

SUBSEQUENT PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF PRISON TERMS

In the matter of the Life )  
Term Parole Consideration )  
Hearing of: )

CDC Number W-13378

LESLIE VAN HOUTEN )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

ORIGINAL

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 28, 1998

12:00 P.M.

PANEL PRESENT:

M. ORTEGA, Presiding Commissioner  
TOM GIAQUINTO, Commissioner  
MIKE DOUGLAS, Deputy Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT:

STEPHEN KAY, Head Deputy District Attorney  
LESLIE VAN HOUTEN, Inmate

CORRECTIONS TO THE DECISION HAVE BEEN MADE

  ✓   No  
       Yes

See Errata Sheet

LeAna Bilotta, Transcriber

Capitol Electronic Reporting

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Thank you.  
3 This is going to be a subsequent parole consideration  
4 hearing for Leslie Van Houten, CDC number W-13378.  
5 And on 8/17, 1978 (sic), the prisoner was received in  
6 CDC pursuant to Penal Code section 1168 for violation  
7 of Penal Code section 187, that was first degree  
8 murder. That was counts six and seven, and there was  
9 also count eight, I believe that's what it is,  
10 conspiracy to commit murder was, first degree murder,  
11 was count eight. That was PC 182.1 PC. That was Los  
12 Angeles County case number A253156 with a minimum  
13 eligible parole date of 8/17, 1978. Today's date is  
14 5/28, 1998, we're located at the Chino (sic) Institute  
15 for Women. The time now is approximately 12 noon. At  
16 this time, we're going to establish voice  
17 identification, each of us giving our first and last  
18 names, spelling our last name. When we come around to  
19 you, give us your first name and spell your last name  
20 and also please give us your CDC number. I'm going to  
21 begin, we're going to go to my left. My name is M.  
22 Ortega, O-R-T-E-G-A, Commissioner.

23           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:** Mike Douglas,  
24 D-O-U-G-L-A-S, Deputy Commissioner.

25           **HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY:** And I'm  
26 Stephen Kay, Head Deputy District Attorney from Los  
27 Angeles County.

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

3           COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Tom Giaquinto,  
4 G-I-A-Q-U-I-N-T-O, Commissioner, Board of Prison  
5 Terms.

6           PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you.  
7 That identifies everyone in the room, however there  
8 are some observers that are here who will not be  
9 participating in the actual hearing. There are in  
10 addition to some of the observers from CDC, there is  
11 some media people that are here. And you're well  
12 aware of that, I'm sure.

13          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

14          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right,  
15 thank you. And the purpose of today's hearing is to  
16 again consider your suitability for parole. In  
17 arriving at a decision, we're going to consider the  
18 commitment offense, your prior criminality and your  
19 social history, as well as your behavior since your  
20 commitment. Now, we have reviewed your Central file  
21 and the prior transcripts, and we'll first give you an  
22 opportunity to make any corrections or clarifications  
23 to the record. Then what we're going to do, Ms. Van  
24 Houten, I'm going to take and incorporate by reference  
25 from the decision of the hearing that was held two  
26 years ago. That was on 4/30, 1996, that was pages one  
27 through five. Simply what that means is that we're

1 not going to read into the record the offense. I know  
2 that you went through that the last time with  
3 Mr. Giaquinto.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, that's the Statement  
5 of Facts?

6 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yeah, well,  
7 it's the decision summary itself. There is a short  
8 Statement of Facts in there as to why you were in  
9 prison. And if you look in your packet, you received  
10 a packet, I'm sure, very similar to ours.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I didn't.

12 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right. In  
13 your C-file, did you get a chance to see -- Well, you  
14 got a transcript of your last hearing, didn't you?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I did.

16 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. The last  
17 five pages --

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, sure, okay.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: -- of that are  
20 the decision, okay.

21 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I thought you were talking  
23 about in the beginning.

24 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Are you going to  
25 inquire as to whether she received the packet of  
26 (inaudible)?

27 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I will.

1           **COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO:** Oh, okay.

2           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Then we're  
3 going to go directly to your progress since the last  
4 hearing, the new psychiatric reports and any  
5 information which has a bearing on parole suitability.  
6 Any changes in your parole plans should also be  
7 brought to our attention at that time. Then before we  
8 recess for deliberation, the District Attorney and you  
9 will be given an opportunity to make a short statement  
10 regarding parole suitability and length of  
11 confinement. Now, the law and the Board of Prison  
12 Terms rules state that you are to be denied a parole  
13 date if your release would pose an unreasonable risk  
14 or danger to others. At this time let me review with  
15 you, very briefly, your rights. You have a right to a  
16 timely notice of this hearing, availability for review  
17 of your C-file, and a right to present any relative  
18 documents. Did you receive all of those rights,  
19 Ms. Van Houten?

20           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

21           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Did you get a  
22 chance to look at your C-file?

23           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I did.

24           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Did you receive  
25 a packet very similar to what we have here, a thick  
26 packet that contained all of the reports?

27           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay, I gave  
2 you a list of those reports here. I noticed at the  
3 last hearing when you when you had, two years, when  
4 Mr. Giaquinto asked the same question and your  
5 response was the same, that you didn't receive that  
6 full packet, but you did get an opportunity to look at  
7 all those reports. Because all that material is  
8 contained in your C-file. You got a chance to look at  
9 your psych report, I'm sure. Did you read that that  
10 was written by Dr. McDaniel?

11           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, yes, I did.

12           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay, how about  
13 your Board report?

14           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

15           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay, so you've  
16 seen all that material.

17           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I have.

18           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Is there  
19 anything on there that you're not aware of?

20           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

21           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay, thank  
22 you. Let me take that and we'll pass that on to the  
23 Deputy District Attorney.

24           **HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY:** I've seen  
25 everything.

26           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** All right,  
27 thank you. One of the rights that you didn't get to

1 exercise prior to today, and that was a right to an  
2 impartial Panel. Do you have any objection to any  
3 member of the Panel seated before you today?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I don't.

5 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Before  
6 we go on, I wanted to be sure, the last hearing that  
7 you had, you did not, you were never represented by an  
8 attorney, either; is that correct?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, yes.

10 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And I know  
11 again, referring to Mr. Giaquinto's questions at that  
12 particular time, he asked you about it and you just  
13 felt that you could represent yourself better than, or  
14 at least as equally as well as you could with an  
15 attorney; is that correct?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

17 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right. And  
18 you still don't see the need for an attorney?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

20 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right.  
21 You're not undertaking any medications at this time,  
22 or are you still?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm on hormone therapy, but  
24 other than that, not at all.

25 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, so it's  
26 not going to affect you in understanding what we're  
27 talking about --



1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

2 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: -- or making  
3 any decisions.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

5 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And I know you  
6 do have a Bachelor of Science degree, so you do have a  
7 higher level of education than a high school diploma.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

9 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I have no  
10 objection to you representing yourself.  
11 Mr. Giaquinto?

12 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: No.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Mr. Douglas?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, I have none.

15 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you. Now  
16 you will receive a copy of the tentative written  
17 decision today, and that decision becomes effective 90  
18 days after review. But you will receive a copy of the  
19 decision and a copy of the transcript. And then  
20 you'll have 90 days to appeal that decision if you  
21 wish. Now you're not required to discuss the matter  
22 with the Panel, and you're not required to admit to  
23 the offense. However, as you well know, the Panel  
24 does accept as true the court findings. Very simply  
25 stated, that means you stand convicted of the crime  
26 and that's not going to change today. Is there any  
27 confidential information being used, Mr. Giaquinto?

1           **COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO:** Yes.

2           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay, thank  
3 you. Now, I gave just recently, and I've already  
4 gotten a response to that, the documents check-list,  
5 and Ms. Van Houten stated that she did receive those  
6 or just had an opportunity to read them, as well as  
7 Mr. Kay from the District Attorney's office. You will  
8 be speaking with us today?

9           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

10          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Please raise  
11 your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm in  
12 the hearing now pending to tell the truth, the whole  
13 truth, and nothing but the truth?

14          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I do.

15          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** At your last  
16 hearing, which was two years ago, and that was on  
17 April the 20th, 1996, there was a great deal of  
18 conversation regarding the crime involving you, and I  
19 think more specifically, the charges against you was  
20 the count seven, six and seven, which was the murders  
21 of Mr. and Mrs. LaBianca.

22          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

23          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** There was also  
24 a conspiracy charge which dealt more specifically with  
25 the killings as we called them at the last hearing,  
26 the Tate murders.

27          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

1           **HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY:** It was  
2 actually for both murders, the conspiracy covered the  
3 whole thing.

4           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Oh, LaBianca as  
5 well as the Tate murders?

6           **HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY:** Yes.

7           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay, thank  
8 you. We stand corrected on that. Let me ask you a  
9 couple of questions. In reading this last transcript,  
10 Mr. Giaquinto was asking you questions about your  
11 involvement in the Tate murders and there was an  
12 indication, albeit anonymous, it was obvious that you  
13 did not participate in those killings.

14           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No, I did not.

15           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Did you  
16 participate in any way in the planning of those  
17 murders?

18           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, inasmuch as Manson  
19 was talking about something was going to happen, not  
20 in specific detail and not in a way where I was aware,  
21 but before it happened specifically.

22           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Now, when we  
23 talk about planning, there is, you know, I guess it  
24 means different things to different people. To you,  
25 what did it mean by the planning stages of that crime?

26           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That prior to the Tate  
27 murders, Manson became anxious saying that he was

1 going to have to be the one to start the revolution  
2 and that those of us that were part of the family  
3 would be the ones that would have to do that.

4 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: So when  
5 Mr. Manson said that, was it your belief that he meant  
6 that you were going to have to go out and start  
7 killing people?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

9 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, so when  
10 the people left on the evening that the Tate murders  
11 occurred, were you aware that that's where they were  
12 going?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Not specifically. I felt  
14 something was going to happen, but I didn't know  
15 precisely what.

16 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: To your  
17 knowledge, did any of the people that were involved in  
18 the Tate murder, were they aware of where they were  
19 going?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I couldn't answer that.

21 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Then in  
22 your conversations, I know you, I think you talked to  
23 Pat, she was --

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: After.

25 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: -- (inaudible)  
26 from when she returned.

27 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay. So you  
2 didn't know that they were going to kill specifically  
3 the people at the Tate residence?

4           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

5           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** All right.  
6 When you decided to kill, or when the decision was  
7 made, I guess to out again, and I know that there was  
8 a great deal, again, conversation between you and  
9 Mr. Giaquinto relative to that, you definitely wanted  
10 to be there --

11          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I did.

12          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** -- for the  
13 LaBianca murders. You felt that was a good way to  
14 prove your support and your love for, not only Charles  
15 Mason, but for the family itself.

16          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

17          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Did you know at  
18 the time that you left the ranch where you were going?

19          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I did.

20          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** All right. Was  
21 it discussed?

22          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Not the specific residence,  
23 but I knew that that murder was going to happen that  
24 night.

25          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Well, someone  
26 must have chosen the LaBianca residence as the target.

27          **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Manson.

1           PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Do you know who  
2 that was?

3           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Manson.

4           PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Manson had done  
5 that all ready?

6           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, I don't know if he had  
7 done it before or not. He drove us around the LA area  
8 for a long time, stopping at various places and  
9 changing his mind and so I don't know if he had  
10 previously targeted them or not.

11          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. So as  
12 far as you know, it was a residence, that looks good,  
13 we'll go there.

14          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

15          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Who went  
16 into the residence?

17          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Manson and Watson.

18          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: They went in  
19 initially?

20          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

21          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. And when  
22 did you and I think it was Patricia Krenwinkel that  
23 was with you?

24          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

25          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Was that just  
26 the four of you?

27          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: There were more people in

1 the car.

2 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, but how  
3 many went to the residence, exactly?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: In all, four.

5 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right, so  
6 it was you, Patricia Krenwinkel, Tex Watson and  
7 Charles Manson.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: He had left by the time I  
9 went in.

10 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Mr. Manson had  
11 left.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, so the  
14 only people that were left there when you walked into  
15 the residence was the LaBiancas, Mr. Watson, you and  
16 Patricia Krenwinkel.

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

18 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. When you  
19 walked in the door, what was the state of Mr. and  
20 Mrs. LaBianca, were they tied up, were they seated,  
21 what exactly was there position?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Seated.

23 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. And  
24 Mr. Watson, was he holding a gun on them or was he --

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I don't remember. I don't  
26 believe there was a gun. He had a bayonet.

27 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Had they

1 been injured at all before you arrived?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, no.

3 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. So they  
4 were then -- What happened then?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Tex told Pat and I to go  
6 into the kitchen and get a knife and Pat went and got  
7 knives.

8 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Got the knives,  
9 more than one?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, and she gave me one,  
11 and we took Mrs. LaBianca into the bedroom and  
12 separated them. And I was to hold Mrs. LaBianca down  
13 on the bed and we heard Mr. LaBianca being killed in  
14 the living room.

15 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: By Mr. Watson.

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, and Mrs. LaBianca came  
17 forward.

18 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Tried to sit up  
19 on the bed.

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, yelling, what was  
21 happening to her husband, what are you doing. And I  
22 tried to hold her down and Pat went to stab her and  
23 the knife hit her collar bone and it bent, and I ran  
24 into the bedroom doorway and I yelled to Tex Watson  
25 that the, Pat wasn't able to kill Mrs. LaBianca and  
26 Watson came into the room and I stood in the doorway  
27 and Watson turned me around and handed me a knife and



1 said, do something.

2 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Now, he had --  
3 Did he already stab Ms. LaBianca?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, she was laying on the  
5 floor.

6 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, so she  
7 got up off the bed and now she was on the floor.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I didn't see any of the  
9 actual physical moving, I stared into a different room  
10 at the time that Watson came into the room and  
11 Krenwinkel had left and gone into the living room with  
12 Mr. LaBianca.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right, so  
14 she was laying on the floor at the time that  
15 Mr. Watson had gave you the knife?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

17 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And said do  
18 something.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Do something, yes.

20 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And that's when  
21 you stabbed her?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I did.

23 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I think it was  
24 stated that you stabbed her about 16 times?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: In the lower, yeah, in the  
26 lower back.

27 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: She was on her

1 stomach at the time?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

3 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And so you  
4 stabbed her about 16 times in the back?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. There  
7 was also then statements made that then your  
8 responsibility was to wipe away fingerprints.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

10 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And I think  
11 Mr. Watson went in to take a shower.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yeah, how  
14 callous to just decide to go take a shower. What was  
15 Ms. Krenwinkel doing?

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She was in the living room  
17 writing on walls.

18 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Oh, because she  
19 was the one who was putting the words Helter Skelter,  
20 I think, and some of the other words that were on the  
21 wall. All right, then you all went back outside. Was  
22 Mr. Manson still there?

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, they had left. We were  
24 going to hitchhike back to the ranch --

25 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Oh, so you guys  
26 were left there?

27 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: -- the next day.

1           PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: That was a long  
2 way, wasn't it?

3           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, we hitchhiked.

4           PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: But it's still  
5 a long way.

6           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

7           PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: How long did it  
8 take you to get back to the ranch?

9           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: About an hour, maybe.

10          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, and this  
11 happened about what time, the killing?

12          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: At night. I don't know  
13 precisely the time.

14          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: There was also  
15 some indication that you were under the influence of  
16 drugs on that evening; were you?

17          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

18          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Had you been  
19 drinking alcohol?

20          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

21          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right. So  
22 you were sober?

23          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I could have smoked  
24 marijuana throughout the day, I smoked marijuana all  
25 the time, but I was not under any influence like LSD  
26 or anything like that.

27          PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: So you knew

1 what you were doing.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

3 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And you did it  
4 willingly, just to impress Mr. Manson. When you got  
5 back to the ranch, did Charles Manson then ask you  
6 what had happened?

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

8 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: He never did?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

10 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Did he talk to  
11 Mr. Watson about it, do you know?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I don't know if he did or  
13 not, I assume he did.

14 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Was  
15 the -- Was there ever a conversation between you and  
16 Mr. Manson about what had happened there?

17 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: They never did.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Let me  
20 ask you again, because the question was asked last  
21 time, and I think the answer continues to be  
22 important. How do you feel about this today, looking  
23 back on what you did?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It's harder to live with.  
25 As the years go on, it gets harder. Maybe it's  
26 because I'm aging, I'm not sure why, but --

27 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: So you think of

1 it constantly.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Sure.

3 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: It never leaves  
4 your mind?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, it's there somewhere  
6 inside of me, I'm certainly aware of what I've done.

7 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: When did that,  
8 if we can it a revelation, when did that revelation  
9 finally hit? Because obviously, after the crime, the  
10 description was there was some elation, there was some  
11 emptiness in you. But nevertheless, you had gone  
12 there for a reason, that was to impress Mr. Manson and  
13 the family. When did this suddenly hit you that what  
14 you done was such a horrible, atrocious crime?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'd say it took a few  
16 years, here, in the isolation unit that they had women  
17 on death row, and at one point, they, the prison  
18 system brought two of the women that we had lived with  
19 at that time and they committed a bank robbery,  
20 another bank robbery, some kind of a robbery, gun  
21 store, I think, and then they put them in the unit  
22 with Pat and Susan and I, and as they began to talk, I  
23 realized that I had moved away from their world and  
24 how they were thinking and I had started to identify  
25 more with the personnel here, because that was  
26 basically who I had to talk to, it was a very isolated  
27 area. And I would say that probably started it and

1 over the years --

2 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Was that after  
3 your death sentence had been overturned?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah. Also that kind of  
5 kicked it in, when it was no longer the matter of an  
6 eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and I realized  
7 that I would be living with this and I better learn  
8 how.

9 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Well,  
10 there may be other questions from the other  
11 Commissioners. I'm going to move along and just talk  
12 a little bit about your prior criminal history. And  
13 you had several arrests. It seems they all started in  
14 1969.

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: They were all -- All of my  
16 arrests were at the time that I lived with Charles  
17 Manson.

18 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, yeah,  
19 they were all somehow related --

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: To the group.

21 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yes, exactly.  
22 I noticed that in 19, April of 1969, you had been  
23 arrested for grand theft auto, then it turned out that  
24 that was one of the vehicles that had been, I guess,  
25 donated to the family, I think it was.

26 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Maybe, maybe. What the  
27 local police would do is come and arrest all of us in

1 hopes of weeding us out and then we wouldn't be  
2 arraigned.

3           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** There were  
4 several arrests for grand theft auto, at least three.  
5 One in April, one in August, and one in October of  
6 1969, all three of them for grand theft auto. There  
7 were no charges. You were released on the first one,  
8 no charges on the second one, and then there was no  
9 disposition shown on the third one. And you also had  
10 an arrest in September of 1969, and that was for  
11 burglary, but really what in essence it was is you had  
12 gone into a store to use a stolen credit card.

13           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

14           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Do you know  
15 where that credit card came from?

16           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It came from a burglary.

17           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay. Had you  
18 been part of that burglary?

19           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

20           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** All right, you  
21 just knew that it was a stolen card.

22           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

23           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** And you got it  
24 from who?

25           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Nancy Pittman had it, and  
26 I'm not sure exactly where it had come from.

27           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** So from what

1 I'm hearing you say, and from what all that we've  
2 read, this family that Mr. Manson talked about, was  
3 really kind of a criminal group, it was kind of a gang  
4 of criminals, and you sustained yourselves by going  
5 out and stealing and robbing.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In the beginning, it was  
7 more of a communal in the sense of the 60s. In the  
8 winter, early winter of '69, that's when Manson began  
9 to take on a more ominous tone. Up until then, there  
10 weren't burglaries, there weren't the little games  
11 he'd set up of us trying to sneak up each other and  
12 preparation for the revolution. In the beginning, it  
13 was that he was a Christ figure, if not Christ, and we  
14 lived in a different way like that. So it escalated  
15 into exactly what you said.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Became a  
17 criminal enterprise almost. That began a gang of --

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** We weren't together enough.  
19 At one point, at one point when he realized how  
20 devoted each of us were, then he tried to set up like  
21 a prostitution, and that didn't work because we were a  
22 little too far out on the drugs. I was playing hide  
23 and seek with elves in the woods and all of that, and  
24 I think that if he could have probably exploited us in  
25 a different, it might have gone there.

26 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** So, you  
27 mentioned the drugs and I wanted to get to that very



1 briefly. On the night of the crimes you were not  
2 under the influence of drugs, but you were using  
3 psychedelic drugs quite a bit during that period of  
4 time?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Acid.

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

8 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: LSD. Did you  
9 use anything else, any stronger drugs, cocaine,  
10 heroin?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

12 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: It was  
13 primarily marijuana.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: LSD and marijuana, hashish.

15 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, those are  
16 the things --

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Now and then a little bit  
18 of methamphetamine, but mainly LSD.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Just to  
20 talk very briefly about your personal history. You  
21 were born in Altadena, California.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

23 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: You had an  
24 older brother, Paul.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I do.

26 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: You have, I  
27 think, a stepbrother and sister?

1 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: They were adopted.

2 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: They were  
3 adopted. Okay, you graduated from Monrovia High  
4 School. Did you go to high school at all?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Did you, I  
7 mean, high school, I'm sorry, college?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Not until I came -- Oh, I  
9 went to a year of business school.

10 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay, and that  
11 was your only school that you had?

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Were you ever  
14 married?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Once, in here.

16 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And that was  
17 it?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: And that ended  
20 in a divorce.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, it did.

22 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: So you have no  
23 children.

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I do not.

25 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. What I  
26 want you to do now is direct your attention to  
27 Mr. Giaquinto. He's going to talk to you about your

1 institution adjustment, and more specifically, since  
2 your last hearing.

3 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: The last time you  
4 appeared before the Board was April 20th, '96. And  
5 according to the Board report, there's a number of  
6 informational chronos that have been generated since  
7 that time. Thanking you for being a tutor Yes, I Can  
8 II, and Voices Within project, and you assisted with  
9 the NA, AA banquet, and CODA. And you had exceptional  
10 grades as a program II relief clerk, and there were  
11 many positive comments on those indicating things like  
12 meets job expectations, demonstrates good work ethics,  
13 needs minimal supervision. Your classification score  
14 is zero. You have also been involved in Save our  
15 Stitches, let's see, reading projects for the visually  
16 impaired, you've been involved in group psychotherapy.  
17 You've completed electronic data processing. Now, was  
18 that since the last time?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I completed that before  
20 this last -- In '96 I had already completed it.

21 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay, because I, you  
22 were in word processing and then I thought --

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I was in data.

24 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Oh, you were in data?

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

26 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay, then you went to  
27 this.

1           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, they have software  
2 packets of word.

3           COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Oh, I see.

4           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

5           COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay, and that was  
6 prior to '96.

7           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

8           COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay, yeah. I saw the  
9 completion certificate in that. Anything else we  
10 should know about what you've been doing the last  
11 couple of years in terms of upgrading educationally or  
12 vocationally or therapy?

13          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Well, I've been in therapy.  
14 I was in therapy group prior to this hearing. I may  
15 have been in two. I was in one-on-one for a while and  
16 then that was stopped. And I've been active in  
17 continuing in my AA, NA program.

18          COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Do you know the 12  
19 Steps?

20          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

21          COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: I'm not going to ask  
22 you to repeat them for me, because obviously you and I  
23 have met before and I know you've been examined in  
24 that area before. You're working the 12 Steps?

25          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

26          COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay. And what Step  
27 do you work more often than others, or is there that

1 you work more often than others?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Ten.

3 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: What is ten?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Ten is the maintenance that  
5 you continue to keep a personal inventory and when  
6 you're wrong, promptly admit it. I do that daily.  
7 Really ten, 11 and 12 on a daily basis. I have  
8 started facilitating NA groups which I find very  
9 rewarding. And I would say Step four stays close to  
10 me, the inventory. I don't think that there's even  
11 enough of that. And I use that as a means to make  
12 sure that I'm staying abreast of things, because  
13 that's the crux of the program is that you don't allow  
14 yourself to get out of touch with who you are today.  
15 And so I work at that regularly. I'm thankful for the  
16 program, I'll say that.

17 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: I'm going to, as far  
18 as the therapy, I'm going to kind of switch here.

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: It was Dr. Ponath  
21 group?

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I was in a group with  
23 Dr. Lee. I may have been in one with Dr. Ponath  
24 before she left, in between '96. I may have been in  
25 two since then.

26 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay, it was Dr. Lee's  
27 group and Dr. Ponath was the Chief Psychiatrist. I

1 saw the name on the chrono here.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Oh, yeah, okay, yes.

3 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: That's what it was.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, his wife was the  
5 therapist.

6 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: So I didn't miss, I  
7 didn't see (inaudible).

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: The last chrono I see  
10 in that is like October, '97.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: And that was at about  
13 the time you completed that therapy?

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay. And it said  
16 that you were an active, supportive, and caring member  
17 in all sessions. You were able to listen and utilize  
18 constructive feedback of other issues. You also give  
19 back constructive feedback to other inmates. All  
20 right. Anything else we should know in that area,  
21 otherwise I'm going to go to your psych report.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay. Just that I stay  
23 busy and I try to do good things in the prison and I  
24 would say what's different, perhaps, in the last two  
25 years is I've put myself more forward in the community  
26 as far as the NA program goes. I'm more available to  
27 other women in that way.

1 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: In (inaudible)?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: My community.

3 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Oh, your community.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: I thought you meant  
6 out there.

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

8 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: I understood that, I  
9 read someplace you had a website?

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, I don't.

11 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: You don't.

12 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, no.

13 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay.

14 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think that there's a  
15 person out there that does, but I asked them not to do  
16 that. I think that's inappropriate. I can't help what  
17 they do.

18 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: And they utilize your  
19 name as --

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I think I'm on there. You  
21 know, I get letters from people that say they found me  
22 there, but I've, you know, discouraged her from doing  
23 that.

24 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Do you provide her  
25 with any information? It's a her, I guess.

26 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, no, no. The one that  
27 I know about, her name is Linda Mann, and I have

1 repeatedly asked her not to and I don't contribute to  
2 it or update her, so where ever she gets her  
3 information, I'm not sure.

4 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Yeah, I was wondering  
5 if there was, my concern was that you didn't  
6 contribute to that and then maybe in some way benefit  
7 from it and one of those things you were benefitting  
8 from might have been something that we need to be  
9 concerned about.

10 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: But you say you're not  
12 participating in that?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No, no.

14 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Because I have  
15 received letters from --

16 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I get letters of support  
17 from people that say they read about me on internet.

18 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: How do you know if  
19 they're reading accurate information?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I don't.

21 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Yeah. Okay, well,  
22 you've answered --

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: It's kind of a, you know,  
24 it's kind of a catch 22. If I write and correct it,  
25 then I'm contributing.

26 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Right.

27 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: You know, so I just leave



1 it alone.

2 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay. The most  
3 psychiatric report is dated 3/26/98, and in that  
4 particular report consulted with Dr. McDaniel.

5 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Correct? And I'm not  
7 going to read the whole report, because the doctor  
8 basically goes into the some of the things that you've  
9 been doing in prison, he talks about AA, he talks  
10 about your involvement with Charles Manson and things  
11 of that nature. Under Diagnosis, the doctor says  
12 there is no diagnosis under Axis numbers I and II.  
13 And then in part, the doctors says:

14 "In verbal communication with the  
15 inmate's treating group psychologist,  
16 the psychologist was concerned that the  
17 inmate did not express the normal and  
18 expectant anger that should be reflected  
19 upon her codefendant, Charles Manson,  
20 when the issue came up in the group. I  
21 would, in fact, tend to agree with the  
22 inmate's view that indifference is a  
23 more powerful way of breaking the  
24 relationship than either anger or love.  
25 Typically in a scene that when anger  
26 exists towards a person, there is still  
27 some emotion that can be utilized and

1 manipulated. Totally indifference,  
2 however, would suggest that she is far  
3 more free of the influence of Charles  
4 Manson then if anger were the  
5 predominant theme."

6 Under psychiatric conclusions, the doctors states:

7 "The diagnosed psychopathology has been  
8 related to criminal behavior in the past  
9 due to drug abuse, anti-social behavior,  
10 and dependant personality behavior.  
11 None of these conditions, however, are  
12 presently found either by subjective  
13 reform or objective findings. During  
14 observation in the institution, she is  
15 psychiatrically improved greatly in that  
16 she has dealt with issues such as her  
17 past, restriction of food as a way of  
18 coping with anger and she has looked  
19 deeper into issues of culpability and  
20 dealing with shame and guilt. In a less  
21 controlled setting such as return to the  
22 community, this inmate can be considered  
23 likely to continue improving. Violence  
24 potential outside of a controlled  
25 setting has been considered to have been  
26 greater than average in the past, has  
27 now decreased. Condition of parole

1           should include outpatient group  
2           psychotherapy and no alcohol."

3       I wish Dr. McDaniel had kind of given us an idea of  
4       where, when he's talking about violence potential  
5       being greater than average, now decreased, I don't  
6       know what he means. Is it still a little bit about  
7       average, a little bit below, or is it minimal, what?  
8       He kind of left us. He used the term greater than  
9       average and it didn't, kind of, didn't tell us how  
10      much it has decreased. Did he comment to you at all  
11      about that?

12           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I think that when you  
13      take into consideration that when my one act of  
14      physical violence was August 10, 1969, and in the  
15      report he speaks also of my taking things out on  
16      myself, like my eating disorder and what have you. I  
17      would feel that my violence potential is low. I don't  
18      respond in an aggressive manner of violence. That one  
19      night and that one act and the more I've dealt with,  
20      as you and I talked about two years ago, what was  
21      going on inside of me, and when I was dealing with  
22      one-on-one with Dr. Janish, there was, we were looking  
23      into the release of pent up things that I'm the, by  
24      being what he called the people pleasing and dependant  
25      on other people, I was stuffing so much that that one  
26      act of violence was allowing all this stuff to come  
27      out, and that certainly is a sobering thought. And

1 when I talk to you about the 12 Steps and working it,  
2 you know, that's the one thing that I do now is that I  
3 make sure that if something is not right with me, I  
4 take care of it right away so that nothing does build  
5 up, that there's not the shoving it down. And I would  
6 say that my violence potential is very low.

7 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Anything else we  
8 should know about the area I just covered?

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

10 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Okay. I return it  
11 back to the Chair.

12 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you.  
13 Now, please direct your attention to Mr. Douglas to  
14 talk to you about your parole plans.

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Good afternoon,  
17 Ms. Van Houten.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Good afternoon. May I say  
19 something just quickly?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yes.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Because the cameras are  
22 here, could we avoid using direct names and  
23 addresses --

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yes.

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: -- of the people that I'm  
26 going to live with? Okay, thank you.

27 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Of the people

1 that you are going to live with?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah, or where I'm going to  
3 work or something.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. How about  
5 telling me a little bit about your parole plans.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay, I would live with a  
7 woman that I met about 16, well maybe now 18 years  
8 ago. When I was working on my Bachelor Degree, there  
9 were outside students from the community that came in  
10 to have the classes with those of us that were inside,  
11 and it was sort of a way that we subsidized the  
12 program. I met her then and we have remained friends  
13 since then, and it's in the LA area. My job is a job  
14 offer that this man has offered it to now for perhaps  
15 15, 16 years, and it would be working at a yardage  
16 shop for perhaps, I think I would start perhaps at  
17 minimum wage. I'm not sure of all of the, I'm not  
18 sure how much money I would be making. But it would  
19 be a humble job that I feel would suit me. I've met  
20 him and he's a kind man that would work with me as I  
21 learned to integrate.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: How did you meet  
23 him, how did you get to know him?

24 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: A friend of mine from high  
25 school used to buy all of her cheerleading yardage  
26 when she was a teacher.

27 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay.

1           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And then there's a second  
2 job that would be one I could do in my home, where I  
3 would be making costumes for a ballet company and that  
4 would, that's estimated to in one of the letters that  
5 I could make approximately five hundred a week doing  
6 that.

7           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:** You could do that  
8 from the house?

9           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. My ultimate goal  
10 would be that I could become the, as my mother gets  
11 older, she's a single woman, and my goal would be that  
12 I could perhaps focus on that and work it into a way  
13 that I could sustain myself and take care of mom when  
14 she gets to the point where she's not able to take  
15 care of herself.

16           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:** Have you been  
17 able to save any money since you've been in prison, do  
18 you have, have you ever had a pay number?

19           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I make 20 dollars a  
20 month.

21           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:** You make 20 a  
22 month. Are you getting any help from the outside?

23           **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

24           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:** I see. Okay,  
25 well, you have several letters of support, and I will  
26 not read all of them, but I will read some of them,  
27 particularly from your family.

1           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

2           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And then I will  
3 make a note to you and the committee as to the others  
4 and who they are with the exception of the person that  
5 you want to live with; is that right?

6           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, if you don't mind.

7           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. And you  
8 have a number of letters of support. You have one  
9 from, well, the first is Herbert Barron. Is he the  
10 gentleman?

11          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

12          DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay, and he's  
13 the one with the furniture, or the fabric outlet,  
14 right?

15          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Uh-hmm.

16          DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay, well, he  
17 writes a good letter and says that he would give you a  
18 job upon release and that you would start out the same  
19 as all of his employees. It says my name if Herb  
20 Barron. I own two fabric stores for many years. I  
21 have written you offering Leslie Van Houten employment  
22 upon release from prison, this year is no different.  
23 And then he says, naturally, Leslie would begin work  
24 at the same entry level as all my employees. All  
25 right, and then you have from your, I guess, the wife  
26 of your father?

27          INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

1 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Kay Van Houten.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay, Kay writes  
4 you a letter to whom it may concern, and then she said  
5 thank God for the California prison system who used to  
6 believe in rehabilitation, not just punishment. Under  
7 the system, Leslie is able to earn a BA degree, gain  
8 computer skills and even have enough counseling to  
9 become a contributing member of society. Forgiveness  
10 is as important for a person forgiving, as for a  
11 person to be forgiven. And then you have a letter  
12 here from Paul Van Houten, your dad?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And your dad said  
15 that he was 50 years old at the time you were  
16 committed. He is now 80 years old. He said 18 years  
17 later, what happened to good behavior? But Leslie got  
18 along in prison. Your last report said Leslie was a  
19 danger to society, shame on you. You have run out of  
20 excuses, give Leslie a date. So your dad is impatient  
21 for you to get out.

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, he is.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And then there's  
24 another letter here written by Lana McMaster, and she  
25 was a graduate from Monrovia High School and went to  
26 school with Leslie's older brother, Paul.

27 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.



1           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And I knew  
2 Leslie. Anyway, she's a friend and she's very  
3 supportive of your release. And then there's a letter  
4 here from your, well, I'll get to that in a minute,  
5 from your mother, of course, June Edwards Van Houten.

6           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Jane, yes.

7           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Jane, okay. And  
8 then it says, I strongly urge you to set a date for  
9 her parole, and she has handwritten, so it's somewhat  
10 difficult, so that we all may plan for a life combined  
11 with her after she leaves prison. Please consider her  
12 eligibility this year for a parole date. And then you  
13 have a letter from your sister who wrote a long letter  
14 in handwriting, and she said that on behalf of my  
15 sister, Leslie Van Houten, she is very supportive and  
16 wants a date, for you to get a date and also notes  
17 that you may live with her and her husband and her  
18 son, is it?

19           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

20           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: If need be, and  
21 is very supportive of your getting out on parole. And  
22 then you have some other letters here. You have  
23 letters from Lana McMasters, who I read, Robin Allen,  
24 a friend and executive director of a program for  
25 abused program, is she?

26           INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

27           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. And

1 Hershel Barron, of course of Barron's Furniture, and  
2 Rosemary Degracia knows Leslie. Do you know her very  
3 well?

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: No.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Through a friend.

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: She knows you  
8 through a friend.

9 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. We correspond, we  
10 haven't met.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. And then  
12 Peket Martez?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Wrote a longer in  
15 support. He is a friend. Then Christie Oglesby who  
16 is a friend and Carl Shavely, Jr., who is a pastor of  
17 the church that you attended?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, he's left now, but he  
19 was.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. And Paul  
21 Skelman who is a friend, and Jane, of course, your  
22 mother, and Dan Morotek, attorney.

23 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: He was my attorney.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: He was your  
25 attorney, all right. He wrote a letter mostly quoting  
26 legal ease rather than talking about given how you've  
27 changed. But at any rate, and then you got two from

1 Michael Farquar?

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Farquar?

3 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Farquar, and he  
4 is a reporter and also a friend, right?

5 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And he was a  
7 reporter in your last hearing?

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, and then we maintained  
9 -- No, he wrote an article at the 25 year, and then we  
10 maintained correspondence.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay, and then  
12 you got one from Lil Utsey? Is it Lil?

13 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm not sure who that is.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay. And Olga  
15 Buchanan, also a friend, and Richard Ellis, a friend,  
16 and Patricia Ravinsky from Canada, she wrote a --

17 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: I'm not sure who that is,  
18 either.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: She may be a  
20 website fan, maybe.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Some of those names I don't  
22 know.

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I think they are,  
24 because some of them do not identify themselves as  
25 friends, they simply support you getting out.

26 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Right.

27 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And Maryann

1 Halborough, a friend.

2 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, I've known her since I  
3 was four.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And Dwight  
5 Blackstop, a friend, and also went to church with you  
6 in Arcadia.

7 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Okay, and William  
9 Hubbard, a friend, and Samuel Lucian, who was a social  
10 here, right?

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: She lives in New York now.  
12 She was one of my educators.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: But was that not  
14 here?

15 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yes, at CIW.  
17 Okay, and then Steven Rice, a friend, and Renee Snow,  
18 a friend. And then you got a letter from a Sister  
19 Antoinette Moon?

20 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Who was a Notre  
22 Dame Sisters and she said she doubts if they could  
23 give you any money, but they would support you in  
24 anyway possible. And then you have a letter from Vera  
25 Newman, who is a friend, and had a letter from David  
26 Moon, who is a teacher at CIW.

27 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: He used to be a computer

1 teacher.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: A computer  
3 teacher, well, he write a favorable letter, and Dave  
4 Spidel, a friend, and Sammy Blank, an inmate who you  
5 used to know, right?

6 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes, she was here years and  
7 years and years ago.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: She wrote a  
9 handwritten letter, very supportive, and Dale Gidley,  
10 a friend and supporter.

11 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: My mother's old boyfriend  
12 from high school.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Your mother's old  
14 boyfriend, okay. Now those are letters that you have  
15 gotten in support for your lease. You got a letter,  
16 also -- We sent out 3042 notices to the different  
17 jurisdictions asking if they care to write us a letter  
18 relating to your hearing, and we did get a letter from  
19 the Los Angeles Police Department, which notes the Los  
20 Angeles Police Department remains adamantly opposed to  
21 the release of Ms. Van Houten. Leslie Van Houten was  
22 an active and willing participant in the brutal murder  
23 and mutilation of several persons in the Los Angeles  
24 area. The actions of Ms. Van Houten during and  
25 subsequent to brutal murders are well documented and  
26 have been established beyond a possible doubt. To  
27 release her back to society would be to further

1     victimize it. And then we have with us today a member  
2     of the District Attorney's office who will speak at  
3     the appropriate time representing the People of Los  
4     Angeles County. And having done that, I will return  
5     it to the Chair.

6             **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Thank you. Any  
7     additional questions, Mr. Giaquinto?

8             **COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO:** I was just wondering  
9     about this -- No, no, no. No questions.

10            **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Any questions?

11            **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:** No, I have no  
12     questions.

13            **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Any questions  
14     from the District Attorney.

15            **HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY:** No  
16     questions.

17            **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Okay. Now,  
18     we'll have a closing statement from the District  
19     Attorney. Before we do that, is there any comments  
20     that you would like to make regarding the procedure  
21     and others you want us to know before we go into  
22     closing statements, or would you wait to make your  
23     closing statements?

24            **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'll wait until I make a  
25     closing statement.

26            **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** All right.

27            **HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY:** Just as far

1 as the procedure, I notice at this time in the packet,  
2 I didn't get any of those letters. Usually I get  
3 copies of letters that are both pro and con, and I  
4 didn't get any.

5 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Well, what I  
6 think is it was just so many of them, I think we had a  
7 box full over here.

8 HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY: Okay.

9 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: That may have  
10 been probably one of the reasons.

11 HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY: Okay, I  
12 understand now.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: You get to  
14 chance to look at them if you'd like. There's quite a  
15 few of them. Go ahead with your closing statement.

16 HEAD DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAY: Okay, thank  
17 you, very much. I am respectfully asking you to again  
18 find Leslie Van Houten unsuitable for parole for two  
19 main reasons. One, she was a very active participant  
20 in two of the most senseless, senseless murders I  
21 think in the history of American crime. We Leno and  
22 Rosemary LaBianca were totally innocent people. Lenc  
23 was a 44 year old man who owned a chain of small  
24 grocery stores, his wife Rosemary owned a dress shop  
25 called the Carriage Boutique. They didn't know these  
26 people, they were in the supposed sanctity of their  
27 own home and they were literally butchered by Ms. Van

1 Houten and the others. And I'm not going to go over  
2 the facts again because I know Mr. Giaquinto could  
3 probably recite them in his sleep. But there are a  
4 few that were not talked about and I'd just to make  
5 the picture complete. Ms. Van Houten doesn't like to  
6 talk about what happened in the bedroom, but I think  
7 it's very important for you to know what happened in  
8 the bedroom. When Ms. Krenwinkel and Ms. Van Houten  
9 took Mrs. LaBianca into the bedroom, they took her  
10 there for the purpose of killing her. Ms. Van Houten  
11 put a pillowcase over Mrs. LaBianca's head and then  
12 unplugged a lamp that was next the bed and wrapped the  
13 cord around Mrs. LaBianca's neck and then pushed her  
14 down on the bed and was holding her down so Krenwinkel  
15 could stab her. At that point, Mrs. LaBianca heard  
16 Mr. Watson killing her husband in the living room and  
17 she bolted up from the bed, grabbed the cord of the  
18 lamp and swung the lamp in the direction of Ms. Van  
19 Houten, probably couldn't see, but just was swinging  
20 it in the general direction. Ms. Van Houten knocked  
21 the lamp out of her hand and wrestled her down to the  
22 bed and pinned her down so that Patricia Krenwinkel  
23 could stab her and Krenwinkel stabbed her with such  
24 force that the knife blade bent. Now Ms. Van Houten  
25 had a chance at that time to say, this is wrong, I'm  
26 not going to participate in this. We didn't kill her,  
27 we tried, but what does she do? She goes to the



1 hallway and calls for Watson knowing that he has the  
2 bayonet and then he comes in and Watson and Van Houten  
3 proceed to stab Mrs. LaBianca to death. She was  
4 stabbed 42 times. She had eight fatal stab wounds,  
5 seven of the eight fatal stab wounds were in her back  
6 and Ms. Van Houten has admitted that she stabbed  
7 Mrs. LaBianca in the back at least sixteen times.  
8 Now, it doesn't end there. You talked to her about  
9 wiping the fingerprints off, which she did, and we  
10 didn't find fingerprints of any of these people in the  
11 house. We found wipe marks. I mean, our fingerprint  
12 experts from LAPD found wipe marks where things were  
13 written on the wall and everything. There were none  
14 of the fingerprints of the perpetrators. She drank  
15 chocolate milk out of the refrigerator, as if anybody  
16 could have an appetite after these horrible murders.  
17 And then she changed her clothes and changed into some  
18 of Mrs. LaBianca's clothes, and I submit to you the  
19 reason she changed the clothes were because she had  
20 blood on her clothes and she changed into clothes that  
21 didn't have blood on them. And then, when she got  
22 back to the ranch, the Spawn Ranch where they were  
23 living, the first thing that she did was she collected  
24 firewood and built a fire in the fireplace and burned  
25 Mrs. LaBianca's clothes. You know, this was not some  
26 lost soul that didn't know exactly what she was doing.  
27 Ms. Van Houten, and I've been with these people ever

1 since September of 1970, she's probably the brightest  
2 one in the family and she admitted under my cross-  
3 examination at her trial that she weighed and  
4 considered for two days whether or not she could  
5 participate in murder and made a decision in her own  
6 mind that she would participate before Manson or  
7 anyone asked her to participate. And the evidence at  
8 the trial was is that she was upset when she found out  
9 about the first night of murders, she was upset that  
10 she didn't get to go and she wanted to go the second  
11 night. So, a very active participant. That's one  
12 reason that I think she should be found unsuitable.  
13 The second reason that she should be found unsuitable  
14 is because even though I think the psychiatric report  
15 this year is more favorable than it was in '96, I  
16 don't think it's totally supportive of her release on  
17 parole. And I say that for two reasons, and I would  
18 suggest, and I know, obviously, from what you've  
19 discussed here, that you've all spent a lot of time  
20 looking into this, but I think it's kind of important  
21 to read Dr. McDaniel's report in 1996, because in his  
22 current report he refers back to it a lot. And one of  
23 the things that he spends some time on in the 1996  
24 report is saying how Leslie Van Houten historically  
25 submits to authority, whether it's good authority or  
26 evil authority, and she tends to flourish under both,  
27 and she flourished under evil outside the prison

1 fences, under Manson, and she's flourished under the  
2 prison authority here becoming, I think, pretty much a  
3 model prisoner. But the doctor said that he had a  
4 lingering doubt, or I think lingering doubts, whether  
5 or not she had finalized the process of internalizing  
6 the rules and regulations and the societal norms that  
7 she was learning here in prison. He had a doubt  
8 whether she had internalized it enough so that she  
9 would be able to stand on her own if she got out and  
10 not fall in with her historical inclination to say  
11 fall in with evil. And he had a doubt about this.  
12 And he said that, in the '96 report, that he felt that  
13 age and therapy would help her and she would improve,  
14 and he in the report this year, he said that he noted  
15 an improvement because with the passage of time, she's  
16 older and she's had some therapy. But importantly, he  
17 does not say in this report that she has yet finalized  
18 the process of internalizing these rules and  
19 regulations so that she can stand on her own and can  
20 resist her historical inclination to fall in with  
21 evil. And I think because of who Ms. Van Houten is  
22 and what she's done, that society would really require  
23 of all of us before we would consider her suitable for  
24 parole, that at least the psychiatric expert could  
25 give us some assurance that he felt that this process  
26 had been completed and that, you know, she should  
27 would be able to stand on her own and would be able

1 resist evil. Certainly as years go by, he feels that  
2 she will get better and noted progress in this year's  
3 report over '96, and she's headed in the right  
4 direction, clearly, clearly. The second thing that  
5 really troubled me about his report and he just  
6 brought this up on so many occasions, was his concern  
7 with Ms. Van Houten's weight and her eating disorder.  
8 And he said as a doctor he's concerned because with  
9 her height, that she obviously is too thin. And  
10 usually when we see somebody, or at least when I see  
11 somebody with anorexia, my tendency is to feel sorry  
12 for the person, like, you know, gee, you see all  
13 these really thin models and stuff like that, and you  
14 just say, gosh, they're just too thin and it's not  
15 going to be good for them, and but yet on page five of  
16 the current psychiatric report, the doctor talks  
17 about, and he also talks about it earlier, how Ms. Van  
18 Houten has starved herself to basically suppress her  
19 anger and he says here on page five, it is to be  
20 encouraged that she not utilize self-starvation as a  
21 way of coping with anger, as to do so, would allow  
22 anger to build up and particularly in this individual,  
23 this would not be a desired outcome. So, all of a  
24 sudden, you know, feeling sorry for somebody that has  
25 anorexia or an eating disorder, all of sudden the  
26 doctors say, well, you know, maybe you should feel  
27 sorry for yourself. If this woman has a build up of

1 anger and she releases it, you know, you better not be  
2 around when this happens, because this would not be a  
3 desirable result and he reflects back on what Ms. Van  
4 Houten said how she felt when she was stabbing  
5 Rosemary LaBianca and she said that it was a feeding  
6 frenzy. And what she actually said is she felt like a  
7 shark on a feeding frenzy and it was a release of  
8 anger. Well, you know, someone who's building up  
9 anger, starving themselves and building up anger, has  
10 to release that anger at some time. And I just, you  
11 can just see that throughout the current report that  
12 the doctor is concerned about that, and you know,  
13 because he is concerned, I'm concerned, and I think we  
14 should all be concerned. I clearly see this report as  
15 being more favorable than the last one in '96 to  
16 Ms. Van Houten, but I don't think it's totally  
17 supportive of her release. And I would respectfully  
18 ask the Board for a two year denial.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you.  
20 Ms. Van Houten?

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes. I have closing  
22 comments that I would like to make. I don't believe  
23 that some of the things that Mr. Kay has said are  
24 things that are part of the record, but I also don't  
25 want to begin picking. Is it necessary, I've done a  
26 lot of reading on as much legal work --

27 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I would say

1 that if you have a closing statement, that that would  
2 sufficient. You don't have to (inaudible).

3 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Okay, okay. As far as the  
4 where the milk was drank, why I changed my clothes,  
5 certainly I will be the first to admit that this was a  
6 cruel and callous and dispassionate crime, which is  
7 basically why I am found unsuitable and it's the one  
8 thing that I can never change. I would like to point  
9 out that there are what I feel certain circumstances  
10 that allow me to be able to sit in front of you and  
11 hope that someday I will be released. And one of  
12 those is that I feel that in my trials, my second and  
13 third trials, there was a great deal of testimony by  
14 psychiatrists that led enough to a defense that the  
15 second trial was hung for 30 days, five manslaughter  
16 and seven first. It was when in my third trial felony  
17 murder, which is robbery murder, was read. There were  
18 four separate instructions requested by the People,  
19 they were read to the jury. The felony murder,  
20 robbery murder states that my state of mind at the  
21 time of the crime negates, in other words because it's  
22 a robbery, my state of mind at the time is not  
23 important, and Mr. Kay in the past has even said in  
24 this room that he agrees one hundred percent that it  
25 was not a robbery. So I believe that the psychiatric  
26 testimony that offered that I was not as capable as I  
27 am today in 1969, is one reason that I could be

1 considered for parole without diminishing the fact  
2 that these were horrible acts that were committed.  
3 The second thing is that the crime was committed  
4 during an unusual period of time not to reoccur. I  
5 was 19, I was a drifting hippie already with a history  
6 of using marijuana, I ran into a man who had just  
7 gotten out of prison, was very seasoned and enjoyed  
8 using people. I have worked very hard in my therapy  
9 to understand that relationship and to move on from  
10 it. The third thing is that during the committing of  
11 the crime that I was under extreme mental stress and  
12 if there's been any evidence at all or understanding  
13 of abusive relationships and cults, there was extreme  
14 stress at that time in my life. The autopsy report  
15 verifies that there was superficial stab wounds in the  
16 lower back of Mrs. LaBianca. I have consistently  
17 testified and taken responsibility for those. The  
18 District Attorney's office never presented any  
19 evidence that would refute what I have said. And so  
20 it's a matter of, I believe, my consistency long  
21 before I ever heard of an autopsy report or anything  
22 else, that those wounds were post-mortem and they were  
23 in the lower torso. So any reference to other wounds,  
24 there's been no evidence to that. For suitability, I  
25 believe that I qualify under no juvenile, as you  
26 mentioned. All my crime activity occurred with  
27 Manson. I, today, have a stable social history. When

1 you read over the letters, a great many of those  
2 people I have known either all my life or at least 15,  
3 16 years. They're good people, they care about me,  
4 and they've helped me become who I am today. I lean  
5 on them and they are decent people. Signs of remorse,  
6 I feel that my life is a sign of remorse. I certainly  
7 take seriously what I have done and it goes on when I  
8 see youthful violence on television, it breaks my  
9 heart. There is nothing, and this is almost a cliché,  
10 I'm sure said by people in this seat, that there is  
11 nothing I can do to change the past. Certainly there  
12 is not, but I would hope that you would understand  
13 that I took the wreckage and I've tried to become a  
14 person that is contributing. Not only could I be  
15 contributing in that community if you let me go there,  
16 but certainly I'm also in this community, and I see  
17 that as part of my remorse and an expression of it. I  
18 talked about the motive. I have no violent history of  
19 violent crimes. As I've said before, August 10th,  
20 1969, was it. Any kind of suggestion that I have a  
21 suppressed anger, I live in a very, very difficult  
22 environment, and if any of you, I don't know your  
23 histories, but if you're all familiar with the CDC,  
24 even the gentlest of prisons, which I think this one  
25 is probably one of them, there's any number of ways to  
26 lose your temper, become frustrated, and at some point  
27 show if there was a tendency to blow up, it certainly



1 would have blown up in the last 29 years. I live in  
2 an environment that I have had to learn lots of coping  
3 skills. I feel that my age speaks for itself, I was  
4 19 when the crime happened, I'm 48 now. I'm getting  
5 very dry, is there some water? Anyway, my age speaks  
6 for itself. No one at 48 is the same as they were at  
7 19. And as I stated before, the older I get, the more  
8 difficult it is to live with what I did. I don't ever  
9 believe that -- Thank you -- there will come a time in  
10 my life whether I'm in here or I'm in the community  
11 where I'm not acutely aware of what I did. I will  
12 live with that forever, and I've learned how to live  
13 with it in the best way I know how. I believe my  
14 parole plans are realistic, I believe they are humble  
15 and they are ones that I can meet. And my prison  
16 record speaks for itself.

17 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: It that it?

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right. We  
20 do have one statement (inaudible) and this is from the  
21 LaBianca family and it will be read by Mr. Giaquinto  
22 at this time before we recess.

23 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: Yeah, and also  
24 normally at this time, as you know, the next the kin  
25 could speak if they wanted to. And we also have a  
26 number of, there are several letters that we received,  
27 and they're in the confidential, that are in

1 opposition to the granting of a parole date, and one  
2 of them is a petition style letter. It says  
3 (inaudible) should be released and (inaudible). And  
4 then we got this letter and it says the LaBianca  
5 family wishes to have the attached two page personal  
6 letter to the Board of Prison Terms read into the  
7 record as allowed by statute. And it says, it's dated  
8 May 19th, 1998. Subject: Parole hearing for Leslie  
9 Van Houten, May 28th, 1998.

10 "Manson and his companions thrust our  
11 family name into public focus when they  
12 murdered Sharon Tate and her houseguests  
13 one night, then they killed my former  
14 husband and his wife in the most brutal  
15 manner the next night. The shocking  
16 criminal actions became known as the  
17 Tate-LaBianca murders. We lost our  
18 privacy and our obscurity. My family  
19 never became vocal, we did not become  
20 activists, we relied on the justice  
21 system to seek and find the justice that  
22 was due us. We have never been asked by  
23 the District Attorney's office to  
24 participate in opposing the release of  
25 any of the killers. After all, they all  
26 received the death penalty and that was  
27 all our family could expect. But we can

1 no longer remain silent. Let me preface  
2 my remarks by this statement: We do no  
3 desire to become activists, we do not  
4 desire to be bombarded by the media and  
5 having our privacy destroyed. Yet we  
6 must make a statement about the parole  
7 hearing for convicted murderer, Leslie  
8 Van Houten. She entered the house of  
9 Leno, father of my children, on August  
10 10th, 1969. She participated in the  
11 deaths in that home. I note she says  
12 she only stabbed Rosemary after she was  
13 already dead from the relentless  
14 stabbing of Tex Watson, I know she  
15 denies having stabbed Leno, I even  
16 understand that she has been a model  
17 prisoner for all these years. It  
18 doesn't matter. Leslie Van Houten has  
19 been fed, given medical care, clothed  
20 and housed for nearly 30 years. I  
21 understand she even completed a college  
22 degree and a Master's degree. My  
23 children had no such gifts. They, like  
24 other law abiding citizens growing up,  
25 have had to face the realities of life  
26 without the help of their father. It  
27 has not been easy for them. I know

1 Ms. Van Houten has a website with Susan  
2 Atkins, I know she has a lot of friends  
3 who work for her freedom, that is  
4 unfortunate. Leslie Van Houten chose  
5 her own path, she chose to follow the  
6 instructions of Charles Manson, she  
7 chose drug crazed killers as her family  
8 and she became one of them. Well, what  
9 about my family? When do we get our  
10 parole? When does Leno get his parole?  
11 Sympathy for these killers, and  
12 especially this one, is misplaced.  
13 Sympathy, understanding and compassion  
14 should be given to the victims of murder  
15 and not the killers. In all these  
16 years, not one of the killers has  
17 expressed remorse to our family, not  
18 even Leslie Van Houten who says she did  
19 the least in the murders. If she is  
20 really ready to parole, then amends to  
21 the family should have already been  
22 done. When Leslie's father appeared on  
23 Larry King Live, my family was denied  
24 speaking on the air by the producers to  
25 answer Mr. Van Houten's accusations that  
26 the LaBiancas didn't care. Not one of  
27 us was allowed on the show. Make no

1 mistake about it, the entire LaBianca  
2 family has suffered untold depravation,  
3 frustration, anxiety, and financial ruin  
4 because of these murders. Leno's mother  
5 died of a broken heart just six years  
6 after her son's murder, losing the  
7 business to merciless creditors, the  
8 family business that Leno was managing  
9 and she and Leno's father had founded in  
10 the late 1920s. We emphatically oppose  
11 the release of any of the Manson menage.  
12 When the death penalty was repealed  
13 after their convictions, their sentences  
14 were converted to life with possibility  
15 of parole. Even the California State  
16 Legislature found that unacceptable.  
17 They voted to make the entire Manson  
18 family an exception. The California  
19 voters also took action and so we now  
20 have life without parole as it should  
21 be. It's a sacrilege to Leno's memory  
22 that the family has to be confronted  
23 with parole hearings for these  
24 individuals every few years. We are  
25 glad for her maturity and model prisoner  
26 status, but that does not equate to  
27 freedom. We also want to say that Susan

1 LaVerge, daughter of Rosemary, the  
2 murdered wife of Leno at the time does  
3 not represent the LaBianca family. She  
4 certainly did not represent us that May  
5 4th, 1990, parole hearing for Tex Watson  
6 where she made that pathetic appeal for  
7 his release because she forgave him. As  
8 Ms. Van Houten continues her  
9 incarceration, let her continue to  
10 remember that what she did that fateful  
11 night was forever. The Manson family's  
12 mark on this society is deep, as deep as  
13 the stab wounds to their helpless  
14 victims."

15 That's it.

16 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you. At  
17 this time we're going to recess. We'll call you back  
18 with our decision. The time now is approximately  
19 1:05.

20 R E C E S S

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## CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PRISON TERMS

## D E C I S I O N

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3           **COMMISSIONER ORTEGA:** Thank you. Let the  
4 record reflect that all that were previously have  
5 returned. The time now is approximately 1:20 p.m.  
6 The Panel has reviewed all the information received  
7 from the public and has relied on the following  
8 circumstances in concluding that the prisoner is not  
9 suitable for parole and would pose an unreasonable  
10 risk or danger to society and a threat to public  
11 safety if released from prison. And the number one  
12 reason, the commitment offense. It was carried out in  
13 an especially cruel and callous manner. It was  
14 carried out in a manner which exhibits a callous  
15 disregard for the life and the suffering of another.  
16 In this crime, multiple victims were killed in the  
17 same incident. And these conclusions are drawn from  
18 the Statement of Facts wherein the inmate and her  
19 crime partners had responded to the residence of the  
20 victims. At that time, the victims had been tied up,  
21 had been subsequently both had stabbed to death and  
22 several comments and writings were placed up on the  
23 walls prior to their leave. Previous record: She had  
24 an unstable social history and prior criminality which  
25 included several arrests for grand theft auto. There  
26 were no convictions relative to those charges.  
27   **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN   W-13378   DECISION PAGE 1   05/28/98**

1 However, she did have an arrest for burglary where  
2 there were no charges. Also, she was an admitted  
3 user, a heavy user of LSD and marijuana during the  
4 time of the crime that the crime was committed.

5 Institutionally: The prisoner has not participated in  
6 sufficient beneficial self-help and therapy  
7 programming, and needs time to get that type of  
8 therapy programming that is needed. And the Panel  
9 makes the following findings: That the prisoner needs  
10 therapy in order to face, discuss, understand and cope  
11 with stress in a non-destructive manner. Until the  
12 progress is made, the prisoner continues to be  
13 unpredictable and a threat to others. Nonetheless,  
14 the prisoner should be commended for completing her  
15 college education while she's been in prison, for the  
16 numerous programs in which she has participated, as  
17 well as for being disciplinary-free for, I was trying  
18 to figure it out, over 20 years?

19 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yeah.

20 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Your last 115,  
21 I thought --

22 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Was '76.

23 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: -- was in '76.

24 So over --

25 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Twenty-two years.

26 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: -- twenty-two

27 LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 2 05/28/98



1 years. However, these positive aspects of her  
2 behavior do not outweigh the factors of unsuitability.  
3 It will be a one year denial.

4 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: One year?

5 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: One year. The  
6 Panel finds what we'd like you to do for the next one  
7 year is to remain disciplinary-free.

8 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Thank you.

9 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: To continue to  
10 upgrade in any vocation or education that you can  
11 possibly get into, and to participate in, continue to  
12 participate in any self-help and therapy programming.  
13 I know this is a kind of a change over the last few  
14 years, but you've been programming very well. I think  
15 that you're doing well. However, the seriousness of  
16 this crime is something that is very difficult to get  
17 around.

18 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: I think the  
20 LaBianca family said it very eloquently in the letter.

21 INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Yes.

22 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: They lost  
23 somebody for the rest, they'll never know. So we want  
24 to wish you the best of luck. Mr. Giaquinto, do you  
25 have anything you'd like to add?

26 COMMISSIONER GIAQUINTO: No.

27 LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 3 05/28/98

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PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Mr. Douglas?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, I have nothing.

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: That will conclude the hearing. The time now is approximately about 1:23.

INMATE VAN HOUTEN: Thank you, thank you, very much.

--o0o--

PAROLE DENIED ONE YEAR

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS DECISION       JUL 14 1998      

LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 4 05/28/98

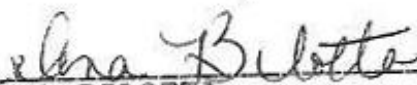
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CERTIFICATE AND  
DECLARATION OF TRANSCRIBER

I, LeAna Bilotta, a duly designated transcriber, CAPITOL ELECTRONIC REPORTING, do hereby declare and certify under penalty of perjury that I have transcribed tape(s) which total ONE in number and cover a total of pages number 1 - 64, and which recording was duly recorded at CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN, FRONTERA, CALIFORNIA in the matter of the SUBSEQUENT PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING OF LESLIE VAN HOUTEN, CDC NUMBER W-13378, on MAY 28, 1998, and that the foregoing pages constitute a true, complete, and accurate transcription of the aforementioned tape(s) to the best of my ability.

I hereby certify that I am a disinterested party in the above-captioned matter and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing.

Dated June 19, 1998, at Cameron Park,  
California.

  
LE ANA BILOTTA  
TRANSCRIBER  
CAPITOL ELECTRONIC REPORTING

LIFE PRISONER DECISION FACE SHEET

PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT

(RECORDS OFFICER USE ONLY)

YR MO DAY

Adjusted Period of Confinement .....
Date Life Term Begins .....
At Large Time .....
PAROLE DATE .....

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) REMAIN DISCIPLINARY FREE
2) PARTICIPATE IN SELF HELP/THERAPY
3) CONTINUE POSITIVE PROGRAMMING

1 YR. DENIAL

PENAL CODE SECTION 3042 NOTICES [ ] SENT (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITMENT OFFENSE

PC 187/PC 187/PC 182.1
(Code Section)

Murder 1st/Murder 1st/Consp. to Com. Murder
(Title)

A253156
(Case Number)

06, 07, 08
(Count Number)

Date Received by CDC 8-17-78
Date Life Term Begins
Controlling MEPD 8-17-78

Type of Hearing [ ] INITIAL [X] SUBSEQUENT (Hearing No.) 12
If Subsequent Hearing, Date of Last Hearing 4-30-96

Department Representative J. Cremer, CCI

Counsel for Prisoner none (waived)
Address

District Attorney Representative
County Los Angeles

PAROLE HEARING CALENDAR

This form and the panel's statement at the conclusion of the hearing constitute a proposed decision and order of the Board of Prison Terms. The decision becomes effective when issued following the decision review process.

By:
Presiding (Name) [Signature] Date 5/
Concurring (Name) [Signature] Date /28/
Concurring (Name) [Signature] Date /98

NAME VAN HOUTEN, LESLIE CDC NUMBER W-13378 INSTITUTION C.I.W. CALENDAR MAY HEARING DATE 5-28-98

**LIFE PRISONER: PAROLE CONSIDERATION  
PROPOSED DECISION (BPT §2041)**

I.  PAROLE DENIED 1 YR

If this proposed decision denying parole is approved, the Board will send you a copy of the approved decision, including the reasons for denial of parole, within 30 days of the hearing.

II.  PAROLE GRANTED

A. Base Period of Confinement ..... Months

Case No.                      Count No.                      Offense

B. Firearm Enhancement ..... + ..... Months

C. Other Crimes Total ..... + ..... Months

Case No.                      Count No.                      Offense ..... mos.

Case No.                      Count No.                      Offense ..... mos.

Case No.                      Count No.                      Offense ..... mos.

D. Total Term ..... = ..... Months

E. Postconviction Credit From ..... (Date) To ..... (Date) - ..... Months

F. Total Period of Confinement ..... = ..... Months

The period of confinement indicated is a tentative decision proposed by this panel. The decision will be reviewed pursuant to BPT §2041, and, if approved, a copy of the approved decision will be sent to you within 30 days. At that time appropriate pre-prison credits will be applied and a parole release date computed.

You will not engage in any conduct specified in BPT §2451. Such conduct may result in rescission or postponement of your parole date.

III. If the proposed decision denying or granting parole is disapproved, you will receive a copy of the proposed decision and the reasons for disapproval. You will then receive a copy of the modified decision or will be scheduled for a new hearing, as appropriate.

PANEL HEARING CASE

Name	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Date]</i>
Name	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Date]</i>
Name	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Date]</i>

NAME	CDC NUMBER	INSTITUTION	HEARING DATE
VAN HOUTEN, LASHLE	W-13378	C.I.W.	5-28-78

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