I told
15 him, "You stay out in the car, and I'll go in and get my
16 boy, and I'll be back out."

17 And when I went back in to get my son, I picked
18 him up. I had him in my arms, and I was walking out the
19 door. And Charlie came down, and he stood in front of me,
20 and he said, "Before you leave, I want you to go into that
21 bedroom, and I want you to look at Mary Brunner. She tried
22 to leave and take her son, Michael, with her, and I want you
23 to look at her. If you try to take your baby, the same thing
24 will happen to you."

25 And I went in, and Mary Brunner was laying on the

1 had. Her jaw was half broken. She had a black eye, and she
2 had two cracked ribs.

3 ~~HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO~~ Well, there was
4 one way you could have gotten your ass out yourself, with
5 the police. Why didn't you go to the authorities?

6 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, because at that time the
7 authorities were my enemies. I didn't trust them. My
8 thinking at that time was that the establishment, the
9 society, was against me; and I was against them.

10 MR. CABALLERO: You'll find in her file the man's
11 name, by the name of Rory White, who has, through all these
12 years, visited her and whom I've gotten to know as a result
13 of this case. I got to know him through all these years,
14 also.

15 He's one of those men, one of those boys at that
16 time, when she left Manson for about three or four days, she
17 was with him. And there was -- I'm just using his name so
18 you'll know that there is some corroboration to what she's
19 telling you. During her cooperation with the prosecution,
20 in fact, almost immediately, one of the things we did do
21 was go visit with Mr. White. That's how we got to meet him
22 and bring him into the picture.

23 He became a regular visitor. Other than myself,
24 during the time I've represented her until the last month or
25 so, it was only Rory White and I that would come visit her.

1 We had an understanding in writing that she would accept no
2 other visitors without my consent. That was because I
3 thought that the family was trying to get to her. During
4 the last month, they got to her through the jail by sending
5 messages that way.

6 But, this Mr. White is a person who has corroborated
7 not only to me, but to everyone else, that she did leave
8 Manson one time. He was quite distressed when she left Rory
9 White to go back to the Manson family because her child was
10 there.

11 INMATE ATKINS: You had asked me how I reconciled
12 watching Gary die. My thoughts at the time -- though I
13 feared for my life, also, I had been told month after month
14 after month that there was so such thing as death. I cannot
15 explain to you how I could fear for my own life and have
16 that thinking at the same time, but I did. As inconsistent
17 as that is, that's the way it was. How I reconcile it now
18 is that I have made peace with God and with myself.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: How old was
20 Gary Hinman?

21 INMATE ATKINS: He was approximately 30 at the
22 time. I'm not sure.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I have no
24 further questions, Madam Chairman.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. We will now

1 move, then, to Sharon Tate and the LaBiancas. And is there
2 anything you feel you would like to tell us about those two
3 cases?

4 INMATE ATKINS: I was there, and I saw people
5 brutally murdered. I participated in it. If I could give
6 my life today to bring those people back, I would but
7 there is nothing that I can do.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Just tell us what it is
9 you want us to know as to how you participated and how you
10 happened to be there.

11 MR. CABALLERO: May I offer some direction?

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Would you like some
13 water?

14 INMATE ATKINS: No, thank you.

15 MR. CABALLERO: Maybe I can start her off.
16 Susan, the probation report indicates you told
17 Mrs. Boon that you killed Sharon Tate yourself.

18 INMATE ATKINS: I didn't.

19 MR. CABALLERO: Did you do that?

20 INMATE ATKINS: No.

21 MR. CABALLERO: What did you do in that regard?
22 What was your participation regarding the death of any of
23 those people in that house, the Sharon Tate house?

24 INMATE ATKINS: When we went in, I was instructed
25 to go in and see how many people were in the house. And I

1 went into the back room, and I saw Sharon Tate and a man in
 2 the bedroom, and I saw another lady -- I didn't know who they
 3 were at that time; I found out later -- in another bedroom.
 4 And I went back, and I reported to Tex Watson that there
 5 were three people in the bedroom.

6 By this time there was already a man on the couch
 7 that Tex had overpowered and told him to be quiet while I
 8 went and looked. And I was told to go back and tell these
 9 people to come out into the living room. And I went back
 10 and I went to the back bedroom first, and I -- with a knife
 11 -- and I told the people to come with me into the living
 12 room at knife point. And then I walked sort of backwards and
 13 I stopped and I told the lady in the other room to come with
 14 me to the living room. And they were at that point
 15 instructed to be quiet.

16 Tex Watson asked if they had any money, and one
 17 lady, the lady with the dark hair, said she did. And I was
 18 told to go into her bedroom with her to get her money, and
 19 she handed me some cash. I don't know how much it was. I
 20 didn't count it. I brought it out and gave it to Tex Watson.

21 By that time, then, I was told to get something
 22 to tie up the man on the couch. And I went into a bathroom,
 23 and I got a large towel. And I tied his hands with the
 24 towel. And then Tex took a rope and began to tie the people
 25 up with a rope around their necks, and then he put the rope

1 over a beam.

2 He told the people not to move and not to say
3 anything. And one man took a step forward and Tex shot him.
4 And the man fell down, and the ladies were screaming. And
5 I was told by Tex to kill the man on the couch. And I took
6 the knife, and I raised it, and as God is my witness, I
7 couldn't bring that knife down on him. And I just looked at
8 Tex, and I said, "I can't do it." And the man saw that I
9 couldn't kill him, and so he broke free of the towels.

10 (Thereupon Inmate Atkins broke down
11 crying.)

12 INMATE ATKINS: I'm sorry. And he and I got in a
13 fight, and all I remember is swinging with my arms, and I
14 had a knife in my hand. And I was swinging, and I know I
15 stabbed him. I don't know where I stabbed him. And I was --
16 by that time it was just mass confusion and people were
17 running and people were screaming. I called for help from
18 Tex, and Tex came. And the man got off me, as we were
19 fighting, and he started to run out the front door. And I
20 got up as Tex was fighting with this man at the front door.

21 I went over to the woman that was pregnant, and
22 she -- God -- she asked me for mercy, and she begged for
23 mercy, and I told her I didn't have any, and that she was
24 going to die. And then Tex came back in and he said, "Kill
25 her."

1 And I said, "I can't."

2 And so, he did, and we left.

3 We got halfway out in the parking lot, and Tex
4 said, "Did you write something on the door?"

5 And I said, "No, I forgot."

6 And he said, "Go back and do it."

7 And so, I went back, and I went in the house, and
8 I picked up the towel and I walked over to where the woman
9 was, and I got the -- got the blood on the towel and from
10 beside her body, and I walked over to the door, and I wrote,
11 "pig" or "war" or something, and then I left. And then we
12 got in the car.

13 I don't know how we got down to the car. We jumped
14 the fence or something and got in the car and drove back to
15 Spahn's Ranch. That was my part.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: How did you know that
17 something had to be written on the door? When was this
18 decided?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Before we left.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Now, what was the
21 purpose of that?

22 INMATE ATKINS: To have a "copycat" killing. The
23 whole purpose in going to the Tate house was to do a copy,
24 to my mind and to my thinking, was to have a "copycat"
25 killing similar to that of the Gary Hinman killing so that

1 the police would see that they had the wrong man in jail for
2 the Gary Hinman killing and let Bobby Beausoleil go. And by
3 writing something on the door --

4 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Excuse me. Was something
5 written, a print or something put on Hinman's door, too?

6 INMATE ATKINS: On the wall.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: On the wall. Okay. What
8 was the purpose of that?

9 INMATE ATKINS: I don't know. I didn't do it. I
10 don't know what the purpose of it was.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Then I gather
12 from what you're saying, there was no discussion about
13 putting something on the wall or writing something at
14 Hinman's house?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Not between me and anybody that --

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay.

17 INMATE ATKINS: -- that I know.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: But, in preparation for
19 going to the Tate house --

20 (Inmate nods head.)

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: -- there was to be a
22 "copycat"?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Why that
25 house? Who picked that house?

1 INMATE ATKINS: Charlie.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Do you know why?

3 INMATE ATKINS: Because it at one point had
4 belonged to Terry Melcher, and Charlie wanted to put fear
5 into Terry Melcher, because Terry was not helping Charlie
6 with his music, apparently, the way Charlie wanted him to.

7 Now, I am telling you only the things that I know
8 from my point of view. I'm sure that other people that were
9 involved had other reasons for doing what was done, but this
10 is more what I -- the knowledge that I had at that time. I
11 was not told a great deal.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: At the time that you
13 went there, though, you knew that Melcher was not there?

14 INMATE ATKINS: I didn't know anything about the
15 house. I didn't even know that it was Terry Melcher's house
16 at the time we went. I was just told to go with Tex and do
17 whatever Tex said to do.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. All right, Mr.
19 DeLeon?

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Who went into the house with
21 you originally?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Pat Krenwinkel, Tex Watson, myself,
23 and Linda Kasabian was told to stay outside and watch. She
24 came in only one time.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And what time was this?

1 INMATE ATKINS: It was at night. I don't know what
2 time.

3 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON. And you say that you had a
4 knife. Who gave you the knife? Who put the knife -- or what
5 action put the knife in your hand?

6 INMATE ATKINS: Each one of us was given a knife
7 and two changes of clothing. I picked the knife up. The
8 knife was at Spahn's Ranch. It was considered -- each girl
9 was given a buck kn'fe to carry.

10 We were supposedly in a state of war between the
11 system and us. And we had buck knives for self defense,
12 not just self defense, but also as weapons to hurt people
13 with.

14 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, once you got inside the
15 house, you started acting on Watson's orders?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

17 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And he directed you to scout
18 the premises?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Determine who was there?

21 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Was everybody asleep?

23 INMATE ATKINS: No. One lady, the lady alone who
24 I later learned was Abigail Folger, was in her bed reading.
25 And Mr. Frykowski was on the couch when we walked in, and he

1 was asleep when we walked in. And he woke up when Jex woke
2 him up.

3 And then I went to look for the other people, and
4 later -- the lady in the bedroom, who was pregnant, I later
5 learned was Sharon Tate. And the man that was sitting
6 talking to her was Jay Sebring. I later learned all their
7 names during court.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, they were awake?

9 INMATE ATKINS: They were awake, yes.

10 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And you went into the room.
11 You were alone where there was a male and a female?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: All you had was a knife?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And then you were told to
16 direct them out of there?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did they resist?

19 INMATE ATKINS: No, not at all.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: How long was the blade on the
21 knife?

22 INMATE ATKINS: An average buck knife, two inches,
23 three inches, four inches. I don't -- I don't know. It was
24 a large knife.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Did you have training on how

1 to use the knife?

2 INMATE ATKINS: No.

3 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, when this was over were
4 you criticized by the others for not carrying out orders or
5 for not taking action to kill someone when you were directed
6 to?

7 INMATE ATKINS: Tex was upset with me in the car
8 but he was more upset with Linda Kasabian than he was
9 me. So, she got the heavy criticism. I never really got
10 any direct criticism from Tex. But when we got back to
11 Spahn's Ranch, Charlie was very angry, because we didn't
12 go to the houses on the rest of the street. We were told
13 to go into every house on the block and kill everybody.

14 And so, Tex and Charlie talked a lot about that.
15 I went into a room and fainted.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, were you using drugs
17 at the time?

18 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And had you taken drugs
20 prior to the act?

21 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

22 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What kind of drugs?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Methedrine crystal and cocaine, a
24 combination of the two. Tex and I had our own stash that
25 nobody else knew about at Spahn's Ranch. And I went and got

1 it that night, and Tex and I went behind the bar or
2 somewhere and we both snorted a good deal of cocaine before
3 we left.

4 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You snorted it?

5 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And did you take -- did you
7 take methedrine, too?

8 INMATE ATKINS: I think it was methedrine and
9 cocaine mixed in powder. It was a white powder. I was not
10 real familiar with cocaine and didn't use it a lot. And it
11 was several weeks prior to that Tex and I had gotten turned
12 on to cocaine through a man who lived on a ranch not too far
13 away from Spahn's Ranch. And we went up to his place and
14 we'd buy our cocaine and take it back to the ranch and nobody
15 else knew about it. It was our own private little thing.

16 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And did you mix it with
17 methedrine from the onset?

18 INMATE ATKINS: Well, that's the way we got it.

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Oh, you got it mixed?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Yeah. That's the way we received
21 it. I'm not -- I'm not honestly sure that methedrine was in
22 it. All I know it was a concoction of speed made up mostly
23 of cocaine. And the only other speed that I know of, a term
24 of, is methedrine.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What was the effect on you?

1 a human being, based upon the evidence as I know it.
2 referring now only to those aspects of it.

3 That's all I wanted to add, because there will be
4 evidence, even if it's going to be introduced, even if it's
5 going to be said, but it's in these reports anyway. It's in
6 the letter of Mr. Kay, which you have before you, dealing
7 with the acts prior to conviction, where she told two inmates
8 about her participation, one in particular where she went
9 graphically on to state her role in the murder of the person
10 we now know to be Sharon Tate.

11 What Susan has told you today explains away those
12 comments and is consistent with what Susan told me at the
13 inception of my representing her.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: At 20 minutes after
15 11:00, we will take a five-minute break.

16 (Thereupon a short recess was taken.)

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We have reconvened in
18 the case of Miss Susan Atkins, and it is now 10 minutes of
19 11:00. All persons previously identified are now in the
20 room. And counselor, I believe you were either closing or
21 about to close your part in terms of the facts surrounding
22 the conviction factors.

23 MR. CABALLERO: I do wish to close. However, I did
24 make one statement which Mr. Kay called to my attention. I
25 indicated that Susan had pled before Judge Rittenbani.

1 It was actually before Judge Chaste, C-h-o-s-t-e.

2 Other than that, I have nothing to add to that
3 aspect of it, other than when I finally argue my position.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER KUSHEN: All right then. Go
5 ahead.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I'd like to ask a question.
7 You know, and maybe you can help resolve it, but I started
8 to ask this before the break, but we broke. So, it had more
9 to do with what was going on then.

10 It's ordinarily the case that in a situation where
11 you have the court room atmosphere and all the factors that
12 lead to truth telling, you know, and are generally
13 existent in a court of law. And I understand what you're
14 going through now, and what is happening now, but you
15 understand also that we have to make a decision, you know,
16 based upon fact.

17 INMATE STANIS: Absolutely.

18 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And this is what we are
19 trying to do is gather accurate facts.

20 INMATE ATKINS: Absolutely.

21 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: What I'm asking is that
22 under those conditions where you have a great deal of notoriety,
23 which may be contributing to lie telling, and you had the
24 somber atmosphere of the courtroom, which ordinarily is
25 believed to be conducive to truth telling, and you have

1 statements made under oath in that much more formal
2 atmosphere than this is --

3 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

4 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- which is conducive to
5 truth telling, and under all of those conditions, you know,
6 and you've explained well the reasons, but you made
7 statements totally contrary to the statements you are making
8 here.

9 Now, ordinarily, our decisions aren't tempered
10 or influenced by the fact that a person is not the active
11 or inactive aggressor in a killing --

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, I understand that.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- as opposed to where a
14 crime partner is the aggressor and does the killing, you
15 know, a person who is an active participant as opposed to
16 crime as your counsel states, as to an aider and abettor in
17 that particular role.

18 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: So, naturally it would serve
20 one better, you know, under these conditions to come out as
21 an aider and abettor which would be self-serving, you see.

22 INMATE ATKINS: I understand what you're saying.

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And so, in trying to resolve
24 the truth, you see. --

25 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

1 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- in the course where we're
2 dedicated to make every effort possible to arrive at the
3 truth so that we will have the facts that are really
4 necessary to make the correct decision in this case and in
5 every case.

6 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: It is very difficult to do --

8 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: -- as of this point in this
10 hearing, you see. Do you understand?

11 INMATE ATKINS: I sympathize; would that be the
12 correct word? I empathize or I understand fully the
13 responsibility which is laid upon you people.

14 At the time when I was going to court and I was
15 going to trial, I had absolutely no regard for the law,
16 for the justice system, for the upholding of the law. I was
17 totally lawless within myself.

18 Nearly nine years of great change has taken place
19 within me where I have come to, and it's taken a long time
20 for me to come to this place, to absolutely respect the law
21 as it is ordained of God in its inception. And because I
22 respect God, now I respect his ordinances, his forms of
23 governments, which he has allowed to happen on this land
24 wherever they are. If I was in Russia, whether I agreed
25 with it or not, I would respect those in authority over me,

1 and I respect the law, and I respect the truth.

2 I understand that to be an aider and abettor would
3 probably be beneficial to me. I'm not seeking benefit to
4 myself, and I want this understood clearly. I know in my
5 heart when I was given the death penalty -- now I know, I
6 didn't know it then -- but now I know that is what I deserved.
7 Anything given to me beyond a life sentence in here or short
8 of that, to me is Divine mercy. The fact that I'm alive
9 today is mercy, when I had no mercy for anybody, and I'm
10 being shown mercy.

11 Please understand I empathize and I sympathize
12 with the decision you people have to make. I'm not coming
13 to you begging anything. I just want you to know the truth,
14 because that is what's right, and I believe in what's right.

15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Okay. I have nothing further.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Mr. Deputy D.A.?

17 MR. KAY: Well, I'd like to start out by reading
18 the letter into the record that I wrote last week when I
19 found out about the fact that Miss Atkins was going to have
20 a hearing, which was originally set for Monday, July 17th,
21 1978. But, of course, Miss Krenwinkel took so long, we had
22 to put this over to today.

23 After I read the letter, then I would like to
24 respond to the facts of the crime and maybe disagree with a
25 few things that Miss Atkins has said, or at least point out

1 some other statements that she's made and other people have
2 made.

3 I might point out in addition, that I am sure
4 you're already aware that I was the prosecutor on four Tate-
5 LaBianca murder cases. I also prosecuted Bruce Davis for the
6 murders of Gary Hinman and Donald "Shorty" Shea. So, I'm
7 familiar with the Hinman murder also, as well as the Tate-
8 LaBianca murders.

9 All right. The letter states -- it's dated July
10 13th, 1978, and I gave Mr. Caballero a copy on Monday. So,
11 he had that letter some time and has read it and mentioned it
12 in his statement to you.

13 The letter states:

14 "Since I was one of the prosecutors on Susan
15 Atkins' trial for the seven Tate-LaBianca murders,
16 and am very familiar with the role Miss Atkins
17 played in those murders, I feel compelled to speak
18 up and be present at her hearing on July 17, 1978,
19 where she is to be considered for parole.

20 "I shall attend that hearing as a representative
21 of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.
22 As such representative, I shall also, in a sense,
23 represent the People of the State of California (the
24 same people I represented when prosecuting Miss
25 Atkins for the seven murders).

1 "My position is clear. Susan Atkins should
 2 never be paroled. The enormity of her crimes and
 3 moral turpitude almost defies comprehension. The
 4 eight murders in which she participated are
 5 considered to be among the most vicious, brutal
 6 murders in the history of American crime.

7 "Susan Atkins first participated in murder in
 8 late July, 1969. At that time she participated,
 9 along with Robert Beausoleil and Mary Brunner, in
 10 the robbery/murder of Gary Hinman. Atkins and her
 11 two cohorts tortured Hinman to death over a two-day
 12 period in an attempt to get his money and property
 13 from him."

14 As an aside, I'm going to go into that a little
 15 later, exactly what happened during this period of so-called
 16 treatment of Gary Hinman.

17 "Miss Atkins has pled guilty to first-degree
 18 murder for the Hinman killing.

19 "On August 9, 1969, Miss Atkins participated,
 20 along with Charles Manson, Charles Watson, Patricia
 21 Krenwinkel and Linda Kasabian in the murders of Sharon
 22 Tate, Steven Parent, Abigail Folger, Voytek Frykowski
 23 and Jay Sebring. Miss Atkins directly participated
 24 in the stabbing of Voytek Frykowski and Sharon Tate.
 25 When Miss Atkins participated in these murders, she

1 just kept stabbing Sharon Tate until Sharon Tate
2 stopped screaming. The autopsy report indicated
3 that Sharon Tate was stabbed 16 times.

4 "The night after the Tate murders, Susan Atkins
5 again participated as a co-conspirator in the
6 LaBianca murders. She did not actually kill anyone
7 on the night of the LaBianca murders but was
8 unquestionably ready and willing to do so if the
9 occasion arose.

10 "It is clear that the prison system is mainly
11 for the benefit and protection of society and not
12 for the benefit of the criminal. Our society is very
13 interested in not having members of the Manson
14 family, who participated in murder, released on
15 parole. The public looked upon the Tate-LaBianca
16 murders as certainly the most gruesome murders in
17 recent American history. I believe that we should
18 provide a deterrence to others from participating in
19 murder. Since the public considers these murders to
20 be so horrible, they will be looking to see just how
21 long a defendant such as Susan Atkins will be kept
22 in prison to pay for her crime. If she is paroled
23 after a certain number of years, the public will feel
24 that no one will be kept longer, since her crime is
25 the most horrible. I don't feel that it is wise to

1 set a precedent by paroling someone who has been
 2 involved in such a heinous murder. I think that
 3 it would be of great value for the public to learn
 4 that not every murderer can automatically expect
 5 to gain parole, no matter how horrible the crime.
 6 I feel that it is in the best interest of the
 7 People of the State of California and justice that
 8 Susan Atkins never be paroled. The eight victims
 9 of Miss Atkins cannot expect parole and neither
 10 should she."

11 Now, in responding to certain things that Miss
 12 Atkins said, in going into the facts of the crime, I might
 13 agree with Miss Atkins on a number of things which I will.
 14 The Hinman murder, Gary Hinman was a musician that Manson
 15 had met through Dennis Wilson. Dennis Wilson was the drummer
 16 for a rock group called the Beach Boys.

17 Dennis Wilson and certain members of the family,
 18 including Miss Atkins, spent some time living at Dennis
 19 Wilson's house. And while Manson had come in contact with
 20 Gary Hinman, the rumor was that Gary Hinman had come into an
 21 inheritance.

22 He lived in a kind of a delapidated house in the
 23 Topanga Canyon area. I don't know if anybody's familiar
 24 with the area. Some of those houses are nice, and some of
 25 them are just kind of shacks. His was not the greatest. He

1 lived there by himself, but the family felt that he had come
2 into an inheritance.

3 Beausoleil and Atkins and Brunner went to Hinman's
4 house with the intention of getting the money from Hinman
5 that they thought that he had from the inheritance.

6 Unquestionably, this was at the direction of Charles Manson.

7 They went there. Hinman -- Hinman did not have
8 any money. They thought he did, but he really didn't. He
9 was almost as poor as a church mouse, maybe not quite that
10 poor, but he didn't have maybe but a couple of hundred
11 dollars and some cars, which we'll get into, which is
12 important, a van and a car and a house.

13 So, he told the people to get out, that he wasn't
14 interested in it. They called Manson, when they saw that --
15 and I think it was Beausoleil that called Manson, when they
16 saw they weren't getting anywhere with him.

17 Manson came and demanded the money from Hinman.
18 Hinman, of course, he didn't have the money. He said, you
19 know, "Take the people and get out. I'm not giving you any
20 money, and I don't have any money."

21 Manson took out a sword. It wasn't a dagger. It
22 was a sword, oh, I guess about maybe a 20-inch blade. And
23 he slashed Hinman on the side of the face, slicing his ear
24 off, sliced him in the middle of the ear, and the wound,
25 which was a gaping wound, went from his ear down to the

1 corner of his mouth on the left side of his face And he
2 bled profusely from this.

3 There is an indication that Miss Atkins did hold
4 the gun on him while there was a confrontation between
5 Hinman and Manson in the kitchen. And there was a shot
6 fired in a wrestling over the gun, and it went into the
7 kitchen wall.

8 Manson then left with Davis, Bruce Davis and
9 instructed the three to, you know, get the property from him.

10 Well, Hinman was -- bled profusely from the wound
11 and was in a great deal of pain. They wouldn't get him
12 medical attention, call an ambulance or anything like that,
13 because what they wanted was the property. So they kept
14 him there for a two-day period, and during the period when
15 he was just so weak he couldn't resist from the bleeding,
16 they forced him to sign a pink slip to his van. It was a
17 VW van, an old VW van, but they forced him to sign his name
18 to the pink slip for that. And he had an old -- I believe
19 it was a Fiat, and they forced him to sign the pink slip to
20 that and searched his house on numerous occasions to get
21 whatever valuables they could get.

22 Miss Atkins, under oath, at the penalty phase of
23 her trial, admitted that she stabbed Gary Hinman, and there
24 is an indication from both her pleading guilty to the Hinman
25 murder or what she said at the time she pled guilty and from

1 the testimony of Mary Brunner, who was present that she
2 did, after Beausoleil, also stab him a number of times.

3 Hinman had what you -- has been termed a death
4 rattle. When somebody is dying, it's kind of a gurgling
5 sound. Miss Atkins and Miss Brunner participated in holding
6 a pillow over his face to kind of suffocate him and to keep
7 the sound down.

8 When she got back to Spahn's Ranch, Leslie Van
9 Houten testified in her trial that Miss Atkins came in
10 smiling and said, "We killed him," and that she was real
11 excited about it. And Miss Van Houten testified that after
12 the Hinman murder, during the period between the Hinman and
13 the Tate murders, Miss Atkins spent most of her time
14 sharpening knives, because she was fascinated about the
15 thought of killing people and wanted to be prepared the
16 next time that it came up.

17 Before the -- I have it written at the top of my
18 page. It's a little out of order, but I'm going to -- before
19 the night of the LaBianca murders, after the Tate murders,
20 after the Tate murders had already -- no, I'm sorry. This
21 was before the Tate murders. This is in order.

22 Before the Tate murders, Juan Flynn, F-l-y-n-n, who
23 was a ranch hand out at the Spahn Ranch, was in a trailer in
24 the front where either he or one other ranch hand lived.
25 Flynn was a young fellow who had come back from the Vietnam

1 War, and he had a good rapport with members of the family.
2 talked to them, was friendly with them. And he testified
3 at not only the first trial but all the other trials, that
4 Miss Atkins came up to him before the night they went out
5 on the Tate murders and asked him if he wanted to come along.
6 She said, "We are going into town, and we are going to get
7 ourselves some..." pardon my language, but I'm just quoting
8 what he said she said, "...we are going to get some mother
9 fucking pigs." And "pigs" is what the family referred to
10 as the white middle-class people.

11 And Flynn told her that he wasn't interested in
12 this, and, you know, wouldn't have any part of it. He
13 didn't think they were serious at the time, but, of course,
14 it turns out that they were.

15 Hinman -- the motive for the Hinman murder is
16 clear. It was a robbery/murder. The motive for the Tate
17 and LaBianca murders is not a "copycat". That was something
18 that Miss Atkins and Miss Krenwinkel and Miss Van Hoeten --
19 a ploy they used at the penalty phase of the trial to try
20 and get Manson off. You know, the motive wasn't Helter-
21 Skelter. We girls got together and decided we wanted to
22 get this superstar, Bobby Beausoleil, out of jail, and so
23 we were going to commit a "copycat" murder.

24 Well, the murders, the Tate-LaBianca murders
25 weren't anything like the Hinman murder. The only common

1 point is that they had writing on the wall. In the Hinman
2 murder, Beausoleil had written on the wall "political piggy"
3 and put a paw print. On the front door of the Tate residence,
4 Miss Atkins, in Sharon Tate's blood, wrote the word "pig".
5 Of course, as you remember what I said she said to Juan Flynn
6 before she left the ranch that they were going to get these
7 blankety-blank pigs, and she wrote "pig" on the front door.

8 At the LaBianca house, Helter-Skelter was written
9 on the refrigerator. And, of course, that was the name of
10 this revolution Manson had where it was going to be the
11 black-white race war and -- by the way, he envisioned that
12 the blacks were going to win and kill all the whites, except
13 for Manson and the family, and then because Manson said
14 blacks were so stupid they wouldn't be able to run the power,
15 and then they would turn all the power over to him and that
16 he would make them go out and pick cotton like they were
17 supposed to do. And this was what she and the others
18 believed in. Unusual motive, to say the least, but
19 nevertheless, it was their motive.

20 I'm convinced, having tried four Tate-LaBianca
21 murder cases, that that was the motive. It wasn't a
22 "copycat" killing. They talked about Helter-Skelter
23 incessantly at the ranch, and everybody knew when they were
24 going out, you know, that there were going to be murders.
25 Manson even described how the race war was going to take

1 place out at the ranch. He said that, you know, some --
2 some, he said -- at first, he said some blacks from Watts
3 were going to go into the rich piggy district up in Bel Air
4 and kill some rich people, and this was going to shock the
5 whites into coming back and retaliating against the blacks.
6 And this was how it was all going to get started.

7 Then, Manson told them several days before the
8 murders that the blacks were too stupid, and they didn't
9 know enough of how to start a revolution. So, he was going
10 to show them how to do it. And that's how the Tate murders
11 and the LaBianca murders ended up, that he was showing them
12 how to do it. He didn't go along on the night of the Tate
13 murders, but he did go along on the night of the LaBianca
14 murders.

15 The evidence at all of the trials has been just
16 absolutely overwhelming that nobody was under the influence
17 of drugs at the time of either one of the murders, except
18 on the second night, that Tex Watson had taken some speed
19 to pep him up, and the psychiatrists have testified that that
20 wouldn't affect him mentally.

21 The testimony from even the participants, until up
22 to now Miss Atkins, has been nobody had taken any drugs,
23 because they wanted to stay alert for what they had to do.
24 This was starting a revolution. They wanted to, you know,
25 have clear heads.

1 Miss Atkins, under oath at the penalty phase, under
2 cross-examination, admitted that she stabbed Sharon Tate.
3 So, that's in the record under oath at the trial. Of course,
4 she admitted it to the Probation Officer. Watson, at his
5 trial, stated that when he came back after killing Frykowski
6 that Miss Atkins was participating -- was killing Tate, and
7 he also participated in that. So, all of the 16 wounds, I
8 don't think -- if you believe what Watson said, cannot be
9 attributed to her. Some of them can't. I don't know how
10 we can ever differentiate the number, but Watson does admit
11 participating in killing Sharon Tate. At his trial he did
12 so admit.

13 At the Tate house, the victims that were killed,
14 five victims, suffered a hundred and two stab wounds. That
15 was the total of stab wounds of all of the victims. Sharon
16 Tate, as I said, had 15, and Wojicieck Frykowski had 51.

17 The part that Miss Atkins says about getting the
18 people out of their rooms at knife point, I think she's
19 always been consistent on that, that that's what happened.
20 I think it's interesting that there was also a robbery here
21 besides just the killing, getting the cash from Abigail
22 Folger, and Watson concurs with her in that he says they got
23 \$78 from the house. But that was -- robbery was not the
24 principal motive. But, of course, you know, if there was
25 money to be taken, then they would take it just as at the

1 LaBianca house some money was taken, although a lot of
2 valuables were left such as jewelery, cameras, and some
3 guns.

4 The trip -- the second night before they went
5 out, Manson held a meeting in the bunk room and said that
6 they had been too messy the night before, and this night
7 he was going to go out and show them how to do it. And they
8 spent about four hours randomly driving throughout the
9 County of Los Angeles looking for people to kill.

10 They first went to the Pasadena area and stopped
11 in front of a small, middle-class house in the Pasadena area.
12 And Manson went up to the window and saw pictures of
13 children, came back and said, "We are not going to kill the
14 people in there, because I saw pictures of children." They
15 looked in back of them, and they saw a man and a woman
16 apparently coming home from somewhere getting out of their
17 car. And they studied them, and Manson said the man was too
18 big. So, they drove off, and they went to a church in the
19 south -- well, first they went up to another home up in the
20 hills in the South Pasadena area, and Manson decided that
21 the homes were too close together. So, he didn't -- they
22 didn't kill anybody there.

23 They went to a church in the South Pasadena area
24 for the purpose of finding a minister to kill. It turns out
25 it was a Congregational church, but they didn't know that.

1 It was a church, and they were going to kill the minister and
2 string him to the cross in front of the church and try to
3 blame that on blacks. Of course, they were going to try to
4 blame all the murders on blacks.

5 From there they went out to the -- had gone back to
6 the freeway and gone out to the Pacific Palisades area and
7 drove around neighborhoods there looking for houses to stop
8 at. But, they didn't find the right house they were looking
9 for. So, they started driving back towards the city, and at
10 one point they went up to a stoplight -- or no, they were
11 driving, and Manson spotted a white sportscar and told Linda
12 Kasabian, who was driving at that point, to pull up next to
13 the white sportscar at the next light, because he was going
14 to get out and kill the driver of the white sportscar. It
15 was a male driver, one male driver. And so, they stopped at
16 the stoplight, and Grogan was on the passenger side, and he
17 got out to let Manson out, and Manson was -- as Manson was
18 getting out, the lights changed, and the driver sped off.
19 And to this day, we don't know who the driver was, and I'm
20 sure he doesn't know how close he came.

21 They then went to the LaBianca house. The reason
22 they got to that specific area was because a man named Harold
23 True has befriended the family in the past, and he had rented
24 the house next door to the LaBiancas. Although the LaBiancas
25 didn't own their house at that time that the family knew

1 Harold True, Miss Atkins had spent at least one night at
2 Harol True's, according to the testimony. So, she had stayed
3 next door to the LaBiancas' house, but the testimony was --
4 the evidence was that when she had stayed there and the
5 others had stayed there, the LaBianca house was vacant.
6 Nobody else was in there. Maybe it was in escrow or
7 something, but nobody lived there.

8 So, they went there. She was not asked to get out
9 of the car at the LaBianca house. But, after they dropped
10 Watson and Krenwinkel and Van Houten off there, they went
11 around on the drive to the beach as Miss Atkins stated and
12 then, they ended up in Venice.

13 They were looking for an Israeli actor who Linda
14 Kasabian knew, an man named Saladin Nader, not to get dope
15 from him, but to kill him because he was a pig. He made
16 money as an actor, and he had some money, and he lived in a
17 nice beach-front apartment down there. And Manson told
18 Atkins, Miss Atkins, Grogan and Kasabian to go up and for
19 Krenwinkel to knock -- or I mean Kasabian, for Kasabian to
20 knock on the door and for Grogan, who had a gun at that point,
21 to shoot him and for Miss Atkins to slit his throat.

22 Miss Kasabian testified she didn't want to kill
23 anybody. And so, she purposely went to the wrong door and
24 knocked on a door where she didn't know the people, because
25 she knew somebody else would answer and she'd say, "Oh, I'm

1 sorry. I have the wrong apartment." Which she did, and
2 then they went back.

3 The testimony was that on the way back to the
4 ranch, Miss Atkins and Mr. Grogan were so appalled by
5 everything that happened, that they burst into song. And
6 they were singing -- the main song they sang was the song
7 called "Piggy" which was a Beatle song which was a slap at
8 the establishment; talking about, you know, what the piggies
9 need is a good whacking. And of course, as I said who the
10 pigs were to the family, and of course in the song it talked
11 about the piggies going out to eat in their starch-white
12 shirts clutching their forks and knives. And as you recall,
13 Mr. LaBianca, in his abdomen, had a fork plunged in his
14 abdomen, and a knife stuck through his throat. This was
15 symbolic of that song. But, anyway, Miss Atkins and Mr.
16 Grogan were singing according to Miss Kasabian. They were
17 singing this song.

18 Let me just see if I have any other points here.
19 Of course, the Hinman murder, I mean that was really kind of
20 a torture murder. This man was in great pain, and they
21 refused to get medical attention for him because they didn't
22 want the authorities to find out, and they wanted to get
23 property from him. And they still hadn't gotten the property
24 from him. And, of course, during that period is when they
25 had him sign the pink slip, the two pink slips.

1 Oh, yes. Miss Atkins, when she got back to the
2 car, the getaway car after the Tate murders, the only thing
3 she said after, you know, this horrible experience that she
4 had was she complained about her head hurting because she
5 said the victim pulled her hair. That was -- and of course
6 she's described to you the fight that she had with Frykowski,
7 and that might be the occasion, maybe he pulled her hair or
8 something. But that's the only thing she had to say about
9 this whole terrible thing.

10 Of course her conduct in the trial certainly showed
11 no remorse. You have a letter from Judge Older in the file
12 talking about how she just laughed through the trial at the
13 whole system, and at one point during -- Mr. Bugliosi, who
14 was the prosecutor on the case -- he and I and another fellow,
15 Don Musich -- who, as the chief prosecutor, was giving his
16 closing argument. And Miss Atkins got up, and Mr. Buliosi
17 had a lot of notes and papers or he had sort of an outline
18 of his argument, and she got up in the argument and slapped
19 the papers. This was right in the argument in front of the
20 jury and slapped all of the papers off of the podium so
21 they'd get all messed up and everything like that.

22 And, of course, she was constantly being reprimanded
23 by the judge and having to be hauled out of the court by the
24 bailiff to go into a room upstairs to hear the trial. That's
25 where the other two girls were, as was Manson. Manson went

1 to a separate lockup to hear the trial, and they had it
2 piped into him, because he just wouldn't behave during the
3 trial.

4 As I recall, since from the Krenwinkel hearing
5 this was my only statement to the end. I just wanted to
6 point out one thing that I think the Board should be
7 interested in inquiring about, and that's the fact that here
8 Miss Atkins is before the Board and she's being considered
9 for parole, and yet the very institution that she's in now,
10 Frontera, has kept her in a security section during the
11 whole time she's been here, and they haven't even, say,
12 paroled her into the general prison population, whereas
13 Krenwinkel and Van Houten were released into the general
14 prison population. Miss Atkins has been kept in this special
15 security unit -- they call it the Psychiatric Treatment
16 center -- the whole time, and there was a document in here
17 from a Mr. P. Verb, V-e-r-b. That's page 56 of it on the
18 document, on the left-hand side. And he stated at the
19 conclusion of his report, "It should be noted that Susan's
20 inclusion in PTC is because of security reasons."

21 And in the last -- in a 1977 psychiatric report,
22 Dr. Roh, the staff psychiatrist, states on page 1 of his
23 report -- and the report's dated August the 1st, 1977, and
24 it's about four from the end sentence -- it says, "Her
25 violence potential outside of a controlled and supervised

environment is probably unpredictable."

From the Krenwinkel hearing, I know that the Board was interested in -- I believe Miss Krenwinkel was asked about restitution. And I notice that one of the documents -- excuse me -- in here, it's a report to the Board of Terms and Parole, dated September, 1976, where Susan states in that report that her business manager estimates from all book and movie rights -- she's written a book by the way, as I'm sure you're aware -- the royalties coverage should reach 14 million or more. And I know she has -- in federal court there was a lawsuit against her. Mr. Frykowski had some young children in Poland. And they got a judgment against her. And I think the Board ought to be interested in what restitution has been made to them since she has written a book and where the profits are going and are these children getting any benefits. Even today, she admits stabbing Mr. Frykowski.

I don't think I have anything more at this point.

PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Counselor, do you want to address yourself to any portion in terms of preconviction or conviction factors, or do you want to go into now your opening statement and present whatever you feel that the Board should consider today?

MR. CABALLERO: Insofar as the preconviction factors, statements made by Mr. Kay just now I feel I could

1 properly answer at the time of my argument rather than
2 repeat them again later. I think more will fit into that.
3 And so, I don't think I have to dwell on that at this moment,
4 because I feel we are prepared for the second phase.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right.

6 MR. CABALLERO: As I understand it, the second
7 phase is Susan's attitude and adjustment while she has been
8 here in prison?

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Right.

10 MR. CABALLERO: The documents that the Board has
11 before it are the documents and reports that indicate her
12 progress, indicate what she has done here, what she has not
13 done here. I think they fairly well speak for themselves.
14 I know Susan wants to also let you know what her attitude
15 has been here.

16 There is in this regard to a comment that was made
17 by Mr. Kay, which I think falls into the category of what
18 we're discussing now, and that was a reference in here that
19 she was kept at PTU, as it's called, for security reasons.
20 That was not said in this report in a negative way. As a
21 matter of fact, the report that states that is a very
22 favorable report.

23 And I believe when we examine the reasons why she
24 was there, I don't think security meant security in the
25 sense that she is the security risk as much as they were.

1 concerned with the health and welfare of Susan I think she
2 can tell you a little bit more about that and explain to
3 you her understanding, because by coincidence and unrelated
4 completely to this comment of Mr. Kay, which I had no idea
5 he would bring that up, I merely discussed this matter with
6 Susan this morning just by way of general conversation.
7 because I wanted to know how she'd been, why some people are
8 housed certain places, and I wanted to familiarize myself
9 a little bit with the procedures here.

10 But, all in all -- and then I'll let her speak --
11 all in all these reports show the difference between the two
12 people that came here. And when I say "two people" I mean
13 two people that sit to my right. One is only here now, and
14 the other one I think is long past away many years ago, and
15 that was Sadie. I think the girl that went to trial and the
16 girl that came was a girl that Charlie Manson called Sadie.
17 And I think the girl you see before you today is Susan.

18 I want Susan to tell you the things she has told
19 me, including my admonishing her and wanting to know why after
20 all these years of not getting written up essentially for, as
21 they call it, a bad report or bad conduct, why she had to
22 abuse as recently as a few months ago, her phone privilege
23 here. I discussed it with her, and I asked her not to just
24 explain it to me, but to explain it to you, because it
25 smacks you right in the face when you open up the folder.

1 And I wanted to know a little bit about it, even though it's
2 not the kind of writeup or report that we normally associate
3 with people in prison.

4 It is, nevertheless, a violation of a rule, rules
5 which she has conformed to so well since she became Susan
6 again. And I want her to start with that and then explain
7 to you whether or not she considers herself to be a security
8 risk or whether or not she thinks or understands her being
9 placed and not being transferred to the other side of the
10 unit is because she is quote "a security problem" unquote
11 as has been explained to her.

12 Susan, do you want to address yourself to that?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Sure. The 115, as it's called here,
14 a violation of phone or abusing my phone privileges was
15 something that I did on an impulse. My reasons for abusing
16 the phone privileges was -- and I'm not saying it justifies
17 the breaking of any rule -- I called a brother in Christ in
18 Charlotte, North Carolina, to share with him what Jesus
19 Christ has meant to me in the last few years and what he has
20 done for me in my life in the last four years. And I called
21 him to share specifically with him and the people that would
22 be listening on his television program that forgiveness,
23 mercy and redemption is available to all. And if God could
24 forgive me for the atrocities that I had committed against
25 humanity, then God could forgive anybody.

1 When it was brought to my attention that I had
2 violated the rule, I had to deal with a part of me which I
3 fight everyday, that rebellion against rules and regulations.
4 I did this on impulse and received the 115 knowing that I had
5 broken the rule and had to deal with that within myself. And
6 I realized something through it, that no matter how good
7 something might seem, if it violates a rule which is placed
8 over me, I cannot violate that rule, no matter how small or
9 petty that rule might seem to me. I recognize the fact the
10 rule is there for a reason.

11 Since I have been in the California Institution for
12 Women, when I first came here in 1971, I stepped into a
13 death row situation with two women that I knew were totally
14 hostile to me, and they have been hostile to me regardless
15 of comradery which appeared to be at the trial where we were
16 all together. Something the District Attorney never saw;
17 something the lawyers never saw; something that the staff
18 at Sybil Brand Institution for Women very rarely saw, was
19 an undercurrent of hostility between Pat, Leslie and myself.
20 We hung together for the sake of the so-called unity of the
21 family, but Pat and Leslie and Charlie always let me know,
22 without any shadow of a doubt in my mind, that I was
23 considered the snitch, because I was the original one to go
24 to the Grand Jury and testify against them and get us all
25 indicted.

1 When I stepped in here, I stepped in with a staff
2 telling me, "We don't know where to put you, Susan, because
3 the two ladies that you're going to death row with have
4 talked about killing you. And we don't know where to put
5 you in this institution, but we're going to put you on
6 death row, because we have no place to put you. You have
7 been sentenced to death."

8 So, for four years and three months Pat, Leslie and
9 myself, with other women coming in and out, lived under that
10 tension. I lived with the knowledge that -- not that I felt
11 like Pat and Leslie would ever do anything to me -- but that
12 that hostility was there, that there would never be
13 reconciliation between Pat and myself. I was totally on the
14 outside. I was not in the family. I was alienated from
15 it, and I was alone.

16 I began, after years of sitting there alone seeing
17 Helter-Skelter not come down, seeing that I was hostile,
18 I was rebellious, I was manipulative, I was angry, I was
19 bitter against the staff. My counsel who's known me for
20 seven years can verify that. When he would walk in, I just
21 -- a torrent of hatred would hit him in the face coming from
22 my mouth.

23 And one day, I can't tell you how or why or where
24 it came from, but one day the thought struck me, "I can't
25 be right and everybody else wrong if I'm so miserable and

1 everybody else seems to be happy and together." And I
2 was speaking of the staff that were in care of me on death
3 row. "Something must be wrong with me. Something must be
4 wrong with my thinking."

5 And I began to search, and it was a long search,
6 and it was a hard search, but the end result of that -- I'm
7 very, very thankful that whatever or whoever put that
8 realization into me that there was something wrong with me,
9 I was not right, I was not normal, I'm very grateful that
10 I came to that realization. I went through every philosophy,
11 every means possible to find out the truth about myself, the
12 truth about the world, the truth period.

13 I didn't even care what the truth was. I just
14 wanted the truth. I realized I had been living a lie, that
15 that lie had cost lives, and I, myself, was facing the gas
16 chamber.

17 When the death penalty was abolished in 1972, for
18 the first time in maybe 12 years I got on my knees and I
19 thanked God, a God I didn't even know existed. I just knew
20 he was there. I didn't know who else to thank, and I was
21 grateful. I realized I had a whole new life. What was I
22 going to do with it? Was I going to go on and be miserable
23 and vindictive and angry and bitter and hateful to people,
24 or am I going to try and make something out of my life? Am
25 I going to try and do something constructive with it? It

1 had been destructive from the time I was a little girl up
2 until that time. I did not want to live a destructive
3 life.

4 In 1973 -- in 1972, actually, I came to the Parole
5 Board for my annual parole review after the death penalty
6 had been abolished, and I sat across the table from Miss
7 Lees, who was then the Chairwoman of the Community Release
8 Board. And she said something to me that I -- that, I believe
9 began to change the course of my life in here. I'm not
10 talking about out there. But, she said, "Miss Atkins, now,
11 until you face face-to-face what you're here for and make
12 peace with God Almighty, you will never be normal. You will
13 never make it." You will be a blithering idiot to the effect
14 or that I would go crazy. "But," she said, "I see a spark
15 of hope in you." And I hung onto those words for almost two
16 years.

17 I came to that Parole Board asking to get out of
18 the California Institution for Women. I wanted to go to
19 another state, and no other state would take me. No other
20 state would have me or would take the responsibility of
21 keeping me in their prison, which also made me think that I
22 must be a pretty horrible person if nobody else would take
23 me and this institution didn't want me.

24 In 1974 I discovered something. I discovered the
25 truth. I discovered that I was a sinner; that all fall

1 short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no, not
 2 one. I don't mean to sit here and quote scripture to you
 3 in a cliche manner, but that's what I discovered. And I had
 4 to face for myself for the first time why I was in prison,
 5 not only why I was in prison but every sin that I ever
 6 committed from the time that I was a little girl up until
 7 that night.

8 I came face to face with reality. I can't put it
 9 any clearer than that. I was a wretched, horrible human
 10 being, and I needed something. And I needed a favor and
 11 I called out to God. He was the only person that I had left.

12 The staff couldn't help me. The psychiatrists
 13 couldn't help me. My co-defendants didn't want me. I felt
 14 like I was just going to rot and die, which is probably what
 15 I deserved.

16 But, on September 27th, 1974, I made peace with
 17 God. And if I'm crying now, it's only because I am grateful
 18 that I know in my heart something has happened here. I am
 19 not the girl you prosecuted nine years ago. There has been
 20 a transformation.

21 I had to begin to live that transformation, which
 22 meant dealing with old things of life and being rebellious.
 23 It was not easy. It is not easy today to abide by rules
 24 that sometimes I disagree with. It is not easy for me with
 25 a history of being a rebellious brat, but with the help of

1 Jesus Christ in my life, I can and am living a respectable
2 life in here to the extent that I am almost ostracized from
3 my penitentiary peers.

4 I am considered by most to be a "goody two-shoes"
5 in here. I abide by the rules, because I believe the rules
6 are to be abided by.

7 I have been given a program. I have learned skills
8 that I would have never before ever had any interest in.
9 If you were to ask me to go to school in 1972, I would have
10 laughed in your face and told you, "I don't need to go to
11 school. I don't have anything to learn. I already know it
12 all."

13 In 1974, '75 and '76, I began to go to school. I
14 began to read for the first time since I was in high school.
15 And I read books every week, three or four books a week,
16 because I believe in knowledge. I believe in learning. I
17 believe in bettering yourself, not just to better yourself,
18 but to benefit humanity.

19 Mr. Kay, you mentioned my book and the proceeds to
20 my book and what about restitution to the families of the
21 victims and what happened to the money from that book.

22 To this day I do not have one penny from the
23 proceeds of that book. I do not want any of the money from
24 the book. I have given the money to a non-profit Christian
25 organization called "New Life Foundation" of which I, myself,

1 now have nothing to do with. And the purpose for that money
2 is the same purpose that you might take a child to a
3 dentist's office and get their teeth covered with flouride -
4 preventive medicine.

5 I believe in helping young people keep from making
6 the same mistakes that I made, particularly in the area of
7 drug abuse, particularly in the area of young girls who run
8 away from home, who get pregnant and have no place to go.
9 I want young girls to have an opportunity to do something
10 better with their lives than what I did with mine.

11 So, the money from my book has gone to that, not
12 to help just a few children, but to help as many children as
13 possible from the proceeds of that book to keep them from
14 coming to places like this, to keep them from hurting people
15 like I have done.

16 I desire more than anything, no matter where I live,
17 to live my life peacefully with all men, and I mean that from
18 here, to let people know that there is a God and there is
19 love available to them. And if I can show people no matter
20 where I am that, "Hey, I'm the most wretched of sinners in
21 the eyes of the world, and yet I have been forgiven and I have
22 been loved. So let me help you and show you that you could
23 be loved, too."

24 That's what my life is over at SSU - not SSU, but
25 PTU, Psychiatric Treatment Unit. Women there do not

1 understand me most of the time because they're caught up in
2 the penitentiary "bag" of being a convict, of being bad, of
3 breaking rules, of cussing staff, being rebellious and
4 getting 115's and drinking hooch and using drugs and whatever
5 else they do. And I try with all my heart to encourage them
6 to not do that, not because it will win you parole, not
7 because it will get you out of here faster, but because it's
8 what's right, and that's what will make you happy inside.

9 I work as a Psychiatric Treatment Unit lead
10 clerk, which gives me access to files, which gives me access
11 to information which is not available to all inmates. And if
12 I was there strictly for security reasons, I would not be in
13 the position that I'm in in that unit. I would not have the
14 lead clerk's job. I would not have access to files and have
15 responsibilities to type chronos, which deal with other
16 women's cases.

17 I was given that job because I believe and the staff
18 believes in my integrity as a human being now, based on
19 their view of seeing me grow from an openly rebellious young
20 girl to the person that I am today. And I am happy for the
21 first time in my life because I am doing something good
22 instead of something evil and something bad or something
23 wrong. And I'm able to help, if not -- I can't help everybody
24 I realize that. If I can give some person in here hope who
25 has no hope, then maybe I can give back to society something

1 which I've taken away.

2 Like I said, if I could give my life today to bring
3 back those eight people, I would gladly have given it
4 yesterday, but there are people alive today that are hurting
5 and dying inside, maybe not being killed, but they are dying
6 inside. If I can give them hope, then that's what I want
7 to do, whether that's in this prison or whether that's out
8 of this prison. Wherever that is, that's what my life is
9 about.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Since this is
11 Mr. Del Pesco's part of the hearing, would you want to add
12 some things for the record and make some comments?

13 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Yeah. All
14 right. It's already been touched on and will be in summing
15 up, which usually follows, but I'll still try to touch on
16 what the record reveals, and that is generally there are
17 some dramatic changes apparently, according to Mr. Rector,
18 since your arrival at CIW at 5/20/71, at which time you were
19 hostile and manipulative towards staff and expressed an
20 indifference toward your commitment offense. I think enough
21 has been said about that, and it's been covered extensively
22 by you and counsel.

23 Then he indicates that you're performing well as
24 a lead clerk of the PTU administrative office and continually
25 demonstrate cooperative and helpful attitude; that you also

1 are involved in a large group setting?

2 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO Which meets
4 weekly; doesn't it?

5 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, once a week.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO And you elec
7 are involved in occupational therapy activity. What is that?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Well, it is an arts and crafts
9 program which is given to the women in the Psychiatric
10 Treatment Unit to enable them to express themselves through
11 arts and crafts. It's used as a therapy.

12 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO Therapy for you
13 or therapy for them?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Well, I'm not there for psychiatric
15 reasons. So, it is therapy for the women who are there for
16 therapy.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Sort of an
18 assignment on your part?

19 INMATE ATKINS: I go in and help the women begin
20 projects and get involved in projects.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I see. So,
22 you're enrolled in a Bible study course. Now, I'm going to
23 hold the comments about your religious activities as kind of
24 a sum up.

25 INMATE ATKINS: Okay.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO Then there is
 2 a chrono by Lieutenant Arnold, of 4/4/78, speaking of your
 3 activities; that your adherence to rules is above average
 4 appearance is neat and well groomed; attitude towards staff
 5 is exceptionally polite housekeeping, exceptional And it
 6 goes on to indicate more general comments, that since last
 7 report of 1/31/78, you continue to demonstrate consistent
 8 politeness and respect towards staff; your job performance
 9 continues to be excellent. You respond to authority well
 10 require little supervision, but remain manipulative and
 11 sophisticated in achieving your goals and desires. And
 12 that's a matter of interpretation. That can be favorable
 13 and unfavorable.

14 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I might add
 16 here that the file contains several comments from staff
 17 members that you don't get along with everybody, but neither
 18 does everyone else.

19 INMATE ATKINS: That's right.

20 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Apparently
 21 there are some staff and some inmates you rub the wrong way
 22 (Inmate nods head.)

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: -- and maybe
 24 this was the manipulative handle. Her religious involvement
 25 tends to cause her problems, that is phone calls were denied

1 at one time because one call was being recorded Well, we
2 talked about that, and I'll say more about that

3 You're not considered in general certainly as
4 institutional problem or custody problem. And as far as
5 custody and that is concerned, you're certainly way above
6 average from inmates we talk to and see.

7 Now, before I go into other factors, I do want to
8 speak to Dr. Koh's more recent psychiatric report of May
9 8th, 1978. It appears since he saw you last in '77, he
10 apparently sees some improvement because he mentions that
11 you've greatly improved during the eight years of
12 incarceration. And interestingly, he also mentions, and I
13 quote: "She, however, behaved appropriately with
14 responsibility, however, with some manipulation since her
15 transfer to PTU in 1975." And he makes a standard comment
16 that you're not -- should not be transferred to the Department
17 of Health under 2684, and that would be for people in need
18 of extensive psychiatric treatment.

19 His last comment indicates your violence potential
20 outside a controlled environment would probably be average
21 unless you became influenced by drugs or alcohol. And,
22 incidentally, there was no history of mental disorder or
23 mental illness, in other words, but that you show multiple
24 drug abuse at the age of 19 until the age of 21 years.

25 Now, I didn't find anything about any participation

1 in psychotherapy. Has there been any activity in a set
2 group?

3 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, there has. Dr Black, when I
4 was still on desk now in a special security unit, I would --
5 was it twice a week go over?

6 MR. RECTOR: I don't know. I think it was once a
7 week.

8 INMATE ATKINS: Once a week I would go over to the
9 Psychiatric Treatment Unit from SSU and have individual
10 therapy sessions with Dr. Black, who was then chief
11 psychiatrist at PTU.

12 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I noted individual
13 chronos from psychiatrists, but I didn't note anything that
14 indicated any ongoing activities.

15 INMATE ATKINS: No. There was no more individual
16 psychiatric therapy.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Okay. And you
18 also touched on your school attendance. You've taken some
19 courses, I think. Are you currently involved with some type
20 of courses?

21 INMATE ATKINS: No, I --

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Go ahead.

23 INMATE ATKINS: I have not gone back to school yet.
24 I finished two courses in typing and would like to be able
25 to go back to school, but due to security reasons, things

1 that have to do with my religious beliefs, the institution
2 is reevaluating my being allowed to go to school.

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I see.

4 INMATE ATKINS: I could go into that if you would
5 like me to.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Well, that's
7 all right. I just wondered.

8 INMATE ATKINS: Okay.

9 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I note that you
10 have some exposure to education.

11 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

12 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: And I might
13 add there are some laudatory-type chronos in the file about
14 your work performance, about doing work that is above and
15 beyond what is expected of you.

16 (Inmate nods head.)

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: And your last --
18 many, many work reports are all average or above average
19 performance.

20 (Inmate nods head.)

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Now, there are
22 also numerous outside contacts, numerous letters to and from
23 people on the outside. Therefore, you're keeping up with
24 contact with the outside world.

25 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO And speaking
2 back to the issue that counsel opened about the 115, it's
3 true, counsel, there is no disciplinary record as such. The
4 115 is isolated as a 115.

5 There are several disciplinary-type chronos that
6 one would expect in anyone's file over a period of years,
7 which indicates no absolute adherence to rules, but then you
8 wonder how anyone would not get some of those.

9 There is a chrono of 5/11/78. Also, it speaks to
10 the same kind of thing.

11 Now, what I'm coming to is your religious activities
12 which appear -- and this is from probably more of an
13 institutional consideration than ours -- our interest is what
14 you're doing and how you're spending your time and what
15 your attitudes are. But it appears that you have become
16 overzealous to the point of creating an institutional problem
17 with your religious activities. And I refer, for one, to
18 Mr. Cook's 5/11/78 chrono and perhaps better said to quote:

19 "This case was reviewed this date at the
20 request of the Superintendent as a result of a memo
21 date 5/3/78 from Antonio D. Brandon, student
22 chaplain, in which Susan is reported to have stated
23 'these children', pointing to the group, were given
24 to her by the Lord, and she 'assumed a position of
25 authority in terms of what they were being taught'.

1 "Susan was cautioned against placing herself
2 in a position of religious leadership in possible
3 violation of the Director's Rule 3211, Ministry,
4 She denies the statement as quoted and requests the
5 opportunity to talk to the student chaplain, claiming
6 that the statement was misunderstood and taken out
7 of context.

8 "She was encouraged to discuss the issue with
9 the student chaplain. She was counseled not to
10 assume the function or responsibility of a minister.
11 No change in her program is indicated at this time."

12 The student chaplain in his chrono or memo which
13 I won't repeat -- that bears the essence of it -- indicates
14 apparently a willingness to work with you and doesn't see
15 any great problem except to point out what the situation was

16 I do note various documents in the file, one of
17 which is something apparently you've typed out starting out
18 "Dear Brothers and Sisters inside..." and it's a page about --

19 (Inmate nods head.)

20 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: -- apparently
21 your beliefs of what you can do for them and God can do for
22 them. All this may be sort of along the same idea.

23 Now, this is not in -- these observations are not
24 in any way to question your sincerity or in any way to be
25 taken as a criticism of your religious beliefs. But I'm

1 merely stating the facts as contained in the file

2 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

3 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: That there --
4 that you could become overzealous to the point of possibly
5 working against your own intentions.

6 Now, there is another chrono. I don't know who ---
7 who is Monine Funk? Is that a supervisor?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Monine Funk is my supervising --
9 my supervisor directly over me. She's been --

10 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Now? She still
11 is?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, she still is.

13 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: She states that
14 there were some problems between you and the staff and peers.

15 INMATE ATKINS: There were problems between Nonine
16 and myself as people trying to work together in an office.
17 Those problems still exist today, but we are overcoming them.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Well, I'm
19 wondering if this -- you referred to yourself as a "goody,
20 goody two-shoes," or something like that, I believe.

21 INMATE ATKINS: Well, that's what my counselor just
22 referred to me as.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I think maybe
24 this could be, as you know, could approach a dangerous
25 situation with some other inmates. I don't know about -- I'm

1 not as familiar yet with the female population as with the
2 male population that I've worked with for 24 years.

3 And then the phone call that led to the 115 on
4 3/21/78 was apparently not an isolated one, because there
5 was one back in December of '77 which you talked to Bob
6 Slosser, your writer as you refer to him?

7 INMATE ATKINS: My author, yes, my writer.

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: And apparently
9 there was something else that happened over a currently
10 broadcasting network in Tustin, probably as a result of
11 that phone call.

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

13 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: And apparently
14 this was against rules of clearing with the administration?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. It's not that the phone call
16 in itself is a violation. What was the violation is that I
17 did not go through the proper channels and obtain the
18 necessary permission to do the phone calls.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Well, perhaps
20 that's been straightened out now.

21 INMATE ATKINS: Right. Yes.

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Then there was
23 this memo, and I don't want to over dwell on it, but that
24 seems to be what I found the most repetition on in your file.
25 I find a memo from Mary Valdez, a Lieutenant, who states:

1 "Recently, on May 18th, 1977, inmates in
2 PTU became very concerned about Susan Atkins
3 religious influence on Yvonne..." Y-v-o-n-n-e,
4 "Figueras," F-i-g-u-e-r-o-a, "CIW Number 12035."

5 In essence, what it apparently amounted to is that
6 -- and I jump down to where I again quote from the second
7 paragraph:

8 "Susan was confronted about pushing her
9 religion on others and was told that she was setting
10 herself up as a minister of religion."

11 And there was some concern about Yvonne not taking her
12 medication, that she felt she would be healed through her
13 religious beliefs.

14 So, this is why this kind of all comes together
15 with the 115, with the chronos --

16 INMATE ATKINS: Right.

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: -- with the
18 activities. And this is something perhaps you should dwell
19 on and reevaluate your direction and where you're going, not
20 your beliefs, not your beliefs, but your activity.

21 INMATE ATKINS: May I respond to that?

22 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Sure. Of course,
23 I wish you would.

24 INMATE ATKINS: Okay.

25 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: That's what I'm

1 coming to, and I think this is the appropriate place to
2 because I believe I have covered everything I want to, and I
3 also -- as you're responding, you might mention or include
4 anything I failed to add that might be supportive.

5 INMATE ATKINS: Okay. Being a fairly new Christian
6 only a year old into Christ, so to speak, when I was moved to
7 the Psychiatric Treatment Unit, I was very zealous. I had
8 found peace, forgiveness, love and acceptance in God's sight.
9 I found something that I wanted to share. It's like -- I
10 don't mean to belittle God or put him in a box or anything,
11 but, if you get a bargain-basement deal, you want to go tell
12 your neighbors, "Hey, there is a sale down there, and you can
13 get anything almost for free that you want to buy." And that's
14 the type of attitude I had.

15 As a new Christian, I had to learn how to present
16 my faith in God in an acceptable way to my peers so that it
17 would not be rejected; so that it would not be thought that
18 I was pushing. And granted, there have been times when I
19 have pushed.

20 Particularly with Yvonne Figueroa, I did not push.
21 Yvonne Figueroa came to me, as did the women that complained
22 to the staff in this particular instance, came to me
23 requesting prayer and on different occasions have come to
24 me asking me, "Tell me about your Jesus. I need help." And
25 then, later they would get angry or they would see something

1 that I might do, being human and not being God and not being
2 perfect, which may not have met their standards of what a
3 Christian should do. They would get angry with me and they
4 bring trouble back upon me. Many times, I was wrong. Many
5 times there needed to be an understanding taken, but with
6 Yvonne Figueroa, I was the one that would sit and talk to
7 her and encourage her to take her medication. That God does
8 not heal always through divine miracles that doctors and
9 education and medicine has been given to us to utilize for
10 a reason; and God can heal through doctors and medicines just
11 as well as he can through miracles, he is not feared by
12 doctors. And I would encourage her.

13 Miss Valdez forgot to point that out in her report.
14 I would encourage Yvonne in the things that she would ask me
15 to encourage her on as with the rest of the women in the unit.
16 I do not push my faith on anyone.

17 Women in the institution know where I'm coming from.
18 They know that I have a heart's desire to share the love of
19 Jesus Christ with them, but I will not go up and down the
20 halls with my Bible saying, "Repent, you sinners" because
21 that's not going to win them; that's not going to show them
22 the true love of God.

23 I sit quietly in my room, and I do my time. And
24 I'm not exaggerating when I say that an average of eight or
25 nine times a week, different women in the Psychiatric

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1 Treatment Unit will come to me and say, "Susan, will you
2 please pray for me on this. I know you're close to God."
3 And I'll say, "Yes, I can, and I will, but I want you to
4 pray." And I'll help them see how they can pray for
5 themselves, because I do not set myself up as a religious
6 minister.

7 I just am a woman who has found peace with God
8 and am willing to share that knowledge and that joy and that
9 love with anybody in this institution who is willing to
10 share it and wants it. Jesus never forced himself on anyone.
11 So, neither should I, and I do not.

12 MR. CABALLERO: I want to say that in that regard
13 I have been seeing Susan for quite a few years now. And
14 when she became a Christian and I first came and saw her
15 under those circumstances, she was exactly as she described
16 herself -- eager to sell, including to me. And the whole
17 attitude was such as, "Well, look, I've got something here."
18 It wasn't a question. It was pushy. It was everything
19 that's objectionable with quote people that we consider so-
20 called fanatics, because it was something that she had new,
21 and she wanted to give of it.

22 She has calmed down considerably. I don't know the
23 date of that memorandum, but nevertheless sometime
24 thereafter -- not at the beginning, because I didn't want to
25 put her down on anything -- she had found something that

1 would give her some hope and something constructive to
2 I didn't want to put it down. But, about six months later
3 when I saw her, I did tell her, "I'm glad you calmed down a
4 little bit, because it's not good to overdo anything." And
5 I indicated that to her not as advice, but merely as a
6 comment, you see, so she could do her own thing in her own
7 way. And she has considerably calmed down from that initial
8 reaction as she voiced at the beginning. I have personally
9 seen that.

10 INMATE ATKINS: In reference to the letter which
11 you mentioned that I was writing to the brethren and the
12 Body of Christ, since my book has been published, since it
13 has become public knowledge that I have become a Christian
14 and my life has been transformed, I have received an
15 average of 20 to 50 letters a day from people all over the
16 world. From young people, from 14' and 15-year-old kids that
17 say, "Hey, I really thought you were together when you were
18 into Helter Skelter, but now I see you've got something
19 else. What is it? Tell me about it." And the weight of
20 being able to answer every one of those letters individually
21 is too much for me. I have an eight-hour day responsibility
22 to the state to carry on a job.

23 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: These two
24 letters then are form replies?

25 INMATE ATKINS: They are form letters.

1 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO For people in
2 institutions and the general public?

3 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. They are form letters that I
4 write, what is called a monthly news letter, and I just share
5 experiences that I have had, encouragement to people who have
6 no hope, people who write to me and say, "If you can do it
7 inside there, please help me to see some light out here"

8 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Okay Are
9 there any other activities that I haven't covered?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Um, I attend church regularly I
11 participate in a singing program at church where I am invited
12 to sing solos in the church. Just my regular Bible study
13 that I do individually in my room.

14 I am involved in my own arts and craft program
15 where I embroider and make things for people that I care
16 about. I am involved from in here with the ministry on
17 the street, which presents my newsletters to people. They
18 handle that for me.

19 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Panel, do you
20 have any questions or comments in this area?

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I only have two. Why is
22 it now that you can't walk the main line?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Okay. I have been told a variety
24 of reasons, anywhere from the institution's point of view
25 being concerned with my safety from other inmates based on the

1 hostility from my co-defendants which have been out on
2 main line up until just recently. So, that's one reason
3 that I have been given.

4 Another reason is because of my religious fervency
5 or my desire to share Jesus. I have been told off the record
6 by certain administrative staff we are -- "We know you are
7 ready for campus. We just don't know if campus is ready for
8 you." And I believe also because I have the notoriety of
9 my case and the notoriety of my name is much more common than
10 Pat Krenwinkel or Leslie Van Houten.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: The other comment is do
12 you see any contradiction in your statement that you respect
13 rules and you will obey? You even went so far as to say that
14 even if you were in Russia -- and I gather what you were
15 saying is that even though you were in Russia and you might
16 not agree with what the rules are, you would obey them. Do
17 you see any contradiction in that and the phone call?

18 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, I do. And it's a contradiction
19 that is -- let me try to put it in the only terms I know. It
20 is that I wage a war within myself, as most Christians do
21 everyday, between what is termed an old nature and a new nature.

22 There are temptations I face every day. Sometimes
23 I might be tempted to boost food out of the kitchen, because
24 I'm hungry and the food's there, and I know how to boost it.
25 But, I have to resist that temptation to do that because if

1 I boast it, I'm breaking a rule.

2 I'm not copping to or trying to lay it off as,

3 "I felt the temptation, the devil made me do it." That's
4 not where I'm coming from. It was an impulsive thing I
5 did not think before I acted when I made the phone call

6 Had I really thought about it, I probably would not
7 have made either the phone call I made in December or the
8 one where I was documented in February. But that's the
9 contradiction, Miss Rushen, that I am learning to overcome

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. I don't have
11 anything else on that.

12 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Perhaps Mr.
13 Rector could fill us in on the classification other than
14 what she's already told us about, classification and reasons
15 for placement.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: If he wishes to speak,
17 we'll have to swear him in.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Oh. Okay. Do
19 you have any knowledge?

20 MR. RECTOR: I really can't add anything.

21 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: You can't add to
22 it? All right.

23 MR. CABALLERO: I would like to add something in
24 that area. You must remember that Susan came here as Sadie
25 Mae Glutz, the snitch. She carries a snitch trait on her to

1 any inmate, whether it be the one that was in before or one
2 that comes now and mixes with the population where her co-
3 defendants are, who are told the snitch is on the other side.
4 That's a very, very important factor in the security reasons
5 in any prison that I have come in contact with.

6 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Well, according
7 to the records, there are no institutional problems with
8 her existing today.

9 MR. CABALLERO: Right. I think that you'll find
10 that.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: That's the issue
12 that's most important at this point.

13 Mr. DeLeon?

14 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: No questions.

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: All right.
16 Anything further in this area of postconviction factors?

17 MR. CABALLERO: No.

18 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: All right.
19 Madam Chairman, I believe that closes this portion of the
20 hearing.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Would you like
22 to go to the parole plans?

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Yes. Do you want to tell us
24 in your own words -- we have the material and the documented
25 material that's been lifted from the folder about your parole

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plans, what you intend to do, but would you tell us now?
Since these things change from day to day, what are they
now?

INMATE ATKINS: Yes. They are the same as Mr
Warren LeBoeuf of Prison Outreach Ministry has written in a
letter; that I have a home waiting for me in the home of Mr
and Mrs. LeBoeuf. I have a job as a clerk-secretary in
Prison Outreach Ministry which would be basically the same
skills that I am doing now: typing letters, doing filing,
phone calls, coordinating prison ministry's going into
prisons -- not that I, myself, would go in, but I would be as
a coordinator to help set up those programs. I would almost
be a coordinator to help inmates -- not that I would have
direct contact with them -- but be able to help the people
in the ministry help prisoners come out and make the
necessary adjustment into jobs, into placement out on the
street.

I desire, in my parole plans, to live as normal a
life as would be possible for me. And I do not desire -- in
my parole plans at one time, I felt maybe I could go around
the country and give my testimony of Jesus Christ and bear
witness to what he's done in my life. Since then, I have
matured somewhat and believe that it would be better for me
to live a very quiet, peaceable life and have what I would
call a one-on-one ministry where I just deal with people

1 normally and in a normal everyday situation

2 The people that are giving me the job. Mr. and
3 Mrs. LeBoeuf, are dedicated to helping me adjust to society,
4 helping me live a normal life, a productive life as a
5 productive human being in this society.

6 My pastor and his wife also desire very much to
7 help me begin to live a normal life and to begin to work with
8 people who have problems on a one-on-one basis. And I desire
9 to work and make a living as best I know how with what skills
10 that I have and with what has been made available to me.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Do you know what the
12 financial standing of Reverend LeBoeuf's group is?

13 INMATE ATKINS: They are a non-profit Christian
14 organization. They are internationally known, meaning that
15 they have ministries all over the world and are involved in
16 missionary work all over the world.

17 They are prepared to pay me \$90 a week, plus room
18 and board, until I am financially stable enough to obtain
19 my own dwelling place and possibly obtain a better job.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: He's President of Prison
21 Outreach?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And that is going into the
24 prisons. Is that how you met him?

25 INMATE ATKINS: Mr. LeBoeuf has been writing to me

1 for a little over three years. I have never met him face-
2 to-face. His visiting approval is on the Superintendent's
3 desk right now. He has been trying to get in to see me for
4 a little over a year, and it has just taken time to get those
5 papers approved. They have been lost several times in the
6 institution.

7 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: He would not be a type of
8 man that would attempt to exploit you for fund-raising
9 purposes?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Mr. LeBoeuf has counseled me on
11 leaving New Life Foundation where I did give all of the money
12 from my book to New Life Foundation. It was Mr. Leboeuf's
13 counseling and advice that I leave because of the possibility
14 of my being exploited in that situation. He desires to not
15 exploit me. He desire to protect me from those people who
16 would seek to exploit me for monetary gain or for publicity
17 or for any of those things. He is dedicated to that, and I
18 believe him.

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Mr. John Work, is he still a
20 business agent?

21 INMATE ATKINS: No, he is not. I have left New
22 Life Foundation. They are continuing in their ministry,
23 and their ministry is beginning to grow. New Life Foundation
24 is beginning to take shape, but I am not involved in that,
25 and he is no longer my business manager. I have no business

1 manager now.

2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Were you a founder of New
3 Life Foundation?

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

5 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And you are on the original
6 Board of Directors?

7 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And now they are going on
9 without you?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, by my choice.

11 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You have absolutely nothing
12 to do with them?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Nothing to do with it.

14 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Do they have the rights to
15 your book?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

17 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And all the profits from the
18 book?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And it's all in their hands?

21 INMATE ATKINS: It's all in their hands. And I
22 might add that I trust not the people, but the person behind
23 the ministry, which is Jesus Christ, that he will see to it
24 that the money is used for the purpose that I gave it for,
25 because my heart's motive was pure, and I believe that that

1 money today -- from reports I hear from people that I know
2 who are keeping tabs on New Life Foundation -- is that New
3 Life Foundation is indeed using the proceeds from that book
4 to build the ministry and a setting where women can be helped.
5 And that's what I hear from people who are independent also
6 of the New Life Foundation. They're keeping tabs on it.

7 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: They are doing that?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

9 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And how much money did you
10 give them originally?

11 INMATE ATKINS: I gave them my entire proceeds,
12 whatever that would be. I have no knowledge as to how much
13 money that would be.

14 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You don't know how much it
15 is?

16 INMATE ATKINS: When I made the statement to Mr.
17 Verb, which Mr. Kay made reference to of \$14 million, that
18 came from high hopes that the book would be a best seller.
19 And if the book was a best seller in hardback, monetarily
20 speaking, it could possibly bring in that much money overall,
21 but that would not be my share. That would be an overall
22 sum which would cover publicity, getting the book published,
23 the paper costs, et cetera, et cetera. And that would be
24 divided up between the publishers and New Life Foundation.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: The book is out?

1 INMATE ATKINS: It is out, yes
2 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: It is out?
3 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, yes. It's been out for over
4 a year. It is now in hardback and paperback. It came out
5 first in hardback, and it came out in paperback just a few
6 months ago.
7 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And you don't know how much
8 it sold for or anything?
9 INMATE ATKINS: No. I'm sure that any time I
10 wanted to, I could call Dan Melchuk, my publisher and he
11 would let me know very quickly.
12 MR. CABALLERO: She has no rights to any money
13 nor to demand any money.
14 INMATE ATKINS: And I don't want it.
15 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You wrote it all off?
16 MR. CABALLERO: She has nothing coming from it.
17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, everything.
18 MR. CABALLERO: It was done as part of her
19 conversion to Christianity.
20 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, this Reverend lives
21 there with his wife, I take it?
22 INMATE ATKINS: His wife and his teenage daughter.
23 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, you have a typist's
24 ability?
25 INMATE ATKINS: I am an above-average typist. I

1 came in -- I was the second-highest scorer in my class here
2 and I type an average of 70 words a minute on manual and can
3 get up into 80 and 90 words a minute on electric.

4 I have one problem though. I need a typewriter
5 that knows how to spell. That would help.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: That's a trick. That's the
7 tough part.

8 Now, you mentioned throughout your -- you know,
9 a John Daiberl. And I don't see where he has been
10 written off by you personally. He has been visiting you here
11 three days special-purpose visit. I guess at least one.

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: And is he going to go with
14 you in this, or is he out?

15 INMATE ATKINS: A little over a year ago, I broke
16 my engagement to John Daiberl out of a personal religious
17 decision on my part. I'm sure that if I called him on the
18 phone today, he would be right by my side. But I decided
19 that it would be best for him and for myself if we broke off
20 the engagement. And I am now single and quite happy.

21 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Now, your son has no part in
22 your life?

23 INMATE ATKINS: I have very little knowledge of my
24 son. All I know is that he was adopted and by God's grace
25 by Christian people. He is alive, and he is living in

1 Hawaii. I know nothing beyond that, and I am just happy he
2 has a home and people who love him.

3 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You would be satisfied
4 living a life with Reverend LeBoeuf. Are you familiar with
5 Spring Valley; is it?

6 INMATE ATKINS: It's in the San Diego area. Yes,
7 I'm not saying that I will live the rest of my life with Mr.
8 and Mrs. LeBoeuf. They're people who are dedicated to
9 helping me get my life together so that I can live as normal
10 a life as possible. And if that takes a year, two years,
11 three years, however long, they are there for me. They have
12 told me that. They will help me, no matter what.

13 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: You have been exposed to,
14 you know -- you had a narcotics background that went back
15 quite far into your early childhood, and it stopped when you
16 entered the institution. Do you have confidence that on the
17 outside that there would be no temptation?

18 INMATE ATKINS: Absolutely. My peers have asked me
19 the same questions, and I've told them, and you can't con a
20 man, you know. But I have told them, and I'll tell you now,
21 that if somebody were to walk up to me and hand me a kilo of
22 grass or put LSD in my hand, I would give it back to them and
23 walk away, because I know what it does; and I want no part
24 of it ever again. And I would counsel that same thing.

25 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Do you feel threatened? Do

1 you feel there would be any threat by any of your crime
2 partners or their friends that would interfere with your life
3 on the outside?

4 INMATE ATKINS: No, absolutely not. I would never
5 -- go ahead.

6 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I have nothing further.
7 Were you going to say something else?

8 INMATE ATKINS: No..

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. If there is
10 nothing else, then --

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Could I ask one
12 question first? It may have to do with the outside issue.
13 Who is Allan?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Allan?

15 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: A-1-1-a-n.

16 INMATE ATKINS: Allan Reese?

17 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I don't know.

18 There is a memo in the file dated January 19, 1978, concerning
19 -- it looks like he or another party carrying messages
20 between you and Charles Watson..

21 INMATE ATKINS: Allan Reese is a young 19-year-old
22 boy who has been writing to me for a little over a year, who
23 I helped lead to Christ. He went to visit Charles "Tex"
24 Watson and asked me if I would like to say anything to
25 Charles through him. And the administration let me know

1 under no uncertain terms that I was not to be passing
2 messages.

3 And so, I wrote Allan Reese a letter and told him
4 it would be in violation of rules for me to request him to
5 take or carry any messages, either verbally or in a letter
6 or in any way to Charles Watson, and that --

7 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: And you gave
8 this copy to staff?

9 INMATE ATKINS: I gave that copy to staff for
10 verification.

11 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: I assume that's
12 how it got in the file. Thank you. I have nothing further.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Would you
14 like to summarize, counsel, in your own way? And we are
15 specifically going to ask you to review your early contact
16 with Miss Atkins and how you got off the case.

17 MR. CABALLERO: Sure.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Why don't we utilize this
19 time for a five-minute break.

20 (Thereupon a short recess was taken.)

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: It is now 20 minutes to
22 1:00. All persons perviously present are back in the room,
23 and we will now hear from counsel as he summarizes his case.

24 MR. CABALLERO: I think that one of the things I
25 would like to consider also, which I neglected to state

1 before, was that since Susan has come to this prison, at
2 which time her performance IQ and verbal IQ was substantially
3 low, in 1976 she was given an IQ examination. And here
4 again, on June 19th, 1978, a psychologist, Dr. Gerald Cohen,
5 met with her and indicates that he believes that her IQ at
6 present would be similar to that in 1976. It's interesting
7 in 1976 the IQ test which shows her full-scale IQ was 117,
8 which indicates an intelligence of above average, and as they
9 put it, which may be superior. And her performance IQ score
10 was 120, which is in the superior range.

11 I think this has been some indication of what she
12 has been attempting to do while she has been here, and how
13 she has been adjusting to trying to better herself and to
14 make herself better equipped to be on the outside.

15 The things I want to discuss with you now by way
16 of argument -- and I'll try not to be too repetitious, -- are
17 factors which I feel I can perhaps convey to you from a
18 person that's known Susan Atkins since the inception. I am
19 perhaps the only person here that knows her for as long a
20 period of time as I do. And that includes the prosecutor and
21 the entire institution.

22 I don't know her perhaps as well, because she has
23 lived here so much that they've gotten to know her. And I'm
24 so happy to read and as has been summarized that once the
25 change started, if we start from now going back, the more

1 recent documents all speak so favorably of her that I can't
2 add anything more to that, which is why I said so little
3 before in that regard.

4 You know you can fool all -- as they say -- all
5 of the people most of the time, but not all of the time. And
6 I think without exception every person that is here and has
7 met with her -- I don't mean from this room -- from the
8 institution -- I'm talking about the staff and the people
9 who have written the reports -- I don't think there is one
10 person that doubts her sincerity and her belief or her
11 feelings regarding her religion. I think that it is not a
12 religion found for the purpose of the Parole Board. I think
13 it's a religion that's a part of her.

14 If you go back, and I will go back now to the
15 beginning -- in fact, this morning I commented to Susan. I
16 said, "You know, Susan, you realize that come Thanksgiving
17 week of this year we would have known each other nine years."
18 For it was Thanksgiving week of 1969 that I first met Susan.
19 It was the day before Thanksgiving, on Wednesday, and that
20 was in Judge Rittenband's court. Yes, in Judge Rittenband's
21 court, I believe it was.

22 However, the girl that I met then was Sadie. The
23 girl that stands before you today and that you should believe
24 and give a parole date is not the same person. This is Susan.
25 Sadie was a girl that was devoted to and belonged to Manson.

1 It's strange on the one hand where the prosecution
2 can try and isolate her now, and say, "Look how bad she was.
3 But when it suits their purpose, every comment, if you
4 followed him carefully, when he referred to any act she did,
5 it was "They did this; they did this; the family did this."
6 And I remember, because I was almost part of the prosecution
7 for all intents and purposes then, how the entire scope and
8 plan -- and I agree with it, and I would do the same as the
9 prosecutor -- was to show the jury the control that this one
10 man, Manson, had over all these people. And that's what he
11 had over this girl. And that's the girl who was threatened
12 as well as I was by family members.

13 This is the only girl in the entire transaction
14 from the inception, the only one that was willing to go
15 forward until they finally got Linda Kasabian to do so. This
16 was the girl -- and let's not forget -- that actually went
17 before a Grand Jury and told her story, knowing full well,
18 as I told her, that it could be used and would be used
19 against her and would be used to indict her. It was, and she
20 did testify. She told her story.

21 This is the girl that when you were asking before
22 why was she chosen by Manson and why were some of the girls
23 chosen instead of men, and she answered what I would have
24 answered from my knowledge of the case, that Manson had girls
25 that were totally devoted to him. And he had much more

1 control over the girls than over the men. So, I'm not going
2 to get again into the facts of the case other than the facts
3 of Susan as a person now.

4 That girl, I want to see her almost every day when
5 I represented her, and I represented her for a period of I'd
6 say around three and a half months. But I was there and was
7 there constantly. And it was important, because so was the
8 family trying to get to her constantly, constantly. It was
9 difficult for her, for me to be a stranger, and the only
10 other person she knew who was a friend of hers was Rory White
11 And he didn't even have an automobile. He couldn't come
12 down that often. I would have to go all the way out to
13 Topanga Canyon and find him and bring him in to visit with
14 her; which he was happy to do so. But, he just honestly did
15 not have transportation.

16 There were times when that devoted young man would
17 hitchhike from Topanga Canyon to the prison to visit her.
18 He didn't know how he was going to get back home.

19 So, when I began to talk to her and when she told
20 me the version as she told it to you here today, not
21 withstanding anything she told the Probation Department,
22 not withstanding anything she said at the trial -- and I want
23 to get to the trial in a few moments -- I believed her,
24 because what she was telling me was being corroborated by
25 information I was getting from police sources and other

1 sources, but primarily the police and the District Attorney's
2 Office. I felt that she needed a psychiatric defense. I
3 felt it very strongly.

4 As you recall, one of the things that happened to
5 her was that Manson told her when they met that there would
6 be no psychiatric defense; there would be no Caballero;
7 there would be whoever he wanted; and that's exactly what
8 happened.

9 I remember sitting there when we had the meeting
10 with Manson. I had already met with Manson three times
11 before that in an attempt -- at his request -- to dissuade
12 him from having her come to see him. The day -- and I
13 discussed this with the prosecution before we started. We
14 all knew that the day she saw Manson again is the day that I
15 was going to be out of the picture.

16 Sure enough, we went to see him and she saw him and
17 that man looked at her and sat down closer than you and I
18 are now, because in the attorney rooms you sit very close,
19 and he sat down opposite her, and she looked at his eyes and
20 there was no more Susan. Again, she was back to Sadie. It
21 was just like that.

22 I stated this when I stepped out. I met with Mr.
23 Bugliosi. We talked. We knew what was going to happen,
24 anticipated it. And sure enough, we even knew who the lawyer
25 was going to be.

1 It wasn't that she didn't want me to stay on. She
2 then -- and I have tape recordings of this -- she wanted me
3 to stay on as her lawyer only if I would then do it Manson's
4 way. And I said, "No, you'll have to get another lawyer,
5 because I'm not going to represent you if I can't represent
6 you. I'm not going to let Manson do it."

7 So, Manson, on three separate occasions, tried to
8 or had asked me to represent him and her. His whole theory
9 all of the time was to try and blow the system, to blow
10 their minds, to do things that would change, that would upset,
11 that were vexations. He would tell me in advance that one
12 of the girls was going to drop the lawyer they had and who
13 the new lawyer was going to be. That's how well he was
14 manipulating things. Yet he ostensibly had no contact with
15 them.

16 This is to give you an idea of the pressures this
17 girl was under, and yet she stayed with me, agreed to
18 cooperate, agreed to testify before the Grand Jury, gave Mr.
19 Bugliosi a complete statement in my office, and then testified
20 before the Grand Jury. It was about a month or so after that
21 that we lost the battle to Charlie Manson.

22 I had already made arrangements for psychiatric
23 examination of her. I had already made arrangements even to
24 have a female psychiatrist from New York to come in and
25 examine her. Charlie Manson would have none of that.

1 I want to jump one moment. Mr. DeLeon asked a
2 question which was very important about the trial itself,
3 about the forum for the truth and why at that time couldn't
4 they get from her the truth as we are trying to bring it
5 to you today. You were not present at that trial. That was
6 not at all a forum for truth under the circumstances that
7 were created, and I don't blame the judge nor the prosecution.
8 They were at wit's end.

9 It was not a forum for truth because of the circus
10 atmosphere created by Manson and, to a great extent, by the
11 lawyer that was representing him at the time, a Mr. Kanarek,
12 of whom I need to say no more.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Would you spell Kanarek?

14 MR. CABALLERO: How do you spell Kanarek?

15 MR. KAY: K-a-n-a-r-e-k.

16 MR. CABALLERO: It was incredible what was going on
17 The farce of the thing -- and I'm not saying the trial was a
18 farce, not by a long shot. The patience of the prosecution
19 and the judge were more than I possibly could have borne.
20 What was going on because Sadie and her classmates and Manson
21 -- what was going on -- and that attorney and the facade,
22 including Daye Shinn, all of that situation with the
23 newspaper that you may have read about. A newspaper was left
24 out in the open saying, "Nixon says Manson is guilty." One
25 of the lawyers on their side brought it in, and Manson held

1 it up to the jury. This is the kind of situation

2 You heard another illustration where Sadie at that
3 time actually hit the paper that Mr. Bugliesi was reading
4 from. The shaving of their heads; the putting of these scars
5 on their heads; all of these things were part and parcel of
6 the elements there.

7 The over 24-hour-a-day vigil by Susanna Fromme,
8 Lynette Fromme, and Gypsy. Share I believe was her name --
9 these girls, one of whom attempted to shoot President Ford
10 not too long ago, another one was involved in a robbery and
11 sent threatening letters. These girls would sit down there
12 all day long with their shaved heads in vigil. And the family
13 members that would come upstairs and sit at that trial -- it
14 was not at all an opportunity for this girl to revert back
15 to Susan. If anything, everything she did there was to make
16 up for having testified at the Grand Jury

17 This was the girl that was redeeming herself to the
18 wrong people. She had to make up now for being Sadie Mae
19 Glutz, the snitch. And if you walked into the Hall of Justice,
20 plastered on the walls of the stairways and the restrooms,
21 men's and women's, were these signs, "Sadie Mae Glutz, The
22 Snitch," the lockups, everyplace you went. I say this from
23 personal experience.

24 That's the girl who now found herself with only one
25 friend, me, and sometimes Rory White, whereas the family was

1 telling her to come back to the fold. "We'll protect you."
2 And they used her.

3 This was a girl that had a deal with the District
4 Attorney's Office that they would not ask for the death
5 penalty in view of her cooperation, and that if she continued
6 to cooperate and perhaps even testify at the trial, they
7 would probably reduce it to murder in the second degree.
8 This girl gave all that up to Mr. Daye Shinn who had her sign
9 an affidavit saying she had lied at the Grand Jury, when we
10 knew she hadn't lied. But, no, she now wanted to go all the
11 way over to the other side so much so that the day she met
12 with Manson -- and I was present so I speak from personal
13 experience -- I sat there as close as I am to her now while
14 Manson and she discussed the gas chamber. And he looked at
15 her and said, "You're not afraid of the gas chamber, though."
16 And she looked at him, and now she was a different person and
17 said, "No, as a matter of fact, it would be rather nice."
18 That's her. Here's a girl that tells you a little while ago
19 how she knelt down and prayed and thanked God when she found
20 out that the death penalty law had been changed. That's a
21 different girl.

22 I am one of the few defense lawyers who is still
23 prosecution minded today to the point that I still honestly
24 believe in the death penalty. Most don't; I do. I am Past
25 President of the Criminal Courts Bar Association of the

1 County of Los Angeles. I do, if it's done right; if it's
2 done swiftly, fast, and that's when you have a deterrent
3 effect.

4 Sadie and those girls and Manson should have been
5 executed. That's my feeling. We wouldn't be here today,
6 and they would have deserved it for what they did. But
7 that law's changed, and no one says we should now kill them
8 slowly. No one says that this girl is the girl that I am
9 saying should have been killed.

10 If I had been asked way back then do I think that
11 Sadie could ever be the Susan I know now, in my cynical
12 attitude I would have said no. But I was younger then and
13 not perhaps more experienced then and not that much into the
14 defense aspect of criminal law then to recognize that many
15 times things aren't always just one shade or another; it is
16 a combination of things.

17 Over the years, since I returned to start helping
18 Susan, which has been now since about 1974, I have seen the
19 growth and development of a person that while it hasn't
20 changed my feelings regarding the death penalty as such in
21 the abstract, has certainly changed my feelings and attitudes
22 about how glad I am that it did change insofar as she's
23 concerned because this, the girl you are considering giving
24 parole to here, is not -- just is not that person.

25 Now, if ever there could have been a brain operation

1 that could have removed that element of her that was that
2 other girl, it's been done. This girl that sits next to me,
3 this girl that has changed, has progressed as all of these
4 documents show; is trying to do everything in her power not
5 to manipulate but to be the person that she now is. And
6 she'll continue to grow in spite of what happens here today.
7 She's going to continue to grow.

8 INMATE ATKINS: Amen.

9 MR. CABALLERO: There is not going to be any
10 throwing of books or climbing the fence or saying, "You
11 people did wrong." Whatever decision you make, it will just
12 be another step in her growth, and I think it's unfortunate
13 that we deprive society of her ability to go out there and
14 be the person she is and contribute to society, which is
15 what she wants to do. And I think that can be done, and I
16 think she will be a good and a benefit to society. And I
17 mean to society, not so much a benefit to her, but to society,
18 because when society can see that a person can change and can
19 do well, they can speak with a lot more force than people
20 who haven't been through such experience. And I think she
21 can help in that way.

22 Susan Atkins lost me as her lawyer because Charles
23 Manson ensnarled her again. I don't think he ever can do
24 that again to her or any of those members. I remember that I
25 lost almost -- and I'm not a heavy man -- at that time I went

1 down to 138 pounds in my trials and tribulations with Susan.
2 But it was nothing compared to what I kept seeing in her
3 eyes all the time.

4 I saw her, though, seven days a week. I may have
5 seen her ten times a week. There was a time when I'd go
6 see her twice a week. Her cooperation during the period of
7 time that I represented her was a hundred percent and more.
8 She helped the police not only in this case but in giving
9 them information on everything she could.

10 I'm not saying that that should be a criteria for
11 why she should be on parole now. What I'm trying to show you
12 is this was a girl that had seen a change, that was willing
13 to help, and because of that these other persons, none of
14 whom assisted that way, none of those, actually got on her
15 case to such a point that when she did go back into the fold
16 she became the most vexatious of all of them, because she
17 had to make up for what she had done. They were making her
18 prove herself each time to the only people she knew would
19 give her support at that time, which was the Manson family.
20 And that's how I'm trying to explain her actions at the trial
21 and explain to you that that trial was not, unfortunately for
22 her, her forum for telling the truth. If anything, anytime
23 she could get up and make herself appear worse than she
24 actually was, she did.

25 So, what I'm asking you to do is consider that.

1 whenever she put herself or tied herself so heavily into
2 these crimes to try and temper that with what her motives
3 were at that time. When she spoke to me originally, and
4 before we ever had any deal or even a conversation with the
5 District Attorney's Office, there was no motive at that time
6 to tell me anything but the truth at that moment. And, yes,
7 she told me she had spoken to these girls in the jail. And;
8 yes, she told me what her participation was. And if she
9 wanted to impress me at that time and tell me how bad she
10 was, she could have told me the things she told that
11 Probation Officer. But, no, the things she told me are in
12 essence what she told that Grand Jury.

13 She was there, and she knows she is guilty of the
14 offense. And she's just trying to let you know that as a
15 human being, her participation was not that which she said
16 it was, yes, as has been under oath all those times. But
17 oath meant nothing to her. If she could violate the oath,
18 that meant something to her. That was her criteria of whether
19 she was doing good. How bad could she be, that was being
20 good. How much could she lie, that was being good. And to
21 exaggerate her role was what made her good in the eyes of her
22 peers.

23 I know that to be her feelings at that time,
24 because I have discussed this way before we ever thought of
25 a parole meeting, way off when I was going back to help her

1 in 1974 when we began to talk about everything and she would
2 open to me and tell me. And I'd ask her, "What happened on
3 this occasion," or, "What happened after I left you?" We
4 discussed certain things, and I even went through the penalty
5 phase of the trial.

6 I was called by the prosecution and I testified.
7 And even at that time --

8 MR. KAY: Well, you were called by the defense.

9 MR. CABALLERO: Well, I thought I had been called
10 by both. I was called by the defense, by Mr. Shinn, and I
11 made myself available to both parties.

12 There was rather interesting colloquy there where
13 Susan Atkins -- at that time there was a question as to what
14 had been told to me, and I had tape recordings of what had
15 been said which in my opinion were very beneficial to her
16 state of mind at that time and would have shown that what
17 she was saying at the trial was not exactly the truth -- and
18 she jumped up, interrupted the trial at that time, refused
19 me to disclose or give up those tape recordings. Why?
20 Because she knew when I was up there, Susan would be revealed
21 through me and not a Sadie, and she didn't want that to
22 happen. That happened right at the penalty phase, because
23 I had transcripts, and we talked -- and tape recordings --
24 where we talked about my leaving and the reasons why and what
25 had transpired and everything she had said before and how now

1 they wanted her to lie about it. All of this was in there,
2 but, no, she wouldn't let that happen, because now she was
3 one of them.

4 So, I think there is, to a great extent, a lot of
5 corroboration to our attempt to show you that Susan was not
6 the active participant that the bold, black and white
7 probation report and the District Attorney's letter would
8 make you believe. The District Attorney in this case knows
9 his side of the case. He was there for that part of the case.
10 He just recently relived it again in the Van Houten two
11 trials that just passed by.

12 His feelings are probably those that I would have
13 if I were him. But I think our job goes a little beyond
14 that, and he's looking and reliving victims, the act, the
15 violence that occurred then. We're trying to find out is
16 this girl, who was involved in those acts of violence,
17 suitable for consideration for parole. Is this girl someone
18 that we can now say should be given a parole date, or how,
19 just how much, how badly was she involved?

20 The prosecutor has evidence that says she was very
21 much involved. And he has a reason to believe that, because
22 that's what he heard as he put her under oath. Well, we are
23 under oath here, and she was under oath before the Grand
24 Jury.

25 So, you see, Susan, when she was Sadie, believed

1 in lying whenever she wanted to, except when she was Susan
2 she told you things when she had no motive not to say it.
3 She had no motive to lie and said things about herself which
4 she now tells you:

5 I believe them, not as an advocate, because as an
6 advocate I don't have to be here today. I'm going to repeat
7 what I said before. I am here voluntarily. The moment I
8 found out that this hearing was going -- I didn't find out
9 until last Friday -- I said I will be here, because I
10 believe in her.

11 So, I'm really here because I believe in what she
12 has told you, because if she said anything that was
13 inconsistent with what I knew to be a fact, I think I would
14 be the first to say, "Just a moment." And I would take her
15 out and say, "That's not a fact;" and because I think my
16 belief is borne out of the records that are in front of you
17 that this girl has changed. This girl has become someone.
18 This girl has become a human being, a person you should
19 give consideration to.

20 I have made some notes while Mr. Kay was talking.
21 I really don't have much quarrel with much of what he has
22 said by recitation of facts since I have explained to you why
23 I believe he can say the things he said. What I have tried
24 to do is not quarrel with it, but explain away, and in detail
25 why he feels that way and why I think the picture isn't

1 really as bleak as it appears to him. I have no quarrel
2 with his feeling that way. I just don't feel those other
3 things that are the facts as such.

4 I can take one little incident, for instance, to
5 give you an example where he brought up the fact that she
6 had told someone the moment she got back in the car after
7 the Tate killings, she said she was worried about the fact
8 that they had pulled on her hair, one of the victims. Well,
9 that's perfectly consistent with what she told you, that she
10 couldn't kill Frykowski and that gave him an opportunity
11 to attack her. And it was in that struggle that she committed
12 the only stabbing in the evening. That's perfectly
13 consistent.

14 If you isolate it now, it just looks like that's
15 all she was worried about. If you put it in context with
16 what she told you, it is an example. It was a struggle which
17 in that struggle she now fought.

18 I'm not stupid enough to sit here and tell you you
19 should consider that self defense. Frykowski therefore came
20 to attack her, so she therefore -- I'm not saying that. I'm
21 trying to show you her participation in that knifing.

22 So, these are the things that you have to consider,
23 and these are the corroborations that are there in everything
24 they say.

25 There was a question as to whether or not she's

1 making up the "copycat" motive in this. She told you when
2 she testified that she believed the motives to be both a
3 combination of Helter-Skelter and a copycat situation by
4 Manson.

5 Manson, without question -- and we shouldn't be
6 questioning it now, because the prosecution's entire theory
7 on Manson was that he did have the kind of powers that could
8 control all of these people, and he showed it in the
9 courtrooms, and the prosecution relished that kind of action
10 in the courtroom, because in his arguments he dwelled on how
11 there were many instances where the jury could see Manson's
12 control over these girls. And in all of this, we know it was
13 Manson's directives and thoughts that governed. And therefore,
14 when we ask her why Manson did this and why he asked her,
15 she's giving you her opinion.

16 The prosecution has much more knowledge and facts
17 about what Manson had in mind, because Manson has told many
18 people. Manson has since testified, on his own gave a long
19 speech at one point. And therefore, what comes to you from
20 her, reaction to what she thought Manson wanted, is one
21 thing. What the prosecution tells you about what Manson
22 wanted to do should not be held against her version of what
23 she is telling you now. She's merely telling you what she
24 knows and recalls.

25 So, I tried to isolate all of these areas. I don't

1 believe that we can say that there has been anything that
2 Susan has told you here now that has been factually rebutted,
3 because we are really talking about her state of mind. And
4 she's tried to tell you how she feels and what she wants to
5 do.

6 Unlike most prisoners here, I think she has --
7 and in fact, I think it's been indicated -- she has a better
8 than average prison record and a better than average -- in
9 fact, a rather unique opportunity waiting for her when she
10 leaves prison in a stable home, people that are God-fearing,
11 people that are willing to accept her and guide her and
12 assist her. And as she has indicated here, not for her to
13 go around making speeches, "Look, I'm Susan Atkins of the
14 Manson family"; but rather as she has indicated in a one-to-
15 one setting. She wants to practice her religion, be a
16 secretary and be a normal, functioning human being in life
17 again. That's all she's asking for, but she has no right
18 to ask that. She has to deserve it.

19 All I'm suggesting is that she has tried to show
20 you, by documents that other people in this institution have
21 written about her, by documents that other people that know
22 her on the outside have written about her, and by people that
23 are as cynical as I am, feel about her. She has changed.
24 And you would be doing society justice to give her an
25 opportunity. Give her her date. Give her a reason and a

1 purpose to continue to do what she's doing, to know she's got
2 to go out and do it, to work hard, and to show you that
3 people here, all of them -- this isn't -- not all have been
4 fooled, not by this girl.

5 I ask you to consider that. If we have to appear
6 again next year, I will again, unless she does something
7 that changes my mind about her. I will again be on her side,
8 because that's how I feel about her.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Okay. Before we let you
10 make your final statement, we'll ask the D.A. to make his
11 statement and recommendation.

12 MR. KAY: All right. Thank you. I think Mr.
13 Del Pesco put his finger on something that's very crucial
14 here and something I noticed about Susan Atkins during the
15 course of the trial, during the time I knew her, and that's
16 the fact that Susan Atkins can't do anything in a normal
17 manner. When I knew her as a member of the Manson family,
18 she was overzealous. She was trying to get everybody to join
19 the family. Everything with the family was right. Manson
20 was her god.

21 Now, she's in prison, and she is overzealous with
22 religion. I think that's fine that she's turned to religion
23 now, and I commend her for it. But she can't do anything --
24 it's all or nothing. She can't do it in a normal way, so
25 to speak, just as with her membership with the Manson family.

1 She was a stronger, firmer member than most of any of the
2 other members of the family that I knew. And she appears
3 to be doing the same thing with religion.

4 Well, what happens if she gets out? What happens
5 if things don't work out with this family she's living with?
6 And who's she going to jump to next and become overzealous,
7 because that's Susan Atkins, that overzealous girl
8 participating in murder.

9 You know, the Hinman murder wasn't enough. Then it
10 was the Tate murders and it could have been the LaBianca
11 murders if she was asked to go into that house, or the
12 Israeli actor, Saladin Nader. No remorse.

13 Mr. Caballero, in his arguments, tried to make out
14 that almost Susan Atkins is the victim in this case. Susan
15 Atkins was not the victim. She didn't have to join the
16 Manson family. Once she joined, she didn't have to stay.
17 Nobody forced her to participate in murder. Nobody said,
18 "Susan, you go and kill people or else;" or, "You go
19 participate in murder or else." She did it voluntarily on
20 her own. She knew this was wrong, and she did it anyway.

21 The victims in this case -- I don't know that any
22 of you can comprehend, or even I can comprehend, the horror
23 that those people went through. Of course I've dealt with
24 the autopsy photographs and seen the tortured expressions
25 on their faces. And here imagine this -- well, Gary Hinman,

1 by the time they found his body, it was badly decomposed
2 because they didn't find him until a week after he was
3 murdered with a number of stab wounds in him and the big
4 slice on his face where the coroner indicated with that wound
5 in and of itself he could have bled to death over a period
6 of time. He said the fatal wound was one of the stab
7 wounds in his chest, I believe. But he lost a lot of blood
8 from this facial wound.

9 Here's Sharon Tate, who's eight and a half months
10 pregnant, is the last to die. I mean you can imagine that
11 at that time she probably was almost crazy with fear seeing
12 all these other people killed, all these friends of hers.
13 And here she wants to protect her baby. And I believe that
14 Susan Atkins killed her. I believe that.

15 She said, before she was even suspected of the Tate
16 and LaBianca murders, when she wanted to get it off her chest
17 to her cell mates when she had no reason in the world to lie,
18 just getting it off her chest, she told them what happened.
19 She told the truth to those cell mates, and I believe what
20 she said then, and I believe that she did kill Sharon Tate.

21 I knew her back then at that time of the trial and
22 boy, she was every bit as hard as that statement she made to
23 Sharon Tate was. I mean, she was -- she was about the
24 scariest girl that I have ever met in my life, and that
25 includes Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houten.

1 Mr. Caballero says she should have been executed
2 then. Well, I agree. She got the death penalty from the
3 jury. The Supreme Court didn't reverse her case as far as
4 the death penalty. They held the death penalty
5 unconstitutional in another case, and then everybody got
6 blanketed in and Manson and all the girls and Watson and
7 Beausoleil and Grogan -- Grogan was convicted of the Shea
8 murder -- they all got out. I don't think we should give her
9 any benefit now because of that.

10 Her crime is so horrible and her actions were
11 horrible, the no remorse, and we have to take all that into
12 consideration. We have to take into consideration society
13 and what's going to happen. What can we guarantee society?
14 Can we guarantee that Susan Atkins is going to come out and
15 not take drugs if things don't go right out in the cold,
16 cruel world? If all of the sudden it turns out that this
17 minister she's going to live with really wants her to write
18 another book or use her in some way -- she's never even met
19 the guy before, never seen him face-to-face.

20 There was some indication that -- I don't know.
21 I got some innuendoes that maybe people were using her with
22 the book now. I don't know. She says that she hears that
23 they are doing good work with it, but we don't know where
24 the money's gone to.

25 But what happens if things don't go right on the

1 outside? I mean Susan Atkins is still Susan Atkins. She's
2 changed because her overzealousness has changed from the
3 Manson family to religion now. But when she gets out, what
4 what's going to happen? I mean how can we guarantee that
5 everything's going to go smooth and she's going to keep on
6 this way? I just don't see how we can guarantee that.

7 I think we all owe an obligation to society to,
8 boy, just be darned sure what's going to happen, more so in
9 this case than in other cases, because we know what she did
10 in the past, and we know that she was as bad as bad can be.

11 It's nice that in a confined prison setting that
12 she's doing fairly well, and I commend her for that. But
13 it's a lot different on the outside than it is in prison, and
14 she's responsible and has been held criminally responsible
15 for eight deaths. We are not talking about some domestic
16 disputes. We are talking about eight people, seven of them
17 who she didn't even know. Mr. Hinman-- I think all of them
18 knew him briefly.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: What is your
20 recommendation?

21 MR. KAY: My recommendation is as stated in the
22 letter that she not be paroled at any time, specifically at
23 this time, that the Board find her unsuitable for parole and
24 not set a date.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Thank you.

1 MR. CABALLERO: I just want to say in two minutes
2 that you actually have no function if we're to accept the
3 prosecution's theory that there is no guarantee, because we
4 can't guarantee with any person that you make a finding on,
5 and no one can guarantee that. What you do is you make
6 educated guesses based upon the evidence that's before you.

7 All of the evidence, with rare exception, presented
8 with regard to Susan Atkins insofar as her development is
9 concerned, insofar as her future is concerned, seems to be
10 favorable as far as I can see it.

11 I would recommend and hope that you will consider
12 that recommendation that she be given her parole date. She
13 has been and will be in almost nine years now. I would
14 suggest that she be given the opportunity that the good
15 that she's doing here can be applied on the outside, and I
16 ask you to consider that.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Any panel members have
18 any comments before we go into the disposition deliberation?

19 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: No. No.

20 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Nothing further.

21 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: I think we've pretty well
22 covered everything.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I'll give you one last
24 opportunity, Miss Atkins, to respond. I will go over what
25 the role of the panel is here.

1 We have a dual purpose. We have the mandate that
2 we must protect society. We have a penal system under which
3 you were sentenced that speaks to punishment, but it also
4 speaks to rehabilitation. And we have rule books which tell
5 us and guide us in terms of the way we must evaluate.

6 I have no hesitation in telling you that your
7 crimes shock the conscience. What we will be deliberating
8 this morning -- or this afternoon -- is the fact that you
9 have made giant strides, and we will have to weigh that.
10 But we will also have to weigh what is the risk of granting
11 you a parole date.

12 (Inmate nods head.)

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We take that very
14 seriously. And some of the things we use when we do that --
15 we look at a person's history, and we look at the crime, and
16 then we look at what the person has become.

17 Now, there are three things that concern this panel
18 about you. We have not been able to see where -- or maybe
19 we don't understand, and this is what I want you to speak to
20 -- where in your past it always seemed that there was someone
21 else directing you. If we look at the kind of jobs you held
22 before, your lifestyle before you met Mr. Manson, it seemed
23 that it was always depending on someone else's direction or
24 guidance or whatever; that you were really heavily into drugs,
25 it seems to me, before you met or joined the Manson family.

1 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And if that's not true,
3 I would like you to speak to that. And then, of course,
4 we don't need to go over what happened after you joined the
5 family.

6 Now, we come to your rehabilitation in prison, and
7 it is of concern to us -- and I realize we are on very
8 dangerous ground. We talk about talking about a person's
9 religion. Frankly, I feel very uncomfortable about it,
10 because I feel you have the right. But we must look at this
11 total kind of thing, particularly when you give up your
12 love affair. I mean you're a young woman, and you certainly
13 have been exposed to sex. It's a very powerful drive, a
14 very normal drive, and to see you say that you have given it
15 all up, we must be concerned about that.

16 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: And so, since these are
18 the kinds of things we will be talking about, I would like to
19 give you a last opportunity to respond to any of that which
20 you wish to.

21 INMATE ATKINS: Okay. My drug abuse, before I met
22 Charles Manson, was very heavy. I got into drugs shortly
23 after my first arrest when I was 18.

24 When I came back to California after my arrest in
25 Oregon for grand theft auto and the Dyer Act, I became a

1 topless go-go girl. And through that lifestyle was turned
2 on to pills, speed, Benzairine, Benedril, and uppers. From
3 there I graduated to grass. From there I graduated to LSD.

4 I became, instead of what at that time I considered
5 a plastic person, I went into the counter-culture hippie
6 era, and I lived in Haight-Asbury for several months. I
7 lived in a house where drugs were being sold, and I was the
8 "old lady" or the woman of one of the biggest drug dealer
9 in San Francisco when I met Charles Manson. So, I was very
10 much into that lifestyle when I met Charlie. I wanted out
11 of that.

12 Charlie represented to me somebody who could help
13 take me out of that system. Unfortunately, I was wrong.
14 He took me deeper into it.

15 I wanted to speak a little bit about my family. I
16 stopped contact with my father when I left home. There was
17 a period of seven years when my father and I did not speak.
18 We were not on speaking terms. I totally disassociated
19 myself from him, cut myself off from him, my brothers, my
20 grandmother. I disowned them so to speak.

21 Recently, very slowly, I have made reconciliation
22 with my family. My father has come out to visit me at great
23 expense to his health and his expenses. He is not well
24 physically. He is dying.

25 I have made reconciliation with my oldest brother

1 who -- we did not speak for 11 years, not one word to each
2 other, not even a letter. He wouldn't talk to me on the
3 telephone. When I called him just this last Christmas, he
4 decided out of his own heart, seeing the change in me, that
5 he wanted to receive me back as his sister. And we have
6 begun communication again.

7 I have a stepmother who I did not know for six and
8 a half years. She married my father six months prior to my
9 arrest, and she stayed with him through everything. The
10 victims aren't the only people that suffer, and the families
11 of the victims aren't the only people who suffer. My family
12 has suffered greatly. My father has been unable to keep a
13 job. And yet, he still loves me today, and he's forgiven me,
14 and we have reconciliation in that area. So that has begun
15 to come together more than it ever had before, much to my
16 joy.

17 Pertaining to my break of an engagement, because
18 I believe the Bible is the whole word of God and that there
19 is wisdom in the word of God, I made my decision to break
20 my engagement, not because I do not love the man, but because
21 I do not believe personally from my faith and the word of
22 God in second marriages. I did not know this at the time
23 when I accepted my engagement and accepted his proposal that
24 Jesus himself taught against second marriages. And I can
25 quote you scripture on that. I did an extensive study on that

1 before I broke my engagement.

2 My fiancée was a divorcee, and I broke my engagement
3 to my heart's break because of that, because I will not
4 break God's law. As much as I have knowledge of it, I still
5 love John very, very much today, and he still loves me.
6 That's why I said if I called him on the phone and said,
7 "John, I'm willing to disobey what I believe the Bible says
8 and marry you anyway," we could still live a life together.

9 But, in my conscience, I cannot violate what I
10 believe to be the truth as the Bible speaks it; and that is
11 why I broke my engagement, for no other reason. I have hopes
12 that maybe one day I will find a man who has never been
13 married before or who is a widower, and that I might be able
14 to make a life with a man. I desire that very much. I am
15 a very normal, healthy 30-year-old woman, and that is
16 something that I would like to be able to do, to be able to
17 give and share a life with someone. And by God's grace,
18 someday that may happen.

19 In the meantime, I'm single and content as much as
20 can be in that state.

21 I don't remember what --

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: I think you've covered
23 it. It was just we always like, you know, to let you know
24 what we will be discussing, and I'm glad I did, because I --

25 INMATE ATKINS: Thank you.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: -- I was under the
2 impression that it was given up, the whole thing, and that's
3 why we give you this opportunity.

4 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, no. Yes.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We'll recess then at
6 1:28 for deliberation and clear the room.

7 (Thereupon the room was cleared and the
8 Hearing of the Community Release Board
9 recessed for deliberation by the Board.)

10 --oOo--

RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

--oOo--

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3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We have reconvened in the
4 case of Miss Atkins at 1:55 p.m. The panel has reached a
5 decision, and we are finding you unsuitable for parole today.
6 These are our reasons:

7 , Number one, there were multiple victims and all
8 but one seems to have been picked at random. The offenses
9 occurred on three separate occasions. The manner in which
10 death was inflicted was brutal, bizarre and without any
11 provocation on the part of the victims. Victim Hinman was
12 stabbed and tortured for three days in order to force him,
13 to give up his property. After he gave up the property by
14 signing it over, he was killed.

15 The victims in the Tate cases were mutilated and
16 we understand there were about 102 stabbings. The LaBiancas
17 were stabbed and brutally killed.

18 Number two, the overwhelming concern of this
19 panel as it listened today is your ability to be totally
20 committed to an external force to the point where given an
21 opportunity to show remorse or to show repentance, you chose
22 the death penalty, and you chose to lose the respect of
23 society rather than to turn from this commitment.

24 We cannot find any mitigating circumstances in a
25 decision of that sort at that time. When we look at the

1 carnage which was created with these eight victims we feel
2 that it shocks the conscience of society to have you have an
3 opportunity to compensate in a small way by helping justice
4 and to have you demonstrate, as you did at the time, your
5 total disregard.

6 We are impressed with what you've done in prison.
7 But, we feel that the positive things that you have done at
8 this point in time are overshadowed by the severity of the
9 offense. And this panel must be conscious of part of its job,
10 which is punishment.

11 Number four, the release of any prisoner who has
12 committed an act of violence is a risk, but historically
13 society has allowed us to take that risk. But this is usually
14 done when certain factors can be identified, factors of
15 motivation such as passion, revenge, self-defense, monetary
16 gain. But what you have done, we find it very hard to
17 understand, the "we" in this case representing society.

18 So, unless all of the positive factors are very
19 excessive, and time is part of that, we cannot take the risk
20 on you today. We would encourage you to keep up your good
21 work, and we hope that you will avail yourself of therapy if
22 you feel you need it.

23 You will be observed, your attitude will be
24 observed and evaluated, and at some later date there may be
25 a projection for parole.

1 Panel members, have I covered all of our
2 deliberations?

3 BOARD MEMBER DeLEON: Yes.

4 HEARING REPRESENTATIVE DEL PESCO: Yes.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: Do you have anything you
6 want to say?

7 INMATE ATKINS: I am grateful that you recognize
8 the progress. I understand your position, and I fully, fully
9 sympathize with you. And if I were sitting where you're
10 sitting, I too would probably make the same decision that
11 you made today.

12 When I came in here today, I prepared my heart that
13 whatever you gave me today was justice, and I willingly
14 receive that. I gracefully receive it, and will continue to
15 live a life after God as a godly woman as best I can from in
16 here. And I recognize that it's time that will show my
17 sincerity of where I am, and it may never be that I would
18 ever walk out the gates of CIW, but I want each one of you
19 to know I'm free in here. And that's where it counts,
20 because I'm free inside.

21 I want very, very much for you precious people to
22 know that I hold no animus toward you for your decision
23 today. And I fully respect it.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: All right. Counsel?

25 MR. CABALLERO: I have no other comments. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. KAY: Nothing further.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RUSHEN: We terminate at 2:00

4 o'clock. Good luck to you.

5 (Thereupon the Hearing before the
6 Community Release Board was adjourned
7 at 2:00 p.m.)

8 ---oOo---

CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

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2
3 I, DIANE M. HOLNBACK, a Certified Shorthand
4 Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

5 That I am a disinterested person herein; that the
6 foregoing Community Release Board Hearing was reported in
7 shorthand by me, Diane M. Holnback, 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 any
11 way interested in the outcome of said hearing.

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
13 this 12th day of August, 1978.

14
15
16 Diane M. Holnback

17 DIANE M. HOLNBACK
18 Certified Shorthand Reporter
19 License No. 4022
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