

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

LIFE TERM PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMUNITY RELEASE BOARD

In the Matter of the Life )  
Term Parole Consideration )  
Hearing of: )  
SUSAN DENISE ATKINS. )

CDC Number 8304-A

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN

16756 CHINO-CORONA ROAD

FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1979

10:54 A.M.

Reported by:

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



I N D E X

	<u>Page</u>
1	
2	
3	Proceedings 1
4	Phase I: Commitment Offenses 5
5	Phase II: Pre-conviction Factors 45
6	Phase III: Post-conviction Factors 53
7	Phase IV: Parole Plans 77
8	Closing Summation by Mr. Kay 98
9	Closing Summation by Ms. Atkins 106
10	Recess 107
11	Resumption of Proceedings for Findings of the Board 108
12	Adjournment 110
13	Reporter's Certificate 111
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

P R O C E E D I N G S

--oOo--

1  
2  
3 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: This is the life term  
4 parole consideration hearing for Susan Denise Atkins, CDC  
5 Number 8304-A. Today's date is July 6th, 1979. The time is  
6 approximately 10:57 a.m.

7 Reading from the commitment offenses, the prisoner  
8 was received on June 3rd, 1971, Case Number A267861 from  
9 Los Angeles County. The offense was murder first degree,  
10 187 P.C. Her MEPD on that charge is 10/6/76.

11 The second offense she was received on 12/18/72,  
12 Case Number A253156, Los Angeles County, 187 P.C.,  
13 first degree murder, seven counts, and conspiracy to commit  
14 murder, all concurrent. Her MEPD on this matter is 9/1/76.

15 Today's hearing is being transcribed. As I said  
16 before, the date is July the 6th. The time is about 10:57.  
17 We are at the California Institute for Women, Frontera.  
18 I'd like to introduce the people present, or have them  
19 introduce themselves, if they would spell their last name  
20 and indicate their function here starting at my right.  
21 Mr. De Leon?

22 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Rudy De Leon, member of the  
23 Community Release Board.

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

1 MR. VASQUEZ: Gilbert R. Vasquez, V -- as in  
2 Victor -- a-s-q-u-e-z, Correctional Counselor II, CIW.

3 INMATE ATKINS: Susap Atkins, A-t-k-i-n-s,  
4 inmate.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Loretta Collier,  
6 C-o-l-l-i-e-r, member, Community Release Board.

7 MS. BOTELLO: Mary Helen Botello, B-o-t-e-l-l-o,  
8 Assistant Classification and Parole Representative.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: I'm Kenneth Risen,  
10 R-i-s-e-n, member of the Community Release Board. And I  
11 will be presiding or chairman today of this hearing.

12 This hearing is being conducted pursuant to  
13 Penal Code Sections 3041, 3042, and the regulations of the  
14 Community Release Board governing parole consideration  
15 hearings for life prisoners. The purpose of today's  
16 hearing is to consider your suitability for parole.

17 It is necessary for us to conduct this hearing  
18 under revised procedures enacted by the Legislature  
19 effective July 1st, 1977, which are applicable to all  
20 prisoners under a life sentence.

21 We will be considering the number and the nature  
22 of the crimes for which you were committed to state prison,  
23 your criminal history or lack of it prior to this  
24 commitment, and your behavior since your commitment.

25 We will reach a decision and inform you whether

1 you are suitable for parole and if so -- and if not, why,  
2 and if you are found suitable, the length of your  
3 commitment and the specific factors leading to this  
4 determination.

5 This hearing will proceed in the following  
6 manner: I will cover the commitment offense and  
7 surrounding circumstances and your criminal history and  
8 your arrests and convictions and your -- also the  
9 pre-convictions. Mr. De Leon will handle your  
10 institutional adjustment and your post-conviction factors,  
11 and Miss Collier will handle your parole plans.

12 Today I notice that you don't have counsel.

13 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: I'd like to go over  
15 your rights at this time. Did you receive timely notice?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Have you had an  
18 opportunity to review your file?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Are you ready  
21 to proceed today in the matter?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Will you be testifying  
24 today or making a statement of some type?

25 INMATE ATKINS: If I'm asked questions, I will

1 answer.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Would you stand,  
3 and I'll swear you at this time. Raise your right hand.

4 (Thereupon Inmate Susan Denise Atkins  
5 was, by Presiding Member Risen, sworn to  
6 tell the truth, the whole truth, and  
7 nothing but the truth.)

8 INMATE ATKINS: I do.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Be seated. Okay. What  
10 we will do today is we will go through the three phases of  
11 the hearing. And after each phase, the District Attorney  
12 will make a comment, and you can make any comments that  
13 you would like, regarding what was said during that time.  
14 This is not an adversary proceeding, so your statements  
15 should be directed to the panel rather than to the attorney.

16 Okay. I have here a copy of the information we  
17 will be considering today. It's a checklist. Would you  
18 look at it and see if everything on there is what you've  
19 got a copy of?

20 (Thereupon the document was handed to  
21 Mr. Kay.)

22 MR. KAY: Yes. Do you want me to pass it?

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Yes.

24 (Thereupon the document was handed to  
25 Inmate Atkins.)



6  
1 Abigail Ann Folger died from multiple stab wounds of the  
2 body; count two, victim -- it's a tough name.

3 MR. KAY: Voytek Frykowski.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: -- Voytek Frykowski,  
5 death was caused by gunshot wounds of the left back and  
6 multiple blunt force trauma to the head. He was also  
7 stabbed. As to count three, victim Steven Earl Parent,  
8 death was caused by multiple gunshot wounds. Count four,  
9 Sharon Marie Polanski, cause of death was multiple stab  
10 wounds of the body. And the victim in count five,  
11 Jay Sebring, cause of death was multiple stab wounds.

12 As to counts six and seven, these refer to the  
13 murders of Leo A. La Bianca and his wife, Rosemary La Bianca.  
14 These killings took place on August 10th, 1969, at their  
15 residence located at 3301 Waverly Drive in Los Angeles.  
16 Leo or Leon --

17 MR. KAY: Leno..

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Leno. That's right.  
19 Leno La Bianca's death was ascribed to multiple stab wounds  
20 to the neck and abdomen. This refers to count six. Count  
21 seven, Rosemary La Bianca's death, was ascribed to multiple  
22 stab wounds in the neck and trunk. Count eight, conspiracy  
23 to commit murder, refers to the prisoner and crime partners  
24 conspiring to kill the victim -- victims in the first seven  
25 counts.

1 Mr. Kay, would you like to make a statement  
2 regarding these facts?

3 MR. KAY: Yes, I would. The first murder that  
4 Miss Atkins was involved in, the murder of Gary Hinman,  
5 Manson and Miss Atkins and some members of the family had  
6 met Gary Hinman through Dennis Wilson, who was the drummer  
7 for a rock group known as the Beach Boys. Manson and  
8 Miss Atkins had lived with Mr. Wilson for a period of time.

9 Around this time of the murder, members of the  
10 Manson family were preparing for a revolution, and they  
11 wanted to get money so that they could buy dune buggies  
12 and weapons in order to plan for their escape to the  
13 desert during the black-white revolution that they were  
14 preparing for.

15 Charles Manson came to believe that Gary Hinman  
16 had come into an inheritance. And so, on the 25th of July,  
17 Manson sent Susan Atkins, Robert Beausoleil and Mary  
18 Brunner to Hinman's home in Topanga Canyon, a modest home,  
19 to solicit Hinman to join the family and to turn over all  
20 of his possessions. It was understood that when a person  
21 joined the family they turned over all their worldly  
22 possessions for use by all the members of the family.

23 They arrived, the three arrived at Hinman's home  
24 and tried to persuade him to join the family. He wasn't  
25 interested. He didn't want to join the family.

1                   They asked him for his property and he said  
2 that he had none, other than just his home and a couple of  
3 vehicles -- a van and a small Fiat. They didn't believe  
4 him. Beausoleil hit him, and beat him up, and he still  
5 wouldn't turn over any property. So Beausoleil called  
6 the Spahr Ranch and talked to Charles Manson to ask for  
7 advice as to what to do.

8                   At that time, Manson said that he would come out.  
9 And he and Bruce Davis then came to Hinman's home.  
10 Miss Atkins and Bruce Davis changed off holding the gun on  
11 Hinman while Manson, with a sword, cut Hinman's ear off  
12 and slashed his face -- a very deep wound.

13                   Manson and Davis at that time left and told the  
14 three to take care of Hinman, to get the property and do  
15 what they saw fit. Then, over a period of a little over a  
16 day, no medical aid was sought for Hinman. He was lying  
17 in considerable pain with his ear severed and the cut to  
18 his face.

19                   Miss Atkins testified at her penalty phase in the  
20 Tate-La Bianca trial that she stabbed Hinman. She's  
21 admitted to holding a pillow over his face to try and  
22 suffocate him. He was forced, just before he died, to  
23 sign over the pink slip to his van and his Fiat. He never  
24 did turn over any money to them, because in actuality he  
25 had no money. He never really came into an inheritance.

1 Over this period of time, repeated attempts,  
2 of course, were made to get him to turn over this money  
3 that they thought he had. But since he never had any,  
4 he never turned it over.

5 Beausoleil also stabbed him. And when they --  
6 when they left Hinman, they could hear him in a so-called  
7 death rattle. And they went back in the house, and  
8 Beausoleil finished him off so that he wouldn't make any  
9 further sound.

10 When Miss Atkins got back to the ranch, according  
11 to Leslie Van Houten -- who was not involved in the Hinman  
12 murder -- Miss Atkins came in grinning and said, "We killed  
13 him," and was all excited about it and then, for the period  
14 of the next couple weeks, went around sharpening knives.

15 On the -- this revolution that I talked about,  
16 Manson wanted there to be a black-white revolution. And  
17 he felt that the blacks would start the revolution by  
18 committing some atrocious murders in, as he called it,  
19 "the rich piggy district of Bel Air." And because of these  
20 atrocious murders, the whites would then go down to the  
21 black areas -- he named Watts specifically -- and start  
22 killing blacks. And this would start a revolution between  
23 the blacks and the whites.

24 Manson felt that the blacks would win the  
25 revolution and kill all the whites except for Manson and

1 the family. Manson and the family would escape to the  
 2 Death Valley area to a location talked about in  
 3 Revelations 9 and 10 of the Bible called the Bottomless Pit.  
 4 And they would hold out there for 50 to 100 years, until  
 5 the revolution was over.

6 But then, because Manson felt that the blacks  
 7 were so stupid that they couldn't maintain any power, that  
 8 they'd -- they would come looking for whatever whites were  
 9 left. And the only whites that would be left would be  
 10 Manson and the family. And the blacks would then turn over  
 11 all power to Manson and the family. And then, they would  
 12 be rulers of possibly the world, and at least the United  
 13 States.

14 Now, on August 8th, 1969, Manson explained to  
 15 members of the family how upset he was that blacks were  
 16 so stupid that they hadn't started the revolution yet. And  
 17 so, he said that he was going to show Blackie how to do it.  
 18 And he said, "Now is the time for Helter Skelter," which is  
 19 the name he gave to this revolution.

20 On the evening of August 8th, Manson selected  
 21 Miss Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, Tex Watson and Linda  
 22 Kasabian to go to the destination he had selected on this  
 23 night, which turned out to be the home of Sharon Tate, which  
 24 was a rented home. Manson and Watson had been to the home  
 25 before when it had been rented by Terry Melcher, who was

1 Doris Day's son. Manson had been interested in getting  
 2 into the recording business ever since his living with  
 3 Dennis Wilson of the Beach Boys. And he had attempted to  
 4 get Melcher, who was a record producer, to record him.  
 5 But Melcher wasn't interested.

6 Manson knew that Melcher had moved to Malibu,  
 7 and he knew that somebody famous lived in this house. But  
 8 he didn't know who. And none of the others knew who lived  
 9 there.

10 So, Miss Atkins, Miss Krenwinkel, Linda Kasabian  
 11 and Tex Watson were leaving Spahn Ranch. Manson came up  
 12 and stopped them and said to the girls, he said, "You girls  
 13 leave something witchy. You know what I mean." And at  
 14 that point Watson drove off, and they drove directly to  
 15 the address of 10050 Cielo Drive, which is the Tate  
 16 residence located off Benedict Canyon in Los Angeles.

17 Watson drove up to the -- in front of the  
 18 electronically-operated gate, parked the car. The girls  
 19 remained in the car. Watson got out, climbed a telephone  
 20 pole with some 40-pound wire cutters, and cut off the  
 21 telephone wires leading into the residence, came back down,  
 22 got in the car, drove the car back down the hill, parked  
 23 it where nobody could see it, because there were some  
 24 homes kind of along one side of the home where the gate  
 25 was located. They then walked into the -- walked up the

1 hill.

2 Miss Atkins was armed with a knife. She had been  
3 since she left Spahn Ranch. Miss Krenwinkel was armed  
4 with a knife. Miss Kasabian was armed with a knife. And  
5 Watson was armed with a .22 caliber, nine-inch Buntline  
6 revolver.

7 When they got up to the gate, they climbed up an  
8 embankment, and Watson climbed over the fence and held the  
9 barbed wire, which was on top of the fence, so the girls  
10 could get over.

11 Once all of them were in, they started walking  
12 up the long, winding driveway to get to the main residence.  
13 And while they did, they immediately saw the headlights of  
14 a car driving down. Watson instructed the girls to get  
15 back. Watson approached the car, which was driven by  
16 18-year-old Steven Parent, who had been visiting the  
17 teenage caretaker on the property who lived in the back  
18 house. And Mr. Parent begged for his life, and that he --  
19 Watson had the revolver pointed at him. And Parent begged  
20 for his life and said that he wouldn't tell, just to not  
21 hurt him. And Watson shot him four times at point blank  
22 range in the upper chest area. Watson then turned off the  
23 ignition.

24 And then, the four proceeded up towards the main  
25 house, Watson telling Kasabian to look for any open doors

1 or windows around the back. Kasabian did and came back  
2 and said that there were none. Watson, in the meantime,  
3 had a knife and was slitting the screen in the dining room  
4 area of the house. They took the screen off and opened  
5 the window and got in the house that way. At least one  
6 of them got in that way and then opened the door, front  
7 door, for the rest of them. Miss Kasabian was instructed  
8 to go back to Parent's car and act as lookout, which she  
9 did.

10 Miss Atkins, Miss Krenwinkel and Mr. Watson  
11 entered the location. Voytek Frykowski was asleep on the  
12 front sofa. Miss Folger was in the bedroom in the back of  
13 the house. Sharon Tate was in bed in the back of the house.  
14 She was eight-and-a-half-months pregnant, and she was in her  
15 nightclothes. And Jay Sebring, who was fully clothed, was  
16 on the foot of her bed having a conversation with her.

17 Watson remained with Frykowski in the main room.  
18 Miss Atkins and Miss Krenwinkel went to the back to see  
19 who was there and to get them out. And at knifepoint,  
20 Miss Atkins and Miss Krenwinkel got Sharon Tate and  
21 Jay Sebring out of the back bedroom, and Miss Folger out of  
22 one of the bedrooms, to come to the living room.

23 Once in the living room, apparently Mr. Sebring  
24 made some movement towards Mr. Watson. Watson shot him.  
25 Then, the other people, except for Sharon Tate who was in

1 a condition that she really couldn't run very much, tried  
 2 to escape. Miss Atkins fought with Mr. Frykowski as he  
 3 was trying to get out, and Miss Atkins stabbed him in the  
 4 legs several times to prevent him from going out. But he  
 5 made it out the front door, eventually.

6 Abigail Folger went out the back door being  
 7 chased by Patricia Krenwinkel, who eventually stabbed and  
 8 killed her. Susan Atkins remained with Sharon Tate. And  
 9 Watson went out and took care of Mr. Frykowski, who ended  
 10 up, between Miss Atkins and Mr. Watson, getting stabbed  
 11 51 times. Mr. Watson also hit him over the head with the  
 12 gun butt 13 times and shot him.

13 Miss Atkins confessed, after she was eventually  
 14 caught, to one of her cellmates at Sybil Brand as to how  
 15 she killed Sharon Tate. And this statement was made to  
 16 Virginia Graham, who testified under oath at the trial as  
 17 to what Miss Atkins told her. Miss Atkins told Virginia  
 18 Graham, quote, "Sharon was the last to die." And at this  
 19 point Miss Atkins laughed.

20 And Miss Atkins said that she had held Sharon's  
 21 arms behind her and that Sharon looked at her and was  
 22 crying and begging, "Please, don't kill me. Please, don't  
 23 kill me. I don't want to die. I want to live. I want to  
 24 have my baby. I want to have my baby."

25 So, Susan then said she looked straight into the

1 eyes -- looked Sharon Tate in the eye and said, quote,  
 2 "Look, bitch. I don't care about you. I don't care if  
 3 you're going to have a baby. You had better be ready.  
 4 You are going to die, and I don't feel anything about it."  
 5 Then, Susan said that she killed her. Sharon Tate was  
 6 stabbed 16 times.

7 She told another one of her cellmates, by the name  
 8 of Ronnie Howard, "I just kept stabbing her until she  
 9 stopped screaming." She also stated that during the  
 10 course of the killing that she had an orgasm. And at one  
 11 point she said that she tasted Sharon Tate's blood.

12 When they got back to Spahn Ranch, Manson asked  
 13 all of the participants if they had any remorse. And  
 14 Miss Atkins stated that she had no remorse.

15 The victims at the Tate house, at the Tate  
 16 residence, ended up with 102 stab wounds. That was the  
 17 total. And after Miss Atkins had stabbed Sharon Tate,  
 18 Mr. Watson came back and with the rope he was carrying  
 19 when he was walking up the hill tied one end around Sharon  
 20 Tate's neck, put it over a beam in the ceiling, and tied  
 21 the other end around Jay Sebring's neck and hung them. The  
 22 coroner, Dr. Noguchi, testified that Sharon Tate was still  
 23 barely alive at the time she was hung, but Sebring was dead.

24 Oh. After killing Miss Tate, but before they  
 25 left, Miss Atkins got a towel and dipped it in Sharon Tate's

1 blood and then wrote on the front door of the residence  
2 the word "pig," p-i-g. Pig in the Manson family parlance  
3 did not mean police. It meant people that had a nine-to-  
4 five job, the establishment so to speak, anybody that would  
5 work for a living. They were very anti-establishment.

6 The next -- the murders actually took place  
7 around 12:30 on August 9, 12:30 in the morning. Later that  
8 same day, in the evening, Manson had a meeting with some  
9 members of his family, those who participated in the so-  
10 called Tate murders and some others and voiced his  
11 displeasure after seeing the TV news accounts of the  
12 murders, of how messy they were, and that there was too  
13 much fear and panic. So, he told them that he was going  
14 to go out with them this night and show them how to do it.

15 So, Manson, Miss Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel,  
16 Tex Watson, Linda Kasabian and Steve Grogan then left the  
17 Spahn Ranch to go out on another night of murder. But  
18 before they left, Miss Atkins tried to persuade a sometime  
19 ranch hand and sometime Manson family member by the name  
20 of Juan Flynn to come with them. And she made the statement  
21 to Mr. Flynn that, "We're going into the city to kill some  
22 mother-fucking pigs." But Mr. Flynn declined the  
23 invitation and didn't go, didn't go along.

24 After leaving the Spahn Ranch, they drove  
25 randomly around the County of Los Angeles looking for

1 people to kill. Their first stop was in Pasadena at a  
2 small home. Manson got out and went up to the home and  
3 came back and said that he couldn't kill the people there  
4 because he looked in the window and saw pictures of  
5 children.

6 After Manson got back in the car, the people in  
7 the car then eyed a man and woman about three doors down  
8 who were getting out of a car. Manson determined that the  
9 man was too big, so they weren't going to kill those  
10 people.

11 They then drove to a larger home in the South  
12 Pasadena area, wealthier part of it, of South Pasadena,  
13 and parked in front of a home. And then, Manson decided  
14 that the homes were too close together there, so they  
15 weren't going to kill the people.

16 They next drove to a Congregational church in  
17 South Pasadena, a large Congregational church, Oneonta  
18 Congregational Church, with the intent of finding a minister  
19 or a priest -- they didn't know what denomination the  
20 church was at that time -- and kill the minister or the  
21 priest and string him up to the cross in front of the  
22 church. But, because of the lateness of the hour, Manson  
23 went up and tried the door, and it was locked. And there  
24 appeared to be no one there.

25 Next, from that point, they drove out to the

1 West Los Angeles area around Pacific Palisades, Will Rogers  
2 Park, stopped at some homes around there, but nothing  
3 seemed to please Mr. Manson as to where they would stop.  
4 They then started heading back towards town. While they  
5 were on their way, Manson spotted a white sports car,  
6 told Linda Kasabian to stop at the next red light next to  
7 the sports car and he would get out and kill the driver,  
8 who was the sole occupant of the car. They stopped at the  
9 red light. Manson -- Grogan was nearest the door. He got  
10 out of the car. And as Manson was getting out of the car,  
11 the light changed, and the driver of the sports car drove  
12 off.

13 Manson then gave them specific directions as to  
14 where to go, and they ended up in the Los Feliz area of  
15 Los Angeles, the Silver Lake/Los Feliz area, and in front  
16 of the home next door to where Leno and Rosemary La Bianca  
17 lived. This home, the home next door to the La Bianca's,  
18 in the past had been rented by a man named Harold True, who  
19 had befriended the family. Miss Atkins had spent several  
20 nights there, as had Manson and other members of the family.  
21 But we determined that at that time they stayed there the  
22 La Bianca house was vacant, there were no owners.

23 Anyway, Manson went up to the La Bianca house,  
24 had a gun, and got the drop on Mr. and Mrs. La Bianca,  
25 who had just returned from a water skiing trip to

1 Lake Isabella, had gotten home maybe 15 minutes before  
2 Manson and the others got there. Manson tied their hands  
3 up and then took Mrs. La Bianca's wallet and came back out  
4 to the front.

5 Manson had planned taking Mrs. La Bianca's wallet,  
6 which he eventually had Linda Kasabian, one of the girls,  
7 plant it in a service station in what he thought was  
8 Pacoima, a Black area, because he wanted a Black person  
9 to find the wallet and use the credit cards and then get  
10 blamed for the murders that were going to be committed.

11 As it turned out, he didn't know his jurisdiction too well,  
12 and he planted it in Sylmar, which is contiguous to Pacoima,  
13 but the wallet wasn't found until about five months after  
14 when some gas station attendant finally decided to clean  
15 the toilet.

16 Now, when Manson came back to the car, he then  
17 asked Miss Van Houten, Miss Krenwinkel, and Mr. Watson to  
18 get out of the car. He took them to the back of the car  
19 and told them about the man and the woman being up in the  
20 house with their hands tied. He told them not to cause  
21 fear and panic like they had the night before and not to  
22 let them know that they were going to kill them.

23 Manson, Miss Atkins, Kasabian and Grogan then  
24 drove off leaving Watson, Krenwinkel and Van Houten to  
25 go up to the house and eventually murder

1 Mr. and Mrs. La Bianca.

2 Some more writing was in the house, in the  
3 La Bianca house, such as, "death to pigs," written in  
4 blood; "helter skelter," written in blood; and, "rise,"  
5 written in blood. All of these terms had significance  
6 to the Manson family. "Rise" was supposed to be a message  
7 to the Black people to rise up and start the revolution.  
8 And "helter skelter" of course, was the name of the  
9 revolution. And "death to pigs," meant death to the  
10 middle class establishment people.

11 Now, Manson, Atkins, Grogan and Kasabian's trip  
12 did not end there. They then went and planted the wallet  
13 and then drove out to the beach area and ended up in  
14 Venice. It was Manson's plan to have them kill an Israeli  
15 actor who had picked up two members of the family --  
16 Linda Kasabian and Sandy Good -- when they were hitchhiking  
17 a couple weeks before and had made love to them in his  
18 apartment, or at least they made love to Mrs. Kasabian.  
19 And so, he instructed Miss Atkins and Grogan and Kasabian  
20 to go up to this Israeli actor's apartment and when he  
21 opened the door to slit his throat.

22 Mrs. Kasabian testified that she did not want to  
23 kill anyone, so she knocked on the wrong door. It was not  
24 the door of the Israeli actor. When the person answered  
25 the door she said, "I'm sorry. I have the wrong apartment."

1           In the meantime, Grogan and Atkins were hiding  
2 around the corner ready to jump into the apartment. But  
3 since it was the wrong one, Kasabian said, "Well, I don't  
4 really know where he lived." And then they left, and they  
5 hitchhiked back to Spahn Ranch. Manson had driven off  
6 leaving them there at the apartment.

7           Now, Miss Atkins was tried for the Tate-La Bianca  
8 murders. The trial started in June, June 15th of 1970. The  
9 guilt phase ended in January, January 25th, 1971, where the  
10 jury found her guilty of seven counts of first-degree  
11 murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder for  
12 all the five Tate and two La Bianca murders and the  
13 conspiracy covering both nights of murder.

14           Then, the penalty phase of the trial was held,  
15 and she was given the death penalty by the jury and  
16 sentenced to death on April 19th, by Judge Charles Older.

17           After that trial was over, she had previously  
18 been indicted on the Gary Hinman murder. She was brought  
19 to the courtroom of Judge Raymond Choate and entered a plea  
20 of guilty to first-degree murder for the murder of Gary  
21 Hinman.

22           One thing I might add is that the evidence  
23 demonstrated that she was not on drugs either night of  
24 the murder. The evidence was that none of the participants  
25 were on drugs the first night, and Mr. Watson had taken an

1 upper the second night because he felt so tired from the  
2 activities of the Tate house that he wanted something to  
3 help wake him up. So, he took an upper on the second night.

4 I think that's pretty much what I wanted to say  
5 at this time. Oh, one other thing that I forgot to mention,  
6 in the Tate house, besides what I said, she also robbed  
7 Abigail Folger -- Miss Atkins also robbed Abigail Folger,  
8 had her get her money and give it to her. I don't think  
9 it amounted to very much, but she did that in addition to  
10 what I've already said. I don't have any further testimony.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Mr. De Leon, do you  
12 have any questions?

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Was Miss Atkins living  
14 with any particular person at that time at the ranch?

15 MR. KAY: Not that I know of. See, generally at  
16 the ranch they didn't pair off to a boyfriend/girlfriend.  
17 Leslie Van Houten was an exception, because she and  
18 Tex Watson were kind of boyfriend and girlfriend at the  
19 time. But Miss Atkins, I think at that particular time,  
20 although she was very close to Manson, most of the girls  
21 kind of felt close to Manson, but I don't think that she  
22 was really with anybody in particular.

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, the Hinman murder  
24 took place on what date?

25 MR. KAY: Well, they went there around July 25th,

1 the 24th or 25th, and left on the 26th with Hinman  
2 actually dying on the 26th.

3 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And how much later did  
4 the Tate murders take place?

5 MR. KAY: Within a couple of -- couple of weeks.  
6 The Tate murders actually took place on August 9th, around  
7 12:30 in the morning. And the La Bianca murders occurred  
8 on August 10th, about 2:30 in the morning.

9 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I have nothing further.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Miss Collier?

11 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: No.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. I have a couple  
13 questions. At the Hinman killing, you indicated that she  
14 put the pillow and stabbed Mr. Hinman.

15 MR. KAY: Yes.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How did you determine  
17 this; from what testimony?

18 MR. KAY: From her testimony.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: She testified?

20 MR. KAY: Well, from her testimony and Mary  
21 Brunner's testimony. She -- Miss Atkins testified at the  
22 penalty phase on the Tate-La Bianca trial and she was  
23 cross-examined on the Hinman murder. She testified to  
24 some of it on direct and some of it on cross-examination  
25 and testified that she stabbed Hinman, although it was not

1 it's not clear whether her stab wound was the fatal blow,  
2 although she did say that she stabbed him. And I tend to  
3 believe that Beausoleil's stab wound was the fatal blow.  
4 But she did testify that she stabbed Hinman. And she's  
5 testified that she held a pillow over his face. And at  
6 her parole hearing last year she admitted that she held  
7 the pillow over his face, although she claimed last year  
8 that she really didn't stab him and that she lied under  
9 testimony to protect Beausoleil.

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. At the Tate  
11 residence, how did you determine most of what went on that  
12 night, from what testimony or from what evidence?

13 MR. KAY: Well, we determined most of what went  
14 on inside the residence from Miss Atkins' statements to  
15 her cellmates. Mrs. Kasabian, who ended up being the  
16 prosecution's witness at the trial, never went inside the  
17 residence. So, we didn't know from her what had happened.  
18 But Tex Watson testified at his trial. Patricia Krenwinkel  
19 testified at her penalty phase of her hearing. Miss Atkins  
20 testified at the penalty phase of her trial and made the  
21 statements to her cellmates.

22 And so, kind of a combination of those factors.  
23 They were all pretty consistent about what happened inside,  
24 and the location of the bodies would kind of tend to  
25 corroborate that.

1 Mrs. Kasabian could see Krenwinkel chasing  
2 Folger with a knife out on the front lawn after they got  
3 out. So, she saw that. We had her testimony as to that.  
4 And she saw Watson jumping on Frykowski once he got outside.

5 Miss Atkins, in her statements to the -- her  
6 cellmates, and Miss Atkins also testified in front of the  
7 Grand Jury, admitted to stabbing Frykowski in the legs  
8 when he was trying to get out. And Frykowski, I think,  
9 pulled her hair. And she got into a tousele and Frykowski  
10 actually made it out. And then, Watson got him from that  
11 point.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: And how about the  
13 evidence about them driving around Pasadena and West L.A.?  
14 How did you determine that?

15 MR. KAY: Basically from Linda Kasabian's  
16 testimony, who was the prosecution witness at the trial.  
17 And then, Leslie Van Houten in her trial, when she took  
18 the stand, corroborated what Linda Kasabian had said, that  
19 they had gone to all those different places.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How about the concept  
21 that they were doing this to cause a race war? Where did  
22 you determine that?

23 MR. KAY: That was determined from most members  
24 of the family, even those not involved in the murders, and  
25 also those involved with murders. They all were very

1 consistent on that.

2 At first, some of them tried to say that that was  
3 not the motive, that the motive was that they wanted to do  
4 copycat killings to the Hinman murder, because Bobby  
5 Beausoleil was in jail already. So, they wanted to free  
6 Beausoleil by leading the police to believe that the Hinman  
7 killer was still at large. The problem is that from all  
8 the preparation that they were doing for the -- for the  
9 revolution and Manson's specifically saying how the  
10 revolution was going to start by them doing atrocious  
11 murders in the "rich piggy district" of Bel Air, well,  
12 Benedict Canyon is not all that far from Bel Air, and the  
13 murders went down pretty much the way Manson had said.

14 And, of course, on August 8th, before the murders,  
15 Manson made the statement, "Now is the time for helter  
16 skelter," and then got the group together and then  
17 proceeded out from there. But most -- most of the members  
18 of the family had corroborated that. Van Houten, in her  
19 trial, said that that was the motive. Watson in his  
20 trial said that that was the motive. Manson, of course,  
21 would never --

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Wasn't the Watson trial  
23 after these trials, though?

24 MR. KAY: Yes. Watson fought extradition and  
25 was in Texas at the time of the first trial. And then, I

1 tried him afterwards, and I think that trial started in  
2 August of '71 and finished in November of '72.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Did you ever locate the  
4 building where the Italian actor was supposed to live?

5 MR. KAY: That's right.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Did you verify the  
7 story?

8 MR. KAY: Yes, we did. The actor's name was  
9 Salinder Nadir. And as soon as Sergeant Sartuche from  
10 L.A.P.D. interviewed him and told him what had happened,  
11 he immediately hopped on a plane at L.A. International  
12 Airport and went back to Israel never to set foot in the  
13 United States again.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: I had one other, but I  
15 can't remember it right now. Well, if I think of it, I'll  
16 ask.

17 Do you have any comments? Would you like to say  
18 anything about what the District Attorney has said? Would  
19 you like to correct anything?

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I think I can. She was --  
21 looked askance at Mr. Kay when he made the statement about  
22 she admitted smothering Gary Hinman at the -- last year.  
23 And what the transcript indicates is that what she said  
24 was that Beausoleil had reentered the house.

25 MR. KAY: Uh-huh.

1 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And had -- when he came  
2 back out, you know, apparently they heard a noise, and they  
3 thought that, as indicated by the transcript, that Hinman  
4 was still alive and might get to a telephone, and then,  
5 Beausoleil had reentered the house. And when he came out,  
6 he told her that he had finished the job and put a pillow  
7 over Gary's face and smothered him. And she said that's  
8 what she had said when she pleaded guilty at her trial,  
9 that that's what she did.

10 MR. KAY: Okay. I know that she had said that  
11 at one point. I thought it was last year, but I guess it  
12 was when she plead guilty, when she said she held the  
13 pillow.

14 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: She said that "There was  
15 no way I could have known that Gary had a pillow over his  
16 face except Bobby had told me that."

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Yeah. I remember what  
18 my questions were. Have you cleared that up?

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Yes.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: During the entire  
21 three incidents, was there any act that Miss Atkins  
22 performed that ultimately resulted in the death of any one  
23 of the victims? Did she admit to stabbing anyone and  
24 later the coronor testifying that that stab wound was the  
25 cause of death?

1 MR. KAY: Well, she admitted killing Sharon Tate,  
2 and Sharon Tate was stabbed 16 times.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Did she admit killing  
4 her or holding her?

5 MR. KAY: Killing her.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Actually inflicting  
7 wounds?

8 MR. KAY: That's right.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How about at the  
10 Hinman?

11 MR. KAY: She testified at the penalty phase of  
12 her trial that she stabbed Hinman. Now, she never said  
13 where the stab wound was, and he had more than one stab  
14 wound. So, whether that was -- hers was the cause of  
15 death, I don't know. I tend to believe that Beausoleil  
16 probably -- well, you see, the problem with Hinman is that  
17 he was kind of bleeding to death on top of everything, and  
18 everything kind of went together, the number of wounds.

19 Now, he had one wound which would -- in his  
20 chest -- which would be fatal in and of itself, but  
21 Manson had cut his ear off and sliced his face, a big,  
22 gaping wound in his face with a sword, and then he had  
23 been stabbed not only by Beausoleil but Miss Atkins said  
24 she stabbed him.

25 So, everything kind of went together. But I

1 think Beausoleil's stab wound, in my opinion, was  
2 certainly fatal almost at once. And Beausoleil, I think  
3 by the evidence, went back when they heard this death  
4 rattle and finished him off, although I think he would  
5 have died if they hadn't gone back. But they didn't know  
6 that.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. How about at  
8 the La Bianca house?

9 MR. KAY: She didn't go inside the La Bianca  
10 house. She was convicted on -- as a co-conspirator and  
11 aider and abettor.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Is there anything  
13 that you'd like to say or correct?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Just to repeat what I said last  
15 year, that I, in fact, did not take anybody's life, that I  
16 had lied at the trial. I had lied at the Grand Jury. And  
17 Tex Watson's statements in his recent confession of killing  
18 everybody verifies that. And I have not been in any  
19 communication with him in ten years.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Has he recently  
21 admitted --

22 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: -- that he was involved  
24 in all of them?

25 INMATE ATKINS: All except Gary Hinman, that he

1 actually took the lives of every person himself. And this  
2 he has admitted openly on television. He's written a  
3 book. It's in his book. I'm sure that if anybody here  
4 sat on his CRB hearing he stated that in his CRB hearing,  
5 to my knowledge, to the best of my knowledge.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Has this been within the  
7 last year?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: The last six months?

10 INMATE ATKINS: I don't -- I'm not sure if it's  
11 been in the last six months. But I do know that in the  
12 last year I have seen him on television, and I have read  
13 his book. And he admits it in his book. And it corroborates  
14 what I said last year at my hearing. And everything that I  
15 could possibly say in my defense I believe was said last  
16 year.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Mr. De Leon, do  
18 you have any questions?

19 INMATE ATKINS: I actually have no defense.

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Did you stab Sharon Tate?

21 INMATE ATKINS: No.

22 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Who stabbed her?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Tex Watson. He had ordered me  
24 to kill her, and I could not, as he had ordered me to kill  
25 Voytek Frykowski, and I could not. And that's why

1 Voytek Frykowski and I got in a fight, because when I  
2 raised the knife to stab him I couldn't bring the knife  
3 down. And he saw that I couldn't, and he broke the -- I  
4 tied him with a big bath towel around his hands, and he  
5 was -- it was very easy for him to undo the towels. And  
6 that's when we began to fight. And that's when Tex came  
7 in later and killed Voytek Frykowski.

8 And he told me to stay with Sharon Tate. I did  
9 tell her, when she begged for her life, that I had no  
10 mercy for her. But I did not kill her. I could not. And  
11 that's when Tex came in and killed her.

12 Also, I may have said -- it's been a long time.  
13 It's been ten years. I may have said at the trial of  
14 Gary Hinman that I had stabbed him. To the best of my  
15 recollection today, I do not ever remember stabbing Gary  
16 Hinman.

17 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you put the writing  
18 on the walls?

19 INMATE ATKINS: I put the word "pig" in Sharon  
20 Tate's blood on the door, yes.

21 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Did you write any other  
22 words?

23 INMATE ATKINS: No.

24 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I have nothing further.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Miss Collier?

1 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: No, not at this time.

2 INMATE ATKINS: I'd like to say this, that I know  
3 that the facts that Mr. Kay presents, 99 or 90 percent of  
4 them are true. And I know that he must, in his position,  
5 present them according to the way they were presented in  
6 trial as the facts. But because things that are presented  
7 in courts are presented as facts, they are not always  
8 necessarily facts. And I live with me, and I know what I  
9 did, and I know what I didn't do. And you can believe me,  
10 or you can believe Mr. Kay. That's up to you.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Well, at this  
12 point it's not a matter of believing him or you. We have to  
13 rely upon the judgment of the court, or the jury. And you  
14 were found guilty. So, we have to go by that.

15 INMATE ATKINS: I understand that.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What we are doing is  
17 discussing it in an effort to find out actually what  
18 happened and maybe to mitigate some of the areas.

19 INMATE ATKINS: That's why I'm saying what I'm  
20 saying.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: That's why I've asked  
22 you if there are any other inaccuracies that you feel you  
23 should present them at this time.

24 INMATE ATKINS: The only inaccuracies are that  
25 I actually took no one's life. I never did, because I

1 was not able to at the time. And my thinking at the time  
2 was that I was supposed to do that. That's what I had been  
3 programmed for for two years. I had been brought up to a  
4 place where I believed that I had to take somebody's life  
5 to prove my worthiness, so to speak, to belong to the family.

6 When it came to the point where I could not, Tex  
7 and I were the only two who knew that I was not able to kill  
8 anybody. And so, when I began to take blame, it was to show  
9 to everybody else in the family that I was right there with  
10 them, that I was part of them. And it's like  
11 overcompensating for an inadequacy. It's because I was  
12 de-programmed in so many different areas. My human psyche  
13 was still at work, my human makeup. And people are always  
14 trying to make up for their own inadequacies. And according  
15 to my standards of living at that time and my beliefs at  
16 that time, I was an inadequate member of the family. So,  
17 I lied to make myself look big to everybody else and to  
18 myself.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Would you say at that  
20 time that you were remorseful for what had happened?

21 INMATE ATKINS: It's hard to measure, determine  
22 what I was and what I wasn't at that time. I look back at  
23 myself now ten years ago, and -- it made me sick. I know  
24 that. I fainted when I got back to the ranch.

25 Charlie had asked us if we were remorseful. Well,

1 the appropriate thing to say was, "No," because he had  
 2 promised us and told us that there was no such thing as  
 3 guilt. So, if I really believed what he had said, and the  
 4 right thing for me to say in order to keep from being  
 5 reprimanded or being yelled at or being hit, possibly,  
 6 whatever, and knowing he was the leader, I said what I knew  
 7 he wanted to hear.

8 And then, I later, as he and Tex were talking,  
 9 I went into a back room, and I fainted. And now, if that's  
 10 remorse, if that's being sick, whatever, that was my  
 11 reaction. I fainted.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN:.. Okay. After the  
 13 last killings at the La Bianca house, did the group get  
 14 involved in any more murders or robberies or burglaries?

15 INMATE ATKINS: There was one other killing that  
 16 I know of after the fact. I had no knowledge of it prior  
 17 to the fact, but after the fact, I knew about it.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Which one would that  
 19 be?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Shorty O'Shea.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Why was it there were  
 22 no more nightly outings like this where they would go out  
 23 and search around and find someone?

24 INMATE ATKINS: I honestly don't know. I don't  
 25 know. I know that the police were starting to come around,

1 and Charlie wanted to get out of town and go to the desert.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What did Charlie mean  
3 by saying that the Tate murders were "very messy"? What  
4 did he mean by that, "too much panic"?

5 INMATE ATKINS: His orders were to go all the way  
6 down from the top house to the end of the street and kill  
7 everybody in every house down the street. And I don't  
8 really understand what he meant by "too messy." I know  
9 that there were orders to dismember people --

10 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Uh-huh.

11 INMATE ATKINS: -- and that didn't happen. And  
12 there were orders to do other atrocities against these  
13 people that didn't occur. And maybe that's what he meant,  
14 that it didn't fit his orders.

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Had, you know -- did you  
16 suture or help suture Gary Hinman's wound?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. I helped nurse it and dress  
18 it. Mary Brunner actually stitched it up, but I went to  
19 the store. After Gary was cut, I had to go to the store  
20 and buy gauze and hydrogen peroxide and medicine, some  
21 kind of red stuff that you put on. I forget what the name  
22 of it is. It's an antiseptic. And bought some soup and  
23 some milk and some food, and I fed him soup and -- well,  
24 after Mary sutured him up and cleaned the wound, and  
25 we made him comfortable, as comfortable as we could on the

1 floor, and I fed him some soup and some warm tea.

2 There was a -- well, a lot of mixed emotions  
3 between Mary and I, because Gary had never done anything  
4 wrong to Mary and I. As a matter of fact, Gary had taken  
5 Mary Brunner into his home and helped Mary win her child  
6 back when the State was trying to take her son. He let her  
7 stay in his house. So, there were a lot of mixed emotions.

8 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: How soon after that was  
9 Beausoleil arrested for that murder?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Within a week, I think. I'm not  
11 real sure. Mr. Kay would be able to tell you more to the  
12 exact day of his arrest.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: But prior to the Tate  
14 murders he was arrested for the murder of Gary Hinman?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And then, what was the  
17 purpose of the Tate murders?

18 INMATE ATKINS: In my mind, to do a copycat killing  
19 so that -- to put the police off of the trail of Bobby  
20 Beausoleil -- to put the police off of the trail of  
21 Bobby Beausoleil. If there was a killing similar to the  
22 one of Gary Hinman, then -- or several, then the police  
23 would see that they had the wrong man in jail and let Bobby  
24 go. And it was an act of loyalty, proving that we loved our  
25 quote-unquote "brother" enough to do anything to get him

1 out of jail.

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, what had been  
3 written on the wall in Gary Hinman's house?

4 INMATE ATKINS: I don't know. I didn't write it.  
5 And I don't remember what was written. I just know -- the  
6 only thing that I remember specifically that I heard Bobby  
7 say he did was put a print, like a paw print, on the wall  
8 in Gary Hinman's house. But I don't remember if there was  
9 anything written. I was outside when that happened.

10 Also, Mr. Kay says that we went back in when  
11 we heard Gary making noises. And that's not true. Bobby  
12 Beausoleil was the only one who went back inside. Mary  
13 and I stayed outside.

14 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Did you -- did you go back  
15 to the ranch and tell them that you had killed Gary Hinman?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Everybody was asleep, and I laid  
17 down next to -- Ella Bailey, I believe, was her name -- and  
18 I whispered to Ella Bailey. She had asked me what  
19 happened. Leslie Van Houten was, I think, in a sleeping  
20 bag next to Ella, and I whispered to Ella Bailey that we  
21 had killed him. I do not remember laughing. I may have,  
22 but I do not remember laughing. And the next day -- Ella  
23 was also friends with Gary Hinman. The next day, Ella was  
24 gone from the ranch. She left.

25 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, did you take any drugs

1 during the time of the Hinman incident?

2 INMATE ATKINS: I didn't specifically take any  
3 narcotics and then go. But I had been on drugs continually.  
4 I do not remember taking any specific drugs at the Hinman,  
5 but I did ingest -- not through pills, but I snorted -- a  
6 combination of methedrine and cocaine. Tex Watson and I  
7 had a stash that, again, nobody else knew about but Tex and  
8 I. And he and I snorted this methedrine and cocaine  
9 concoction before we got in the car and drove to the Tate  
10 house. This is corroborated, also, in Tex Watson's book.

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: You took from this stash  
12 before you went?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Before we went. And we had been  
14 snorting it continually for about a week. We had had a  
15 good amount of it. We had dealt some drugs. We had  
16 dealt this drug from a man that lived in a ranch across  
17 from Spahn's Ranch and up a hill. And we had been partying  
18 up at his house. And we had bought this from him.

19 And Tex and I, again, were the only two that knew  
20 about it. I kept it between two slats of boards in the --  
21 at Spahn's Ranch and underneath old George Spahn's house.  
22 And he had told me to go get it. And I went and got it  
23 for us, and we snorted it. And then, I took it and put it  
24 back when we got in the car to go to the Tate house.

25 The next night, at the La Blancas, again I went

1 and got the drugs and again Tex and I snorted it. And then,  
2 I stashed it, and then we got in the car to go to the  
3 La Blancas. This did not come out in the trial, because  
4 to the best of my knowledge my reasoning was I wanted to  
5 show that I was doing this because I was that tough a person  
6 and that I didn't need any help from drugs.

7 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: When did you read about the  
8 newspaper -- or read the newspaper accounts of the Tate  
9 murders?

10 INMATE ATKINS: I never did read newspaper  
11 accounts. I saw it on television the next morning.

12 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: The next morning?

13 INMATE ATKINS: The next morning. Oh, about --  
14 by morning, for me, the morning then was anywhere between  
15 eleven and two o'clock in the afternoon, because I had  
16 slept after I had fainted. I don't know long how I slept  
17 thereafter. It was awhile. It may have been like the  
18 afternoon news.

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And what time did you go  
20 out in the car?

21 INMATE ATKINS: That day?

22 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Yes.

23 INMATE ATKINS: To the La Blancas?

24 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Yes.

25 INMATE ATKINS: I don't know. I know it was after

1 dark.

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: It was after dark?

3 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

4 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Did you read Watson's  
5 book since your last hearing?

6 INMATE ATKINS: It has come out, I think, since  
7 my last hearing. And I didn't actually read the whole  
8 book, because a lot of it dealt with the case. And I like  
9 not to think about the case, but I wanted to read about  
10 what happened to him since he had been in prison. I have  
11 the book in my room.

12 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you believe that what  
13 has happened to him is the same thing that has happened  
14 to you?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: To the same degree?

17 INMATE ATKINS: I don't know. I -- I've heard  
18 about him and what he's been doing. He has much more  
19 liberty to share what has happened to him than I do. I  
20 know that he is very, very much involved in the ministry  
21 and becoming ordained and attending Bible College  
22 correspondence. And I am not seeking ordination or a degree  
23 in theology.

24 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you also wrote a  
25 book?

1 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. It was published in 1977.

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And is that similar in  
3 content?

4 INMATE ATKINS: They are almost -- everything I  
5 said in my book and everything that Tex Watson said in his  
6 book about specifics in the crime and facts in the crime  
7 corroborate each other. And the only difference is I'm  
8 telling from my perspective and my point of view what I did,  
9 where I was at in my head. And Charles Watson is telling  
10 from his perspective and his point of view where he was at  
11 for what he did. So, they are two separate individual  
12 people telling about the same situation, same circumstances.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And you say that in  
14 Charles Watson's book he says that he was the aggressor and  
15 the person who actually killed everyone in the Tate house?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

17 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And everyone in the  
18 La Bianca house?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. Again, I want to emphasize  
20 I have not been in contact with Charles Watson. My  
21 counselor can verify that. The records in the institution  
22 between CIM and California Men's Colony, show that there has  
23 been no correspondence and no communication at all between  
24 us.

25 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Nothing further.

1 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. It was not your  
2 understanding that the purpose of these murders was to cause  
3 a race war then?

4 INMATE ATKINS: That was a reaction, an outcome  
5 of the crimes. There is a law of cause and effect in  
6 operation in natural things. And to say that it was  
7 specifically a race war, specifically to get Bobby out of  
8 jail, specifically to rob to get some dune buggies,  
9 specifically to do any one specific thing, it was not for  
10 any one specific thing. The ultimate theory which was  
11 brought out in court was that all of -- everything about  
12 the Charles Manson family was for this specific purpose.

13 And I don't believe that any of us logically  
14 sat and reasoned, "We will do this and this and this, and  
15 the end result of these factors will be this race war."  
16 It all seemed to tumble out of mass confusion into this  
17 theory which was presented as a motive during the trials.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. At any one of  
19 the crimes did you personally do anything to make them look  
20 similar to each other?

21 INMATE ATKINS: Did I personally do anything?

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Uh-huh.

23 INMATE ATKINS: The only personal thing that I  
24 did was write the word "Pig" on the door of Sharon  
25 Tate's home. Because I was told to write something on the

1 door because there was something on the wall in blood in  
2 Gary Hinman's house.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Did you know what was  
4 on the wall at Hinman's?

5 INMATE ATKINS: All I knew was that there was a  
6 paw print or what appeared to be a paw print.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Fine. Then --

8 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: One question.

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay.

10 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: You mentioned a few  
11 minutes ago that the facts regarding the crime in your  
12 book and in Tex Watson's book were similar. So, is it safe  
13 to assume, then, that in your book you admitted to actually  
14 participating in the murders or killings of Sharon Tate  
15 and the other victims?

16 INMATE ATKINS: No. I was at the house of  
17 Sharon Tate. I was at the house of Gary Hinman. But I did  
18 not actually kill anyone.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. I'm not asking you  
20 that. I'm asking you if in your book -- what was indicated  
21 in your book?

22 INMATE ATKINS: In the book. Oh, yes. Oh, yes.  
23 I said everything that happened to the best of my  
24 recollection.

25 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: But in the book did you

1 actually admit that you killed Sharon Tate, as you did --

2 INMATE ATKINS: No.

3 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: You did not?

4 INMATE ATKINS: No, I did not.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: I think we'll take a  
7 five-minute recess and be right back. The time is 12:09.

8 (Thereupon a brief recess was taken.)

9 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. The time is 12:14.

10 We will call the hearing back to order. All those persons  
11 that were previously present are here again.

12 We will go on to the next phase, which will be  
13 your prior criminal history, arrests, and convictions.

14 And these things will be before your conviction here.

15 I'd like you to help me out a little bit, because some of  
16 them are kind of vague. They are taken, basically, from  
17 your CII rap sheet.

18 The first one was an arrest in 1966 for possession  
19 of a concealed weapon and receiving stolen property. They  
20 have no disposition. What I'd like to know is just a  
21 little bit about this. What was the concealed weapon?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, it was a gun.

23 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: And was that what they  
24 thought was stolen, or it was stolen?

25 INMATE ATKINS: No.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What was the receiving stolen property?

INMATE ATKINS: I'm sorry. Yes, the gun was stolen. The receiving stolen property was camping equipment, and I believe I was also arrested for the grand -- Dyer Act, grand theft auto. And those charges were dropped.

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Now, there was no disposition on this one I just mentioned. And then, a few weeks later, you were arrested for the Dyer Act, which is a stolen car?

INMATE ATKINS: Right. Right.

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: And was transferred to Santa Clara County.

INMATE ATKINS: Yes. I received, I think, a prison sentence that was suspended -- I don't remember what it was -- with three years probation.

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. You were convicted, then, of the Dyer Act, or auto theft, something like that?

INMATE ATKINS: I think so. It's been so long, I honestly don't remember.

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Then it says --

INMATE ATKINS: All I know is that the judge told me it was suspended and I could go home.

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Then, in April of

1 1960, you were arrested along with ten others for producing  
2 a driver's license that was fictitiously and fraudulently  
3 prepared.

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What was that?

6 INMATE ATKINS: It was a driver's license that  
7 was a false i.d.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Was it one you were  
9 using?

10 INMATE ATKINS: It was one that I was using, yes.  
11 Each person that was arrested had a phoney i.d.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Were these people part  
13 of the Manson group?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: All of them, or just --

16 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What was the disposition  
18 on that?

19 INMATE ATKINS: I think we got one day in jail.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Did you pay a fine?

21 INMATE ATKINS: I don't remember.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. It says here that  
23 it was -- you plead guilty and paid a fine.

24 INMATE ATKINS: That may be. I don't remember.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. About two months

1 later you were arrested and plead guilty to possession of  
2 marijuana.

3 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

4 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay.

5 INMATE ATKINS: I was up in Mendocino with four  
6 other women and one baby. And we were arrested for  
7 possession of marijuana and LSD.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How old were you then,  
9 about?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Twenty.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Twenty years old?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Nineteen. Between 19 and 20.  
13 I don't remember, because I do not remember the dates. I  
14 know I was pregnant, and my son was born when I was 20 --  
15 20. So, I was in my 20's.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Then, in  
17 August of '69, you were arrested for an auto theft again.  
18 What happened on that?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Charges were dropped.

20 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Whose car was that?

21 INMATE ATKINS: It was -- I don't remember. All  
22 I know is they said that the police department said that a  
23 group of us picked up a Volkswagen and carried it from  
24 downtown Chatsworth up to Spann's Ranch. And they came in  
25 and arrested everybody on the ranch for auto theft. There

1 was no car. That's why the charges were dropped.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Then, three months later,  
3 you were arrested in Independence for another auto theft.

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. That was for dune buggies.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: You were stealing  
6 dune buggies then?

7 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: That one was dropped  
9 also?

10 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Why was that?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, because I was being taken to  
13 L.A. for suspicion of murder.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: That's the reason then?

15 INMATE ATKINS: I believe so. They didn't tell  
16 me why they dropped the charges.

17 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. And then, these  
18 auto thefts appear to be kind of in connection with the  
19 overall plan to get some dune buggies.

20 INMATE ATKINS: To be out in the desert. Charlie  
21 did want to be out in the desert.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Where would that be?  
23 What desert?

24 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, ~~Ray~~ Ray would know. All I  
25 know it was Barker Ranch, Golar Wash area. Those are the

1 only names I can --

2 MR. KAY: Death Valley.

3 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Is the Death Valley

4 area?

5 INMATE ATKINS: Death Valley.

6 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How many people would  
7 you say there were overall in the group they refer to as  
8 the family?

9 INMATE ATKINS: At the time of the crime, or  
10 through the years?

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: At the time of the  
12 crime.

13 INMATE ATKINS: At the time of the crime, oh,  
14 I don't know. Fifteen, twenty, I think. I don't know.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How many males?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Tex, Bruce, Charlie, Steve  
17 Grogan, maybe six, seven.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Panel? Do you  
19 have any questions regarding her prior arrests?

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: No.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Miss Collier?

22 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: No.

23 MR. KAY: Could I just say one thing about one  
24 of the prior arrests?

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Sure.

1 MR. KAY: It's been a long time, but if my  
2 memory serves me right at the penalty phase of the trial on  
3 this arrest in Oregon an Oregon policeman, a state trooper,  
4 came down and testified in Miss Atkins' penalty phase. He  
5 arrested her on this auto theft charge when she was with  
6 the two gentlemen. And what I'm not clear on now is whether  
7 she had the gun on her or it was close to her. But she  
8 made a statement to the policeman that -- and this is what  
9 I'm not sure of -- either, "You were lucky that I couldn't  
10 get to the gun," or, "You were lucky that the gun wasn't  
11 loaded, because I would have killed you."

12 INMATE ATKINS: Would you like me to clarify  
13 what?

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Sure.

15 MR. KAY: Okay.

16 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I did say something to the  
17 officer. And I told him, to the best of my recollection,  
18 "I should have killed you."

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Was the gun loaded?

20 INMATE ATKINS: The gun -- the gun was loaded,  
21 and it was on my person. It was tucked underneath. It was  
22 in my shorts. I had a pair of shorts on and a T-shirt. And  
23 when they searched me, they found the gun. And then, they  
24 placed us on the cement, on the pavement. It was in the  
25 car, when I was sitting next to my boyfriend, and I made

1 that statement to the officer.

2 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Why did you make that  
3 statement; do you recall?

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. To be tough.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Just to appear tough,  
6 or did you really mean it?

7 INMATE ATKINS: No, to appear tough. Um, I  
8 fancied myself as a Ma Barker image. And these two  
9 gentlemen were both ex-convicts. I was very, very much --  
10 or thought I was very, very much in love with one of them  
11 and did not know that they were ex-convicts until after  
12 I was involved with them, until after I knew the car was  
13 stolen.

14 When I found out the car was stolen, not my  
15 boyfriend at the time, Al Sund, but Cliff Talliaferro was  
16 the other gentleman, he stopped the car, and he told me  
17 that I could get out and they'd put all my belongings on  
18 the road. And I could hitchhike back home and take a  
19 chance on being shot in the back, because I knew too much.  
20 Or, I could stay with them and go on. So, I decided that  
21 my best bet was to stay with them and go on.

22 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. No further  
23 questions, panel?

24 (No response.)

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Then we'll go

1 on to the next phase, your institutional adjustment, and  
2 Mr. De Leon will handle that.

3 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Have you participated in  
4 any self-help programs since you have been in the  
5 institution for antinarcotic abuse of, you know --

6 INMATE ATKINS: I've not been allowed to  
7 participate in AA or in any programs that are within the  
8 institution orientated in that direction. My programming  
9 has been extremely limited. What I have been allowed to do  
10 has been very, very limited.

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Have you upgraded your  
12 education?

13 INMATE ATKINS: I have attempted to, and I have  
14 taken some college courses, yes.

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you have your high  
16 school diploma now?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

18 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: When did you get that?

19 INMATE ATKINS: 1974.

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are you -- when was the  
21 last time you took any medication?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, it's been quite awhile, and  
23 it was probably an aspirin. I'm not on any medication. Oh,  
24 no. Excuse me. I had -- I was on Vallium. The chief  
25 psychiatrist and the chief medical officer, Dr. Woodruff and

1 Dr. Roh, consulted about it because of the condition of  
 2 hypoglycemia being present and decided that many of my  
 3 fainting spells were due to stress inducement, which is  
 4 also part of the disorder of hypoglycemia. They thought  
 5 that maybe if they put me on a mild tranquilizer that  
 6 would reduce the stress and keep my blood sugar at an even  
 7 level. So, I was on Valium for about two weeks, and then  
 8 Dr. Roh decided it was best that I not be on any  
 9 tranquilizers and took me off it. And this was about  
 10 three -- two months ago? When did Dr. Roh see me?

11 MR. VASQUEZ: A couple months ago.

12 INMATE ATKINS: About two months ago.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, have you read your  
 14 your psych reports?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you know what a  
 17 passive-aggressive personality is?

18 INMATE ATKINS: I don't know what its technical  
 19 term is, no. I don't know what it specifically means. But  
 20 I do know what the words passive and aggressive mean, but  
 21 I don't know in what context you're using them.

22 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I noticed back in your  
 23 documentation, and it's some years ago, somebody made the  
 24 remark that you were -- it was on July 27th of '75 -- that  
 25 you were changing from one God to another. And I think

1 your conversion was actually in September of '74.

2 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

3 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And I believe you had an  
4 answer for that. Do you remember what was it that answer  
5 was?

6 INMATE ATKINS: I know what my answer is today.  
7 It may be the same one I had in '76, that I traded the  
8 false for the real.

9 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you think that they  
10 are both -- that the other was extreme?

11 INMATE ATKINS: Extremely extreme.

12 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you feel that your  
13 current beliefs are moderate or extreme or adequate?

14 INMATE ATKINS: They seem to be very adequate  
15 for me. They -- I have been called an extremist. I know  
16 that my personality makeup is when I go into something I  
17 go into it all the way. And my conversion to Christianity  
18 is whole-hearted commitment to Jesus Christ. Now, if that's  
19 extreme, then so be it, but --

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you know, you're --  
21 I remember Mr. Work was your associate in that book.

22 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. He was my business  
23 manager during the writing of the book.

24 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Was a profit every  
25 realized from that book?

1           INMATE ATKINS: Did the profit ever come in?  
2 I do not -- I did not receive any of the profit for it.  
3 No, the profit has been and is being used presently in a  
4 ministry called New Life Foundation. I am not in contact  
5 with these people at the present time. But the last bank  
6 statement that I saw did show that there were profits  
7 coming in and did show that the profits were going to the  
8 things that they said they were going to go to -- to  
9 prison ministries, to helping people get their lives  
10 straightened out, and reaching people with the Gospel of  
11 Jesus Christ.

12           BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Who is the publisher of  
13 the book?

14           INMATE ATKINS: Dan Malachek of Logos  
15 International.

16           BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Who is the publisher of  
17 Mr. Watson's book?

18           INMATE ATKINS: I believe Chaplin Ray. I'm not  
19 sure what publishing company they used.

20           BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: What was the title of  
21 your book?

22           INMATE ATKINS: Child of Satan, Child of God.

23           BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: What was the title of  
24 Mr. Watson's book?

25           INMATE ATKINS: Will you Die For Me?

1 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you consider your  
2 personality explosive?

3 INMATE ATKINS: No, not at the present.

4 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: You do not become angry  
5 easily?

6 INMATE ATKINS: No. I'm not easily provoked.

7 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Pardon me. When facing  
8 stress, do you react to that?

9 INMATE ATKINS: I try to respond instead of  
10 react.

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are you still working as  
12 a typist?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

14 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: How much do you earn on  
15 that?

16 INMATE ATKINS: Fourteen dollars a month.

17 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Fourteen dollars a month?

18 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Have you saved any money?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, my account is -- I have more  
21 than enough for my needs here. So, if that's saving money,  
22 I don't blunder my money. I spend it wisely.

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you have over \$500?

24 INMATE ATKINS: No. I have over a hundred,  
25 though.

1 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are you still taking  
2 business courses? You were taking business courses.

3 INMATE ATKINS: I was taking business courses.  
4 I have not been allowed to take business courses or class  
5 courses due to the revocation of my destination pass, which  
6 was just returned last month, or the month before.

7 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: You don't have a  
8 destination pass any more?

9 INMATE ATKINS: I do, but when I was at the Board  
10 last year, when I was here last year, I walked back into my  
11 cottage, into PTU, and I was asked to give my destination  
12 pass to my counselor and to Mr. Procnier.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And --

14 INMATE ATKINS: And I did not receive it back  
15 until about a month ago. Mr. Vasquez, last month?

16 MR. VASQUEZ: I believe so, a month, month-and-a-  
17 half ago.

18 INMATE ATKINS: Last month it was returned to me.

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: What was the reason you  
20 were told that your destination pass was taken away?

21 INMATE ATKINS: Because I did not receive a  
22 parole date.

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And can you expound on  
24 that?

25 INMATE ATKINS: That's what was told to me. My

1 figuring is that I suddenly, again, became a high-security  
 2 risk and that Mr. Proconier decided to pull my pass to see  
 3 if I was going to -- how I was going to handle not getting  
 4 a parole date. Was I going to go off? Was I going to  
 5 attempt to escape? Or was I -- how was I going to handle  
 6 it? And I very willingly and gladly handed them my  
 7 destination pass that afternoon and sat on it, because I  
 8 knew where I was standing. And it would just take time  
 9 for the other people to see that I was not going to attempt  
 10 to go over a fence, nor was I going to blow up or be angry  
 11 which -- and that prevented me from applying for any school  
 12 classes or going back to school in any manner.

13 I had -- went back 90 days after my pass was  
 14 revoked and asked for it. And my counselor had recommended  
 15 it to people in my cottage. My work supervisor, the  
 16 lieutenant, everybody said that my destination pass, or  
 17 green pass, should be returned to me. I went to the Inmate  
 18 Classification Committee with that recommendation, and the  
 19 Inmate Classification Committee turned me down.

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Do you think that being  
 21 on mainline status or semi -- pardon me, not mainline  
 22 status, but being in -- having campus status or having  
 23 liberties such as a destination pass, whatever, assist in  
 24 preparing you for release?

25 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, it could, if I were really

1 given responsibilities without threats of having the  
2 responsibilities pulled from me if I did anything that  
3 seemed underhanded, or might appear to be an incident. I  
4 have been told by those in the administration that my  
5 situation in this institution is that if I am any place  
6 where it may appear as though an incident may occur because  
7 of my presence in being there, I will not be allowed to be  
8 there, because they do not want any incident reports or any  
9 incidents coming down with me being involved. That means  
10 that I could be a victim of somebody else's trouble. I  
11 could be set up. I could be actually involved in something  
12 myself, innocently, and an incident may occur. And it may  
13 get to the Superintendent, and the Superintendent doesn't  
14 want to hear my name mentioned.

15 Therefore, I am very, very, very much restricted  
16 from taking any responsibilities which would prepare me to  
17 go on the streets. Every time I step out of the unit to go  
18 to campus, I must inform the staff of where I'm going. I  
19 can go to three different places. I can attend the  
20 auditorium activities on weekends or during the week. I  
21 can attend church on Sunday. And I can walk to the canteen.

22 When I reach my destination, the staff there must  
23 call the staff in my cottage and inform them that I have  
24 arrived. When I leave that destination to return, the  
25 staff must then call my cottage again, and tell them that I

1 am on my way back, which gives me no room for interaction  
2 with other people. I must come and go almost without  
3 speaking to anybody. And because if I do -- I'm not  
4 motivated by this fear. This is not my fear. I do not  
5 move and operate in fear. But I am aware that there is  
6 fear of an incident surrounding me.

7 And so, I must be careful as to who I talk to,  
8 what I say, lest it be understood -- misunderstood and  
9 represented back to the administration as though I am  
10 doing something felonious or illegal or an incident may  
11 occur from it. And if you aren't sufficiently confused  
12 by now, you can imagine how I have to deal with that.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Is that substantially  
14 correct, Mr. Vasquez?

15 MR. VASQUEZ: Correct.

16 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are there other persons  
17 that have the same status as Miss Atkins, that have the  
18 same restrictions?

19 MR. VASQUEZ: Yes, there are.

20 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, it says, you know,  
21 you mentioned church and special events on campus. What  
22 is large group?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Large group is the group of all  
24 inmates. It's mandatory. We must be there. Every woman  
25 in the PTU proper -- that's the main group of women in

1 PTU -- get together on Monday afternoons at 2:30 to discuss  
2 informative -- it's an informative group. It is not a  
3 therapeutic group. It's to inform us of new policies, of  
4 policies that are being changed, or privileges that are  
5 going to be given to us, or privileges that are going to be  
6 taken away from us for whatever variety of reasons that may  
7 occur.

8 If there is any particular incident in the unit  
9 involving any small group of women, then we have smaller  
10 groups to try to work those out. And my participation in  
11 those has been, in the past, to be an objective, stabilizing  
12 observer.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you know, Dr. Roh,  
14 in his report of 5/9/78, says your violence potential is  
15 average unless influenced by drugs or alcohol. Now, you  
16 know, you've mentioned critics of your conversion or born-  
17 again Christianity --

18 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: -- who have mentioned and  
20 as often brought out by individuals or critics, that one  
21 extreme is replaced by another extreme. If, you know, in --  
22 outside of the institution, in a free society, do you have  
23 any impression of the difficulties that will be facing you  
24 or the temptations that will be facing you, the possibility  
25 of rejecting your new-found beliefs and accepting others,

1 or reverting to the use of alcohol or drugs?

2 INMATE ATKINS: Do I see that as a temptation  
3 for me, or am I aware that that could be? I am aware that  
4 that very well could be. As with anybody who has a belief,  
5 there is a constant barrage of different inputs and  
6 philosophies that are prevalent in the world today. I am  
7 quite content with my Christianity, with Christianity, and  
8 I'm not looking for anything else.

9 I do not believe with my whole heart, though --  
10 I can't give you any guaranties. Guaranties are just not  
11 possible. Life is not -- we have no guaranties in life.  
12 But I do not need drugs. I do not need alcohol. I do not  
13 need anything other than Jesus Christ as my sustaining  
14 bulwark to take me through this life, in here or out there.  
15 That's to the best of my understanding and ability to say  
16 from the position I am in now.

17 I know the devastating effects of drugs and  
18 alcohol. I lived with alcoholism all my life as a child.  
19 I experienced the devastation and destruction of drugs.  
20 And it was not something that I wish to participate in  
21 again. I am seeking positive ways to live, and I've found  
22 that the most positive for myself is Christianity.

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you have no  
24 disciplinary documentation, according to the one report.  
25 But, of course, we know that you do have the one

1 disciplinary for making that phone call.

2 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

3 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: That was referred to as  
4 the "Praise-the-Lord phone call" on 12/13/77.

5 INMATE ATKINS: Is that what it's commonly  
6 referred to?

7 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I saw that on the  
8 documentation. You were found guilty and given a 115 for  
9 two unauthorized phone calls. And the phone calls --

10 INMATE ATKINS: For two? I thought that was  
11 only for one unauthorized.

12 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Well, I saw in the  
13 documentation it said there were two unauthorized phone  
14 calls at the same time, I believe. Did you make two phone  
15 calls, or only one?

16 INMATE ATKINS: No, only one.

17 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And were these  
18 rebroadcast?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. One was broadcast for  
20 several months.

21 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: On television and radio?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, on television. I don't know  
23 about radio.

24 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Then your phone privileges  
25 were taken away?

1 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, for 31 days while there was  
2 an investigation going on as to did I make the phone call,  
3 who it was to, what was it about, and the institution did  
4 an investigation. And doing their investigation takes  
5 time and paperwork.

6 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: It was a long-distance,  
7 collect call to --

8 INMATE ATKINS: Collect call to Jim Baker in  
9 Charlotte, North Carolina.

10 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are you allowed to make  
11 those phone calls?

12 INMATE ATKINS: Those type of phone calls? No.  
13 And I would not, without first obtaining prior permission.

14 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are controls used,  
15 Mr. Vasquez, to restrict long-distance telephone calls  
16 or long-distance collect calls?

17 MR. VASQUEZ: No. Policy is that they are  
18 allowed to make long-distance phone calls or local phone  
19 calls as long as they are collect or third party agrees  
20 to pay the charges. We do monitor them to make sure that  
21 no illegal information or security to the institution is  
22 in --

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Well, what is the  
24 violation? When the broadcaster rebroadcasts, or a person  
25 gives messages, or is that --

1 MR. VASQUEZ: That is a violation. Basically,  
2 the phone situation was set up so that they could maintain  
3 contact with close friends or family. And we hope that --  
4 our expectations are that they utilize the phone calls for  
5 such purposes.

6 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, recently, in recent  
7 years, Miss Atkins, you have had no -- thank you,  
8 Mr. Vasquez -- you have had no academic upgrading, no  
9 vocational upgrading.

10 INMATE ATKINS: I have had two semesters of  
11 college typing. I have had Typing I and Typing II in  
12 college. And I was beginning to take Shorthand I and  
13 Business English when I was told by the Superintendent I  
14 was not going to be allowed to continue my education.

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And why was that, because  
16 of your status?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Um, there were some discrepancies  
18 about my pass and what I was doing on my pass and what I  
19 wasn't doing on my pass. And she had heard from staff  
20 members that I was not living up to the agreement  
21 surrounding my green pass. This was in 1976-77.

22 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I notice --

23 INMATE ATKINS: Since '77, I have not been able  
24 to take any classes.

25 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I notice, possibly in

1 relation to that, that there were a couple of chronos where  
2 the inmates were holding hands, and you said they were  
3 praying?

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. There were two women, three  
5 women, living next door to me. And one girl was very  
6 distraught over a suit against her children. And she had  
7 come and asked me if I would pray with them to alleviate  
8 her apprehension and fear and to pray for her children so  
9 that she would not lose her children. So, I went into the  
10 room to pray with them, and the door -- the violation was  
11 not the holding hands. The violation was the door. The  
12 rule, in all cottages, is that there are to be no more than  
13 four women in a room. And when there is more than one  
14 woman in the room, the door is supposed to be open and  
15 flush against the wall. Well, there was a lot of commotion  
16 in the hall, and I do not like to pray in public and make  
17 a spectacle of prayer. So, I very quietly, with the other  
18 three women, stood up and I closed the door. And we then  
19 proceeded to pray in privacy.

20 It was at that time one of the staff came down  
21 and opened the door and said, "What are you doing?" He  
22 saw us holding hands. I looked up, and I said -- it could  
23 have been any one of us that had said it -- and I said,  
24 "We are praying."

25 And he said, "Okay. As soon as you're finished,

1 I want to talk to you." And that's -- when we were  
2 finished, we all went up and talked to him. And he said  
3 he was going to document us for being in the room and  
4 holding hands and praying with the door closed.

5 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Have you converted other  
6 inmates?

7 INMATE ATKINS: I don't convert anybody. There  
8 are people who, through my sharing the love of Jesus, have  
9 sought Christ on their own. And I have helped others to  
10 sort of earmark scriptures. When they want to know where  
11 something is in the Bible, I will share with them where it  
12 is in the Bible.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Is that a violation?

MR. VASQUEZ: No, that is not.

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you're engaged in  
16 occupational therapy?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

18 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are you going to marry  
19 Michael Holbrook?

20 INMATE ATKINS: I sure hope so.

21 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And how is that proceeding?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Well, my appeal is on the second  
23 level in the institution. And I have been, in essence, told  
24 by the Superintendent I could get married but I could  
25 never -- forget about having conjugal visits. That, to me,

1 is ludicrous. It's not a wedding. It's a ceremony. It's  
2 a legal piece of paper.

3 So, I am now fighting through the appeals system  
4 here in the institution for the right to have my marriage  
5 consummated. So, it's in a state of appeal right now.\*

6 I will not go through with the ceremony without the  
7 guaranty of consummation.

8 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Any comments on that,  
9 Mr. Vasquez?

10 MR. VASQUEZ: No. No, sir.

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Are you involved in  
12 premarital counseling?

13 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. And I'm reading everything  
14 I can get my hands on about marriage. I'm not going into  
15 this thing lightly.

16 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Miss Botello, any comments?

17 MS. BOTELLO: No comments.

18 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: You're on a high-protein  
19 diet because of hypoglycemia?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Yes. I'd like to say that  
21 Dr. Baje has taken me off the high-protein diet, because  
22 he says according to his records I do not have  
23 hypoglycemia. And that's a direct disagreement with two  
24 doctors who have said I do have it. And so, he's taken  
25 me off the high-protein diet, but I continue to maintain

1 what I know to be a high-protein diet from what is  
2 presented on the line.

3 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, you have had some  
4 critical chronos, one by Monine Funk on 6/14/79, which is  
5 very recent.

6 INMATE ATKINS: I'd like Mr. Vasquez to address  
7 himself to that, because he told me that was going to be  
8 taken care of.

9 MR. VASQUEZ: May I see which chrono you're  
10 referring to? Is that the chrono --

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: It's not of a great deal  
12 of importance.

13 MR. VASQUEZ: Is that the chrono that states  
14 that she refused to do some typing?

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Yes. It's --

16 MR. VASQUEZ: Okay. Then I will clarify that.  
17 In my checking with the unit staff, it was determined that  
18 Susan, in fact, did not refuse to do the typing. She  
19 informed the relief lieutenant at that time what her  
20 instructions had been and asked her to verify what her  
21 instructions had been. And if, in fact, that relief  
22 lieutenant still wanted her to do the typing, she would  
23 do it. So, that chrono is in error, and I had requested  
24 Mrs. Funk to either write a corrected chrono or remove  
25 that from the file.

1 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: It's still here. Would  
2 you like to see it?

3 MR. VASQUEZ: No. I'm aware of the file, the  
4 contents.

5 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: You know, it isn't the  
6 content of the chrono.

7 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

8 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: It's -- that is of  
9 interest at least to this member. It would be understandable  
10 that in the course of events of any job-related task there  
11 would be times when not everyone would be entirely happy.  
12 There are many chronos in here attesting to your neatness,  
13 your good work, high quality work, your cooperation, many  
14 favorable chronos. But this is, you know, not positive.  
15 And it is merely to get your reaction to criticism that is  
16 of more concern to me.

17 MR. VASQUEZ: Mr. De Leon, excuse me. I must  
18 again clarify that that chrono would reflect that her  
19 attitude -- as I'm assuming is what you're speaking of,  
20 your concern -- and that is an inaccurate reflection of her  
21 attitude at the time. In my interview, and the staff  
22 members involved in my mind clarified it very clearly,  
23 that she did not have the type of attitude that that reflects,  
24 that she, in fact, did not refuse to do the typing.

25 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: All right. Thank you.

1 That clears it up. Now, in March you gave an inmate some  
2 earrings, and then I believe that inmate ended up stealing  
3 more jewelry from you?

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

5 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And you were admonished?

6 INMATE ATKINS: Do not give my personal property  
7 away.

8 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Yes, or create this  
9 temptation.

10 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Is that about what  
12 happened?

13 INMATE ATKINS: That's about it. That's what  
14 happened. I should have seen it coming, but I didn't.

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Sometimes it's amazing  
16 how these things --

17 INMATE ATKINS: Well, it's really ironic,  
18 because I felt -- I'm able to laugh about it. And I was  
19 able to laugh about it with the officer that wrote me up.  
20 I told him that I feel like somebody whose on the streets  
21 who happened to have left their house unlocked and went to  
22 the store. And when they got back, they were robbed. And  
23 when the police came to investigate, they gave them the  
24 ticket for leaving their door unlocked. And that's the way  
25 I felt about it.

1 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I was just thinking of  
2 putting the doughnuts too far in front where somebody  
3 grabs two doughnuts, and the person who puts them out there  
4 is admonished. That's understandable. Again, I only  
5 mention these things to get your reaction to that.

6 INMATE ATKINS: Sure.

7 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And I can certainly  
8 understand the staff's, you know, position in having, you  
9 know, or in discouraging, you know, that type of thing.

10 INMATE ATKINS: (Inmate nods head.)

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Now, again, I mentioned,  
12 you know, that same person has written you favorable  
13 chronos. And Mr. Burrell has written -- or Miss?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Miss Burrell.

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Correctional Officer  
16 Burrell has written you chronos for high-quality work.  
17 You have been praised as late as March the 12th, 1979, for,  
18 you know, being gifted in artwork, ceramicwork, leatherwork,  
19 woodwork, and that you engage in quite a bit of needlework.

20 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

21 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And you instruct others  
22 in this type of thing. Were you also an artist? Did you  
23 also do painting at one time?

24 INMATE ATKINS: No. No, that's something I  
25 would love to be able to do, but feel completely

1 inadequate to be able to do that.

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: There are also chronos  
3 for, you know, cooperation, working without supervision.  
4 Your last psychiatric report was not of a negativennature  
5 from Dr. Roh.

6 I go to the panel. Mr. Risen, do you have any  
7 questions?

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Just one. In 1973,  
9 Mary Brunner and Catherine Share attempted an escape.  
10 Wasn't Mary one of the Manson girls?

11 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

12 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Were you aware of the  
13 attempted escape before it happened?

14 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

15 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: You knew that she was  
16 going to escape?

17 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

18 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Did you do anything  
19 about it or --

20 INMATE ATKINS: I just kept my mouth shut.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Just kept your mouth  
22 shut. Did you try to dissuade her in any respect?

23 INMATE ATKINS: No. I just told her, when she  
24 asked me if I wanted to go, I told her, "no."

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Also there are some

1 indications in there that you allow yourself to be  
2 manipulated by others. Have you been able to do anything  
3 in here that would enable you to overcome that?

4 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What would that be?

6 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

7 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: What would that be?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, yes. Uh, to see it. And I  
9 do not allow myself to be manipulated. I have my beliefs,  
10 my moral standards. My value system at the present is  
11 probably about 180 degrees different than 90 percent of the  
12 women that I live with. And therefore, they don't attempt  
13 to manipulate me into doing anything.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Do they attempt to?

15 INMATE ATKINS: No.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How many girls --

17 INMATE ATKINS: My stand -- there are 40,  
18 approximately 35 to 40 women in my unit. And my stand as  
19 a Christian really sets me apart from my peers in that they  
20 know they cannot manipulate me into making hooch or hiding  
21 hooch or doing anything illegal. I find that I am much  
22 more of an influence in their lives in encouraging them to  
23 do what is right instead of doing what is wrong just by my  
24 mere living my lifestyle.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: How do the girls in

1 your unit feel about you personally and what you've done  
2 to get here?

3 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, most of the women in my  
4 cottage respect me for who I am today. They realize that  
5 I am not who I was. And I'm not yet what I'm going to be  
6 in the future. And I receive a great deal of respect from  
7 them.

8 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Do you think they fear  
9 you in any respect?

10 INMATE ATKINS: I don't. I don't receive that  
11 kind of vibration from them, no. And I don't feel that at  
12 all. Maybe Mr. Vasquez could speak to that.

13 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: No, I was just asking  
14 just you.

15 INMATE ATKINS: I don't feel that at all.

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Nothing further.

17 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Miss Collier?

18 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: No questions.

19 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: At this time, then, I  
20 would move to Mr. Kay for any closing -- for any statement  
21 on post-conviction factors.

22 MR. KAY: I don't have any comments in this area.

23 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Move back to the Chairman  
24 then.

25 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Do you have anything

1 'se that you'd like to let us know what you've done that  
2 has been covered that might be pertinent?

3 I don't feel like tooting my  
4 own horn. (Laughter.)

5 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Well, sometimes you  
6 have to.

7 INMATE ATKINS: Well, I think that the C file  
8 adequately reflects my behavior in the prison. And I just  
9 live the best Christian life I can live every day. And I'm  
10 a human, and I failed many times miserably. But I want to  
11 be the best Christian I can possibly be, here or out there,  
12 because that's what I know is right in my heart. It's not  
13 to impress anybody. I'm just very happy.

14 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Then we'll move  
15 to the next phase, your parole plans. That will be handled  
16 by Miss Collier.

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. What we'll discuss  
18 in this phase is in the event of parole where you would live,  
19 who you would live with, what your employment would be.  
20 What I'd like to talk about first is your training here at  
21 the institution. You are working now as a clerk typist?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Clerk typist.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Do you have a certificate?

24 INMATE ATKINS: No.

25 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: You don't have a

1 Certificate of Achievement?

2 INMATE ATKINS: I have my college grades, but  
3 that's not a certificate. I have no vocational training  
4 certificate to say I am qualified to do this or to do that.  
5 I have not been allowed to pursue any of those.

6 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, do you have  
7 any idea how many words a minute you type?

8 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, between 75 and 80 on a  
9 manual and can go as high as 90.

10 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Is that with mistakes  
11 or without mistakes?

12 INMATE ATKINS: With mistakes. Without errors,  
13 65 to 70.

14 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Any shorthand or anything  
15 like that, or just straight typing?

16 INMATE ATKINS: No, just straight typing.

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: There was some mention  
18 that either that you were interested in or somebody, one  
19 of the reports, mentioned that you were interested in  
20 fashion designing. Was that an interest that you --

21 INMATE ATKINS: Years ago.

22 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: But not recently?

23 INMATE ATKINS: No.

24 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: And you are working on  
25 the unit or in one of the staff offices?

1 INMATE ATKINS: I am working as the lieutenant's  
2 clerk on the second watch, and I type whatever they need for  
3 me to type -- 115's, disciplinaries, chronos, incident  
4 reports. Those are the main things that I type.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, with regard  
6 to where you would live, what plans -- I tell you what.  
7 Let me ask you the questions instead.

8 INMATE ATKINS: Okay.

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: There is a letter in here  
10 I think it's dated April 13th, 1976 -- from a John Word.

11 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Now, is this the same  
13 person that was mentioned as your business agent in regard  
14 to --

15 INMATE ATKINS: With the book, yes.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. What is your  
17 relationship or was your relationship with Mr. Work, and  
18 what is it now?

19 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, my relationship with him was  
20 he was my business manager. He was handling the footwork  
21 that was necessary to get the book to the publisher and get  
22 it published, get the writer out here. The contracts with  
23 him were releasing the remuneration for the book to the  
24 Foundation. And it was strictly business.

25 Once the book was published and the funds began

1 to come in, then there were a lot of -- a lot of talk  
2 between Mr. Work and myself about upon my release going  
3 into the field of ministry in the area of lay -- a lay  
4 woman's evangelistic ministry, obtaining permission from  
5 the Parole Department to go and be a guest speaker on  
6 college campuses and high schools, talk to kids in drug  
7 programs, share my testimony. And it was all very  
8 glamorous to my mind at that time.

9 And after the book was published, I decided  
10 that that was a little too much exploitation for me. I  
11 do not desire to be exploited, to be placed out in front  
12 as a circus exhibit, as before and after. And so, I  
13 withdrew, very slowly, my relationship from the Works.  
14 And I am not in contact with them at the present, though  
15 there are no bad feelings between us.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, in addition  
17 to him being your business agent, were there also some  
18 plans for you to -- if you were going to be paroled --  
19 to be paroled to the State of Tennessee and live with him?

20 INMATE ATKINS: Yes, that was the plan at the  
21 time.

22 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. How did you meet  
23 Mr. Work?

24 INMATE ATKINS: Mr. Work wrote me in reference  
25 to he had heard that I had become a Christian and asked me

1 what I thought about the possibility of sharing my  
2 testimony in the form of a book.

3 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Uh-huh.

4 INMATE ATKINS: And at the time, I believe I  
5 was very much influenced by my desire to share what had  
6 happened. It was still very, very new. And so, I  
7 responded with him and told him that I would be in prayer  
8 about writing such a book.

9 After a lot of prayer, a lot of thinking about  
10 it, I decided that if the door is opened for me to write  
11 a book, if there was a publisher who thought the story  
12 was worth writing and the institution would back me in it,  
13 and the institution would let it happen, that I would go  
14 ahead and write the book.

15 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: And did I understand you  
16 to say early on that you didn't know how much money had  
17 been realized from the sale of the book?

18 INMATE ATKINS: No.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Where did you say these  
20 monies were going?

21 INMATE ATKINS: The publishing company received  
22 its percentage.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Uh-huh.

24 INMATE ATKINS: And then 25 percent of the first  
25 25,000 copies sold and 12 percent thereafter have gone to

1 New Life Foundation.

2 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: So, you said that you no  
3 longer had a relationship with Mr. Work --

4 INMATE ATKINS: No.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Is that right?

6 INMATE ATKINS: No.

7 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. But doesn't he  
8 have something to do with New Life Foundation?

9 INMATE ATKINS: He is the president and founder  
10 of New Life Foundation. I am still on the Board of  
11 Directors of New Life Foundation, though I am not an  
12 active participant. I am in contact with the secretary  
13 of New Life Foundation, and she keeps me up to date as to  
14 what's going on in the ministry.

15 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: And none of these monies  
16 have come back to you?

17 INMATE ATKINS: No. No, I do not want or desire  
18 any of the money at all.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, a year later,  
20 a year later, there is a letter in here from Mr. and  
21 Mrs. -- how do you pronounce their last name?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Le Boeuf.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Le Boeuf. Okay. Would  
24 you tell me your relationship with them, how it started,  
25 and what your relationship presently is?

1           INMATE ATKINS: My relationship started with  
2 Mr. and Mrs. Le Boeuf about 1973. They wrote to me about  
3 Jesus Christ, and I would take their letters and throw  
4 them in the trash can. And they continued to send me a post  
5 card every now and then and send me Christian literature.

6           After I became a Christian in 1974, they  
7 continued periodically to send me literature and  
8 encouraging letters. I never responded. And then, I  
9 met a girl here named Carla Betencourt who knew Mr.  
10 and Mrs. Le Boeuf and told me that they were fine people,  
11 that they were good people, that they really cared about  
12 me, and that I ought to try writing them a letter.

13           So, I wrote them a letter, and they responded.  
14 And we found that our interests in Christianity were in the  
15 same area. I was not interested in being exploited. They  
16 were very concerned about the possibility of me being  
17 exploited by other Christians, well-meaning Christians even,  
18 and that they wanted to counsel me and encourage me to not  
19 allow myself to be used for any purpose other than what I  
20 knew and what ought to be the work of God in the area of  
21 exploitation. And they offered me a job --

22           BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Uh-huh.

23           INMATE ATKINS: -- working in their ministry  
24 as a secretary.

25           BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: And what was the name of

1 their ministry?

2 INMATE ATKINS: Prison Outreach Ministry.

3 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay.

4 INMATE ATKINS: And the job would be I would be  
5 working there and helping to coordinate programs for  
6 inmates coming out of prison and getting back into society.  
7 And I would just be almost a coordinator, a program  
8 coordinator, for ex-felons --

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Uh-huh.

10 INMATE ATKINS: -- and doing a lot of clerical  
11 work and helping in the ministry in whatever capacity I  
12 was needed.

13 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, what -- has  
14 that relationship terminated?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, I am still in contact with  
16 Mr. and Mrs. Le Boeuf, but they've moved their ministry  
17 to Missouri in the last year. In fact, in the last six  
18 months they've gone to Missouri. But I am not planning on  
19 paroling to Mr. and Mrs. Le Boeuf at this time. I do not  
20 wish to go to Missouri to be a part of their Prison  
21 Outreach.

22 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, who is --  
23 what is or what was your relationship with Rory --

24 INMATE ATKINS: Rory White. \*

25 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Rory White, yeah.

1 INMATE ATKINS: Rory White I've know for ten  
2 years, almost eleven years. It will be eleven years this  
3 coming January. I met him one afternoon when I had left  
4 Spahn's Ranch to go see a friend of mine in Laurel -- not  
5 Laurel Canyon, Topanga Canyon. I met him. We -- I stayed  
6 with him for four days. And from what he tells me, even in  
7 his letters today, that he wanted me to stay with him and  
8 not go back to Charlie. But he felt that Charlie's  
9 influence over me at the time, in 1969, January of 1969,  
10 was so strong that he could not compete with it. So, he  
11 told me to go back to Charlie and to get out of his life.

12 Then, when I was arrested in 1969 and brought to  
13 Sybil Brand Institute, in November a lawyer came to see me  
14 who Mr. White had hired to come see me for one afternoon to  
15 see if I needed any legal help. And then, from that time  
16 until the present day, Mr. White has been my continual  
17 friend and has come to see me as often as he's able to come  
18 see me.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Did y'all have any plans  
20 to get married, or had you talked about getting married?

21 INMATE ATKINS: Ironie that you should ask that.  
22 He had asked me. He had never asked me to get married in  
23 all the time that I had known him until December of 1977.  
24 He had known about my conversion to Christianity. And he,  
25 being a Jew, found it very difficult to receive. Also,

1 being a self-made mystic, counter-culture-type person, into  
2 drugs, found my Christianity to be very offensive to him.  
3 So, he left for about a year or two.

4 About two years I didn't hear from him for very  
5 much, very often, between '74 and '77. And in 1978, he  
6 came to visit me after he had gone through tremendous  
7 personal problems in his life. And he came and told me  
8 that he had also had an encounter with Jesus Christ one  
9 afternoon and given his heart to the Lord. And he came --  
10 oh, he must have been a Christian maybe three months. And  
11 all of a sudden he decided, after all this time, he was  
12 going to ask me to marry him.

13 It was during that period of time in my life I  
14 did not know whether it was God's will for me to ever marry  
15 anybody. And I was trying to decide whether I was going to  
16 remain single the rest of my life or get married. And so,  
17 being very careful with Mr. White on a spiritual level, as  
18 a new Christian, having gone through his exuberant,  
19 overjoyed new experience, I wanted not to be a stumbling  
20 block to him in his walk with Christ. So, I told him that  
21 I did not think it was God's will for us to marry. And I  
22 really did not think that it was God's will for us to get  
23 married. And told him that he would -- I felt that if he  
24 stayed -- he wanted to move down to the Chino area and visit  
25 me every two weeks and pick up where we left off in 1969.

1 And I told him that I did not think that was a good idea  
2 for him spiritually, because he would begin to look to me  
3 for spiritual strength. And I wanted him to look to Jesus  
4 for everything he needed in his walk with God.

5 So, he went to Hawaii. And he has been in  
6 Hawaii since 1977. When I wrote him last year and told him  
7 that I was going to marry Michael Holbrook, he wrote me  
8 back and told me he was very happy for me. And then, when  
9 I wrote him recently, within the last month-and-a-half and  
10 told him that I had set a wedding date and hopefully the  
11 institution would allow me to get married on this wedding  
12 date, he wrote me back and told me that he wished me all  
13 the happiness in the world, but that he wanted me to know  
14 that he was in love with me. And that really threw me,  
15 emotionally.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Tell me about  
17 Michael Holbrook. How long have you known him, and how  
18 did you meet him?

19 INMATE ATKINS: For four years I had been  
20 writing and corresponding with him.

21 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: How did you meet him?

22 INMATE ATKINS: Through letters.

23 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Well, who initiated --

24 INMATE ATKINS: He initiated the letters.

25 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: He just started writing

1 to you?

2 ~~INMATE~~ INMATE ATKINS: He started writing to me when he  
3 was in prison, and --

4 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Where was he in prison?

5 INMATE ATKINS: Colorado. He was in County Jail.  
6 He had been extradited from Nevada State Prison to face  
7 charges of armed robbery in Colorado. And while he was in  
8 County Jail facing those charges, upon his release, he  
9 began to write to me. It must have been a week to two  
10 weeks before his release that he began to write to me.  
11 And then, we corresponded as he became established in  
12 Denver, Colorado, in the community, and he got a job. And  
13 we actually didn't particularly -- were not romantically  
14 at all involved with each other. We were just sharing our  
15 Christian faith with one another.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: He's been born again?  
17 He's been converted also?

18 INMATE ATKINS: He's been -- yes. He's born  
19 again. He's a spiritful Christian man.

20 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Uh-huh.

21 INMATE ATKINS: And we stopped communicating in  
22 1978 -- '77, excuse me, the latter part of 1977, for about  
23 six months. He didn't write me, and I didn't write him.  
24 And I didn't miss him, and he didn't miss me, apparently.  
25 We had just seemed to come to a halt in our relationship.

1                   And then, in April of 1978, I can't explain why  
2 it happened, but I suddenly wanted to hear from Michael  
3 Holbrook. And it was a thought in passing, and I didn't  
4 know how to reach him. I didn't know where he lived. I  
5 had lost his address. And two weeks later, I received a  
6 letter from him. And so, we started communicating again.  
7 And it was at that time he asked me to call him on the  
8 phone. So, I started to call him on the phone, and there  
9 was just a very sweet relationship that seemed to be  
10 growing between the two of us spiritually.

11                   And it wasn't until actually March of this year,  
12 when he moved out from Denver, Colorado, to Laguna Beach  
13 and we began to visit that we became deeply, emotionally  
14 involved with each other.

15                   BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: He has been out to visit  
16 with you?

17                   INMATE ATKINS: Oh, yes, regularly.

18                   BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Is he employed? Does he  
19 work?

20                   INMATE ATKINS: Yes, he is employed.

21                   BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: What kind of job is he  
22 involved in?

23                   INMATE ATKINS: He has been working at the  
24 Laguna-Saddleback Community Hospital as an orderly. And  
25 he has been living in Laguna. And right now, he is

1 awaiting to be interviewed in a job-training school. It's  
2 some sort of school program in Costa Mesa. And he hopes to  
3 be able to get into the field of being trained for  
4 electronics, as an electronic engineer.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Now, until this  
6 relationship with Michael Holbrook, it seems to me that your  
7 parole plans -- and if I'm wrong, would you correct me --  
8 your parole plans centered around being involved in Outreach  
9 Ministry.

10 INMATE ATKINS: Outreach Ministry.

11 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Right.

12 INMATE ATKINS: Yes.

13 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: What's happened to all  
14 those plans now that you've met Mr. Holbrook?

15 INMATE ATKINS: Uh, well, prior to my meeting  
16 Michael, I knew that I would not be going to Prison Outreach  
17 Ministry, and I really had no parole plans.

18 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Maybe not to Prison  
19 Outreach Ministry, but to be involved.

20 INMATE ATKINS: To be involved in the ministry.

21 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Yes, to be involved. So,  
22 what's happening?

23 INMATE ATKINS: I would still like, in some  
24 capacity, to be involved in some type of ministry. I just  
25 could not tell you today what that is going to be. I don't

1 know if that might be teaching Sunday School to children.

2 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. But your emphasis  
3 does not seem to be centered on --

4 INMATE ATKINS: No.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: -- being involved,  
6 directly involved in the ministry --

7 INMATE ATKINS: No.

8 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: -- as you were less than  
9 a year ago. So, you've changed your mind about what you  
10 want to do if you are paroled.

11 INMATE ATKINS: I would like very, very much to  
12 be the wife of Mr. Holbrook. And that means everything  
13 that a wife is to a husband. I have no desires, and Michael  
14 does not have any desires, that should I be paroled, when I  
15 am paroled, to work for the first year, that I'm going to  
16 need that time, realistically, to adjust to the shock of  
17 stepping from here after how many years that's going to be  
18 into society. I'm going to need some time. I'm going to  
19 need some quiet time before I really determine if I'm going  
20 to go into a ministry, what that ministry is going to be,  
21 or even if I am going to work.

22 Michael does not want me to work. I do not  
23 necessarily want to work. If, after a month, after I am  
24 paroled, I feel that I need to do something with my time,  
25 then I would seek employment in the area of clerical work.

1 Now, that might be as a church secretary involved in some  
2 ministry in some capacity. Whatever type of work I do, I  
3 do want it to be involved in Christian ministry. I feel  
4 that I need to have the fellowship of other Christians.  
5 My work needs to be centered in the Christian field. I do  
6 not desire to go work in a secular office or a secular  
7 field. I am not geared to that. I would feel much more  
8 comfortable in working with Christians.

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Panel, do you have  
10 any questions?

11 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: No questions.

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLIER: Okay. Mr. Kay?

13 MR. KAY: Well, I read in the file that  
14 Miss Atkins intended to parole to Mr. Holbrook and marry  
15 him. So, I took the liberty of getting Mr. Holbrook's  
16 rap sheet, because I thought that the panel might be  
17 interested in looking at what his background was.

18 INMATE ATKINS: You may find out more about him  
19 than I know.

20 MR. KAY: Well --

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Have you ever met with  
22 him personally here at the prison?

23 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, yes. He comes to visit me  
24 regularly. In fact, he was here Wednesday, and he'll be  
25 here tomorrow.

1                   PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Is there anything else  
2 you'd like to say about your parole plans before we move  
3 on?

4                   INMATE ATKINS: No, not that I can think of.

5                   PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Mr. Kay?

6                   BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Pardon me. Do you have a  
7 copy of his background, Mr. Holbrook's?

8                   INMATE ATKINS: Have I ever seen his CII?  
9 No, I haven't. I would like to say this --

10                   MR. VASQUEZ: We are not -- excuse me. That is  
11 not permitted --

12                   INMATE ATKINS: That's not permitted.

13                   MR. VASQUEZ: -- without his signing a release of  
14 information waiver. Otherwise, we would be jeopardizing  
15 a possible lawsuit.

16                   INMATE ATKINS: I'd like to say this, that  
17 Mr. Kay, I don't know -- I do not know what Mr. Kay's  
18 intentions are in bringing this before the panel. But my  
19 feelings are in any relationship between two people each  
20 person has a past. And my relationship with Mr. Holbrook  
21 is not built upon his past. It's built upon the man that  
22 he is today.

23                   Certainly, I have made enough gross errors and  
24 bizarre acts in my past that I would not want him to  
25 measure my relationship with him based on my past. And I

1 do not judge him for his past failures. He has weaknesses.  
2 I have weaknesses. We both have strengths. And we hope  
3 that together we can both become better people with each  
4 other. And I believe that that's what marriage is about,  
5 two people.

6 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Well, my question was in  
7 regard to having the documentation to look at before the,  
8 you know --

9 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, no. And I would not -- I  
10 really would not want to look in his closet. That's his  
11 private, personal business. That happened before he came  
12 into my life. And if he desires to share things in his  
13 past -- he has shared many things in his past background  
14 with me -- that's not him. I'm not looking for skeletons  
15 in closets.

16 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: And when did he become a  
17 Christian?

18 INMATE ATKINS: He became a Christian when he  
19 was 19, but did not follow through in actively living his  
20 Christian life. He was not dedicated. He had a conversion  
21 experience, but did not actually become dedicated in serving  
22 the Lord until he was released from prison in Colorado,  
23 which was prior to our actually getting together. In fact,  
24 I think he said it was in the Colorado prison, while he was  
25 waiting on these other charges, that he made a commitment

1 to walk with the Lord.

2 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: So, you were aware of his  
3 prison background?

4 INMATE ATKINS: Oh, yes. I knew he was a  
5 prisoner when I wrote him. We had shared that. And I  
6 know why he was in prison, and I know pretty much what  
7 he's experienced when he was in there. We've talked about  
8 that many times.

9 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Very good.

10 INMATE ATKINS: I think, too, that I'd like to  
11 say this, that Michael's background and my background  
12 parallel in many, many areas, and that gives us a lot of  
13 understanding for each other whereas should I have been in  
14 love with a man who had never experienced prison, who had  
15 never experienced drugs, who had never experienced the  
16 street life, would find it very, very difficult to relate  
17 and associate and understand many of the things that go  
18 on inside me. And Michael has that understanding. And  
19 that gives us a much deeper bond between the two of us,  
20 and I understand him.

21 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: So, really, there is  
22 nothing new or surprising to you in the documentation of  
23 the CII records --

24 INMATE ATKINS: No, not at all.

25 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: -- the criminal records.

1 So, your plans now are to reside with him?

2 INMATE ATKINS: Should -- should I be allowed  
3 to marry him during my stay here in CIW, I would immediately  
4 parole to him. If I am prevented from marrying him in the  
5 institution, then upon my release, my pastor, Mr. and  
6 Mrs. Dan Pauly, have offered to open their home to me and  
7 allow me to stay there until the wedding ceremony. And  
8 then, I would marry Mr. Holbrook.

9 Michael says the day after, and I told him,  
10 "No, I need more time to prepare for a wedding than that."  
11 So, I'm looking, upon my release, to marry him, if I'm  
12 not married already.

13 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Some of the problem with  
14 the conjugal visits deals with his criminal background?

15 INMATE ATKINS: No. It deals with who I am in  
16 this institution and my case. I have been told that the --  
17 actually, the reasons that were written down on the denial  
18 were unspoken psychiatric concerns, which are completely  
19 contrary to every psychiatric evaluation I have ever had,  
20 which are completely contrary to my Board report and every  
21 chrono in my C file. There are no justifiable psychiatric  
22 concerns that I know of in my central file to justify  
23 denying me conjugal visits, which is why I have appealed  
24 the denial. And the CDC rules -- I think the number is  
25 3174 -- state that conjugal visits, family living unit

visits, are to be made available to inmates and their spouses.

Up until last week, there have been women in the Psychiatric Treatment Unit who are considered psychiatric patients -- that's their status -- have been allowed to have conjugal visits with their families. Other women have been allowed to get married within the institution and have conjugal visits on their wedding day with the Superintendent's approval. And these are women in the Psychiatric Treatment Unit.

And, as of last week, the Superintendent has decided that it has been an unwritten policy ever since she's been here that no women in PTU is ever to be allowed to have a conjugal visit. So now, the status for all women in my unit is nobody is allowed to have a conjugal visit.

BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I see. I have nothing further.

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. At this point we will go to Mr. Kay for a closing statement, and then you will have an opportunity to say something.

BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: May I interrupt for just one moment?

PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Sure.

BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I'm awfully sorry, but, you know, when we wrapped up the post-conviction, we did

1 not ask Mr. Vasquez if he had anything that he wanted to  
2 add to what had been related in regard to the institutional  
3 conduct or behavior or achievements of Miss Atkins.

4 MR. VASQUEZ: No, I believe that you covered it  
5 quite adequately on the chronos. I just wanted to make  
6 certain that that one chrono that reflected negative  
7 behavior on her or attitude, negative attitude on her part,  
8 was not an actuality.

9 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: I think it was cleared up.  
10 Thank you. I'm sorry.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Mr. Kay?

12 MR. KAY: I would ask the Board to find  
13 Miss Atkins unsuitable for parole for a number of reasons.  
14 One reason is we are talking about three separate incidents  
15 of murder that involved multiple victims.

16 We had the Gary Hinman murder on -- we'll put  
17 the date of his actual death at July 26th -- and  
18 participating in that murder, which was, in effect, a  
19 torture murder, where they were torturing Mr. Hinman for  
20 his property. After participating in that murder,  
21 Miss Atkins' reaction, according to the testimony, was that  
22 she was not remorseful. She was not dissuaded from  
23 murder. In fact, she, according to the testimony, came  
24 in grinning and said, "We killed him," and then  
25 sharpened knives over the next couple of weeks in

1 preparation for further incidents.

2 And then, we have the Tate incident, being the  
3 second incident with her participation in those murders.  
4 And then, the third incident, after the first two, was --  
5 I mean one would be enough to turn a normal person's  
6 stomach, but we have her participating in the first two  
7 and then going out the third night, being ready to  
8 participate in more acts of murder if she was asked. I  
9 think that's very unusual to have a person demonstrate  
10 the callousness that Miss Atkins did participating in  
11 three separate acts of murder.

12 Also, we have the fact that these were strangers,  
13 except for Hinman. The people at the Tate house were  
14 strangers to her. The people at the La Bianca house were  
15 strangers. The Israeli actor was a stranger to her. And  
16 yet, she's willing, at the direction of another, to commit  
17 murder on strangers, people who were supposedly secure  
18 in the sanctity of their homes. And she sneaking around  
19 late at night with these others and -- to kill these people.  
20 And, of course, we have the old saying that a person's  
21 home is their castle. Most people like to feel safe and  
22 secure in their home.

23 And of course, these murders shocked the  
24 conscience of the people of Los Angeles County and, of  
25 course, the world, really. But, of course, the people

1 in Los Angeles were terrified because of the fact that  
2 these were murders at random that could have been most  
3 anyone, that they were just selected at random, especially  
4 the La Blancas.

5 Another reason would be because of the bizarre  
6 motive. Miss Atkins, today, tries to spread it out and say,  
7 "Well, there were a bunch of different reasons." From my  
8 involvement in the case, I am convinced that there was one  
9 overriding main reason, and that was the -- that was the  
10 race war. This had been talked about by Manson and  
11 members of the family all of that year. It started off in  
12 January, and it got so that the talk was almost about  
13 nothing else. At the ranch, they were just all consumed  
14 by this idea of helter skelter and the race war. And there  
15 was preparation for this war even before the Hinman murder.

16 The Hinman murder was -- the reason for that  
17 was to get money to buy armaments and dune buggies and  
18 things that they would need for the revolution. It wasn't  
19 to buy food or drugs or things like that. It was an  
20 outgrowth of the revolution and to be a preparation for  
21 the revolution. And this motive is, I think you'll have  
22 to admit, is extremely bizarre. It's hard to understand  
23 what would motivate a person's thinking to come to the  
24 conclusions that Miss Atkins and Manson and other members  
25 of the family did that led them to these murders.

1                   And for that reason, it kind of paints  
 2 Miss Atkins to be a great risk to society. If she believed  
 3 this type of stuff one time, what is really to prevent her  
 4 from believing some bizarre things again?

5                   Now, she's made an impressive conversion to  
 6 Christianity here in prison, but that doesn't surprise me,  
 7 because all of the Manson family members were very  
 8 religious people when they were members of the Manson  
 9 family. As a matter of fact, most of them believed that  
 10 Charles Manson was Jesus Christ. And Manson used to quote  
 11 from the Bible. And he would tell the members of the  
 12 family how it felt when he was crucified on the cross. And  
 13 he would even get there and moan and groan and tell them  
 14 how it felt when they were driving nails into his hands  
 15 and feet.

16                   So, the conversion that Miss Atkins has had to  
 17 Christianity and Tex Watson and Bruce Davis' is not hard for  
 18 me to understand. They felt, in those days, that they  
 19 were Christians, but that Manson was -- Manson was Christ.

20                   I think the callousness of her participation,  
 21 of course, is another factor. She tends to mitigate her  
 22 participation today, but the evidence that's come out in  
 23 the trial, her trial and different trials, paints a much  
 24 different picture of her than she paints of herself today.  
 25 I think it's uncontroverted that what she told her cellmates

1 in Sybil Brand, and I read to you earlier about the  
2 confession of how she killed Sharon Tate and what she told  
3 her and the method of killing her, just -- and the part  
4 about having an orgasm during the murder and tasting  
5 Sharon Tate's blood. Not only is the motive for the  
6 murder bizarre but her actions during and after the  
7 murder are certainly, to say the least, extremely bizarre.  
8 And then, taking the towel and then writing in Sharon  
9 Tate's blood the word "Pig" on the door.

10           It's very hard to think of murders that have  
11 been committed in, say, Los Angeles City and Los Angeles  
12 County where we have had these type of things that have  
13 occurred -- writing in the victim's blood, tasting the  
14 blood. These murders are so -- the gravity of the  
15 offenses is so great that I think we can say in the public's  
16 eye, and I think with a lot of justification, that these  
17 are among the most vicious, brutal murders in the history  
18 of American crime, also the extreme number of stab wounds  
19 to the victims, the mutilation.

20           And again, I don't think that I can overemphasize  
21 enough that these murders were committed at the direction  
22 of another, indicating that Miss Atkins would do something  
23 like this for another person, kind of emphasizing that.  
24 And I think one of you brought out in some report here  
25 in prison it says that she's the type of person that can

1 be manipulated. Certainly, I think in the non-wartime  
2 situation, that a person would kill at the direction of  
3 another certainly is the type of person that could be  
4 manipulated and maybe not the type of person that could  
5 stand on their own two feet and think for themselves.

6 I think it was very enlightening what Miss Atkins  
7 said about how she told Ella Jo Bailey, a member of the  
8 family, about the Hinman murder. And she said the next  
9 day Miss Bailey was gone. She didn't want to have any  
10 part in murder, and she just took off. And that was true,  
11 by the way, with other members of the family.

12 Nobody was held prisoner by Charles Manson.  
13 Nobody was -- people could leave if they wanted to leave.  
14 And those people that didn't want to participate in murder  
15 left. And those that wanted to participate stayed, although  
16 there were some that did not want to participate that  
17 stayed, too. But they were not involved in the murders.  
18 And those people, by in large, were not involved in the  
19 murders. And those people, by in large, didn't find out  
20 about the murders until after it all happened.

21 But Miss Atkins, we know, knew about the murders,  
22 because she participated in all three of them and yet never  
23 left, obviously very willing to participate in other  
24 murders.

25 And the statement she made to Juan Flynn before

1 in Sybil Brand, and I read to you earlier about the  
 2 confession of how she killed Sharon Tate and what she told  
 3 her and the method of killing her, just -- and the part  
 4 about having an orgasm during the murder and tasting  
 5 Sharon Tate's blood. Not only is the motive for the  
 6 murder bizarre but her actions during and after the  
 7 murder are certainly, to say the least, extremely bizarre.  
 8 And then, taking the towel and then writing in Sharon  
 9 Tate's blood the word "Pig" on the door.

10 It's very hard to think of murders that have  
 11 been committed in, say, Los Angeles City and Los Angeles  
 12 County where we have had these-type of things that have  
 13 occurred -- writing in the victim's blood, tasting the  
 14 blood. These murders are so -- the gravity of the  
 15 offenses is so great that I think we can say in the public's  
 16 eye, and I think with a lot of justification, that these  
 17 are among the most vicious, brutal murders in the history  
 18 of American crime, also the extreme number of stab wounds  
 19 to the victims, the mutilation.

20 And again, I don't think that I can overemphasize  
 21 enough that these murders were committed at the direction  
 22 of another, indicating that Miss Atkins would do something  
 23 like this for another person, kind of emphasizing that.  
 24 And I think one of you brought out in some report here  
 25 in prison it says that she's the type of person that can

1 be manipulated. Certainly, I think in the non-wartime  
2 situation, that a person would kill at the direction of  
3 another certainly is the type of person that could be  
4 manipulated and maybe not the type of person that could  
5 stand on their own two feet and think for themselves.

6 I think it was very enlightening what Miss Atkins  
7 said about how she told Ella Jo Bailey, a member of the  
8 family, about the Hinman murder. And she said the next  
9 day Miss Bailey was gone. She didn't want to have any  
10 part in murder, and she just took off. And that was true,  
11 by the way, with other members of the family.

12 Nobody was held prisoner by Charles Manson.  
13 Nobody was -- people could leave if they wanted to leave.  
14 And those people that didn't want to participate in murder  
15 left. And those that wanted to participate stayed, although  
16 there were some that did not want to participate that  
17 stayed, too. But they were not involved in the murders.  
18 And those people, by in large, were not involved in the  
19 murders. And those people, by in large, didn't find out  
20 about the murders until after it all happened.

21 But Miss Atkins, we know, knew about the murders  
22 because she participated in all three of them and yet never  
23 left, obviously very willing to participate in other  
24 murders.

25 And the statement she made to Juan Flynn before

1 the La Bianca murders reflects, I think, her state of  
2 mind at the time, telling Mr. Flynn, after knowing about  
3 the Hinman murder, participating in that, participating  
4 in the Tate murders, and telling Mr. Flynn before they  
5 went out for the La Bianca murders, asking him to join them  
6 so that -- because they were going to go into the city and  
7 "kill some mother-fucking pigs."

8 I think that her commitment to Manson was total.  
9 She -- I think she has a good insight into her personality,  
10 that she becomes totally committed to whatever she's going  
11 to be committed to. She was totally committed to Manson.  
12 She was totally committed to Prison Outreach. And now,  
13 she's totally committed to Mr. Holbrook.

14 There doesn't seem to be much of a balancing act  
15 going along in her life. In other words, she can't seem  
16 to do two things at the same time. It's all or nothing.  
17 And that was certainly a problem with her in the Manson  
18 family and her relationship to Mr. Manson. I would add  
19 that she showed no remorse, of course, about her  
20 participation in these murders. When she got back to  
21 the car after the Tate murders, when they started to drive  
22 back to Spahn Ranch, the only thing that she could talk  
23 about was how her head hurt from Frykowski pulling her  
24 hair when they got into an altercation when Mr. Frykowski  
25 was trying to get out of the house. And as she's

1 admitted, when Manson asked her if she had any remorse  
2 when she got back to the ranch she said that she had none.

3 During the course of the trial, she acted up in  
4 the courtroom all the time and made a fool of herself most  
5 of the time, as did the other two females and Mr. Manson --  
6 yelling things at the judge and at the prosecutors and just  
7 showing complete disregard for the judicial system. And  
8 she had to be taken from the courtroom on many occasions,  
9 physically, and seated in a room off the courtroom that had  
10 a loudspeaker system so she could hear the proceedings but  
11 was not allowed by the judge to remain in the courtroom.  
12 And that happened on more times than I can count on both  
13 hands. I think in conclusion that, of course, the  
14 community and public interest in Miss Atkins is very great.  
15 And it's certainly not unwarranted, their fear of her and  
16 what has happened. And I think that although Miss Atkins  
17 has made strides here in prison -- and I would congratulate  
18 her for that -- I think that her participation in these  
19 acts and what she did, the callousness of her participation,  
20 her state of mind at the time, outweigh any of her good acts  
21 in prison. And I think for that reason she should be found  
22 unsuitable.

23 And of course, an additional factor is this  
24 Michael Holbrook. He might be well-meaning and well-  
25 intentioned, and maybe he's going to keep on the straight

1 and narrow, but it seems to me that Miss Atkins' intentions  
2 about that she's going to do when she gets out have kind  
3 of gone, in my estimation, downhill from participating in  
4 these ministry programs and helping other people, showing  
5 the example of what change in her life Jesus Christ has  
6 meant, and now she wants to just live with an ex-con and  
7 not work and maybe do something in the ministry, maybe not.

8 So, for all these varied reasons and many more  
9 which I probably haven't stated, I would ask the Board to  
10 find her unsuitable for parole at this time.

11 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Thank you. Miss Atkins,  
12 would you like to say something?

13 INMATE ATKINS: I appreciate Mr. Kay's statements  
14 and where he's coming from. But it seems a little ironic  
15 to me that last year when I was talking about going to  
16 Prison Outreach Ministry he was very adamant against me  
17 being -- getting involved in some situation and being  
18 fanatical in my desires to share my faith with the public  
19 and with people, in helping people. And he seemed to feel  
20 that I was setting myself up for an exploitation situation.  
21 And for him to change his mind just shows how situations and  
22 plans can be spoken against from whatever perspective. I  
23 do still desire to help people and to work with people,  
24 whether I work with them in prison or out of prison.

25 Nobody knows the gravity of my crimes like me.

1 Nobody knows the heinousness of my past better than I do.  
2 It's engraved and burned in my consciousness. I can't  
3 change what happened. I can only live each day to make  
4 sure that it never happens again in my experience. I am  
5 not who I was ten years ago. I am not who I am going to  
6 be tomorrow. And I am what I am today.

7 Your decision, I know, is -- I don't know how  
8 hard or how easy your decision is, but I want you to know  
9 I am not asking for anything from any of you. I am not  
10 asking for justice, because justice is being served. And I  
11 know I've received grace from God because I am alive today  
12 and not in the gas chamber where I rightfully should have  
13 gone, whether I took someone's life by my hand or not, for  
14 my participation. In my own sense, my entire life deserved  
15 the death penalty. That's what the Bible says, for the  
16 wages of sin is death. And I have been shown grace and  
17 mercy by God and forgiveness from him. And I have peace in  
18 my heart today. And I have nothing more to say.

19 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Thank you. We'll  
20 recess at this time -- the time is 1:47 -- for the purpose  
21 of deliberation.

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

RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

--oOo--

1  
2  
3 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. The time is  
4 3:23, and all those persons who were previously present have  
5 returned to the room. The panel has determined that the  
6 prisoner at this time is unsuitable for parole. The  
7 reasons:

8 These shocking and brutal crimes took place in  
9 three well-calculated and premeditated acts wherein eight  
10 persons were murdered in the sanctity of their home.

11 The prisoner's conduct during her participation  
12 in these offenses demonstrates a total disregard for the  
13 value of human life.

14 The prisoner's bizarre conduct after the murders  
15 at the Polanski residence wherein she soaked a towel in a  
16 victim's blood and wrote words upon the wall is an act that  
17 shocks the public conscience.

18 The prisoner first participated in a murder  
19 wherein the victim's ear was cut off with a sword and  
20 a gaping wound inflicted on the side of his face. The  
21 victim was stabbed and tortured over a three-week -- three-  
22 day period prior to this death.

23 The prisoner demonstrated a lack of remorse by  
24 her continual or continued participation on 8/9/69 in the  
25 five murders at the Polanski residence. Her participation

1 a third time on the following night, 5/10/65, wherein the  
2 La Blancas were violently murdered, further reflects the  
3 remorseless, callous and dispassionate behavior exhibited  
4 by the prisoner.

5 The motive expressed for these murders lacks  
6 any comprehensible sense of logic or reason.

7 The prisoner is commended for her institutional  
8 conduct and accomplishments. However, these do not at  
9 this time outweigh the enormity and shocking nature of the  
10 commitment offenses. A longer period of confinement and  
11 observation is necessary in order to assure the protection  
12 and safety of the public.

13 You have appeal rights under 2050 of the  
14 Community Release Board Rules. Any questions?

15 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Recommendations?

16 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Thank you. What were  
17 they?

18 BOARD MEMBER DE LEON: Remain disciplinary free  
19 and continue involvement in current hobbies and remain on  
20 psychiatric referral. That's it.

21 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: That's it? Any  
22 questions?

23 MR. KAY: No.

24 PRESIDING MEMBER RISEN: Okay. Then it's 3:26.  
25 We will adjourn at this time.

(Thereupon the hearing before the  
Community Release Board in the matter  
of inmate Susan Denise Atkins was  
adjourned at 3:26 p.m.)

--000--

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

111

CERTIFICATE OF SHORTEHAND REPORTER

1  
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  
6 the foregoing Community Release Board Life Term Parole  
7 Consideration Hearing was reported in shorthand by me,  
8 Diane M. Holnback, and thereafter transcribed into  
9 typewriting.

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

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
14 this 30th day of July, 1979.

15  
16  
17  
18  
19 *Diane M. Holnback*

20 DIANE M. HOLNBACK  
21 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
22 License No. 4022  
23  
24  
25