

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT NO. 130

HON. EDWARD A. HINZ, JR., JUDGE

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9006

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

NO. A253156

LESLIE VAN HOUTEN,

Defendant.

REPORTERS' DAILY TRANSCRIPT

Tuesday, April 5, 1977

Volume 6

Pages 860 to 1000, incl.

APPEARANCES:

(See Volume 1.)

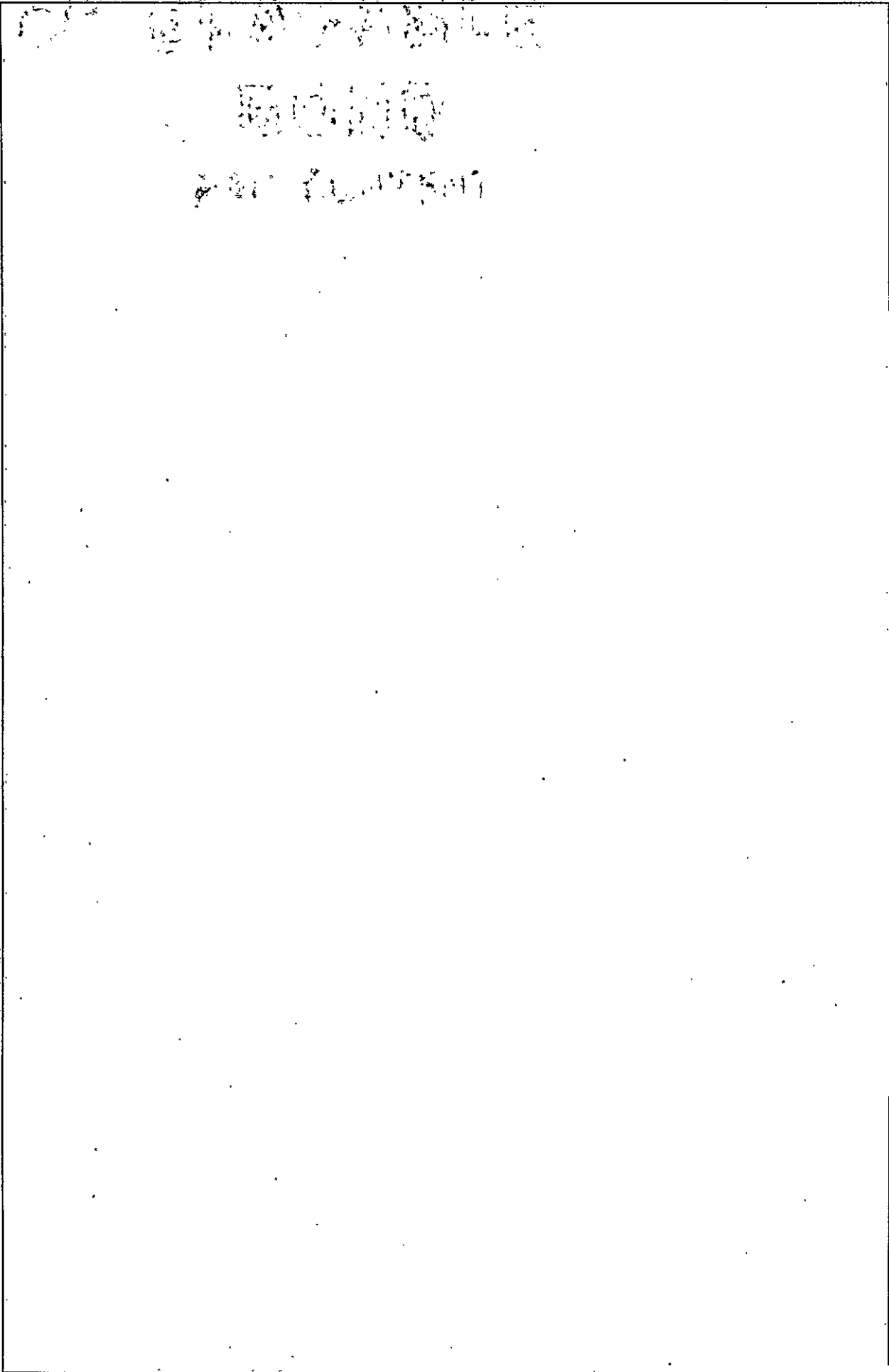
EMANUEL J. SANZO, C.S.R. No. 1267
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1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1977, 10:35 A.M.

2 DEPARTMENT NO. 130

HON. EDWARD A. HINEZ, JR., JUDGE

3 - - -

4 (Appearances as heretofore noted.)

5
6 THE COURT: People versus Van Houten.

7 Let the record show the defendant is present,
8 represented by counsel, the People are represented by counsel,
9 we have before us several of the jurors who were going to check
10 concerning matters with their employers concerning jury duty.

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All right. Do we have the microphone ready?

THE BAILIFF: It's there.

THE COURT: All right, sir, would you stand, please, and state your name.

MR. KALISH: My name is Stefan Kalish. I was touch up with my company this morning. I was asking -- I going to be on 90 days on jury duty. They tell me only pay 20 days working days.

THE COURT: That you would only be paid for 20 days?

MR. KALISH: Only.

THE COURT: By whom are you employed?

MR. KALISH: By Bell and Howell, Pasadena.

THE COURT: All right, thank you, sir. You may be seated.

MS. CARLOS: Good morning. My name is Connie Carlos, and I'm an office assistant for the buyers of Sears and Roebuck, and they will not pay.

THE COURT: Past the month?

MS. CARLOS: Sears and Roebuck. They will not pay.

THE COURT: At all?

MS. CARLOS: Well, they'll pay just for one month.

THE COURT: But they would not continue past the 30 days?

MS. CARLOS: No.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. ACOSTA: My name is Nello Acosta, and I told them about this, and they will pay for the 30 days. But I would have to submit a letter for the other days to the Board of Education to approve, if I'm going to be paid or not.

1 Then I'm the only security agent that is on the
2 school district right now, so we are very understaffed.

3 THE COURT: What was your last name, please?

4 MR. ACOSTA: Acosta, A-c-o-s-t-a.

5 THE COURT: Oh, yes, okay.

6 Did they say you would or would not be paid past
7 the 30 days?

8 MR. ACOSTA: It would have to go before the Board of
9 Education to determine whether I would or not. They never had
10 a situation over -- a case this long or past 30 days.

11 THE COURT: Do you have any idea how long it would take
12 to do that?

13 MR. ACOSTA: No, sir. I inquired, and they didn't know.
14 They wouldn't know themselves.

15 THE COURT: All right, thank you. You may be seated.

16 Yes, sir.

17 MR. HILLYER: Yes. I work for the telephone company,
18 engineering manager, and I checked with my division manager,
19 and with the inexperience in our district, it would be
20 advisable and a hardship --

21 THE CLERK: What is your name, sir?

22 MR. HILLYER: Nat Hillyer.

23 With the inexperience factor in our group, we are
24 very short at this time.

25 THE COURT: All right. That would affect, I take it,
26 the service to the public?

27 MR. HILLYER: The construction budget, which I am
28 primarily control of, the construction budget for the Valley

1 district.

2 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

3 Yes, sir.

4 MR. PEARSON: My name is Melvin Pearson, and I talked to
5 my employer, and they said they wouldn't pay me past 30 days.

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1 THE COURT: And by whom are you employed?

2 MR. PEARSON: Lynnwood Certified School District.

3 THE COURT: All right; thank you, sir.

4 Ms'am, could you state your name, please.

5 MS. JACOBS: My name is Bonnie Jacobs, and my employer
6 will pay for 45 working days only.

7 THE COURT: And by whom are you employed?

8 MS. JACOBS: Federal Aviation Administration.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. McLANE: My name is Patricia McLane, and I work for
12 Occidental.

13 And they said they would only pay for 30 days.

14 THE COURT: That's Occidental Life Insurance?

15 MS. McLANE: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 Yes, sir.

18 MR. BURTON: I'm James Burton.

19 All I want is two extended luncheons, today and
20 a week from Thursday.

21 THE COURT: Today and a week from Thursday.

22 You are the Naval Reserve captain; is that correct?

23 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: I think we can accommodate you rather than
25 lose you.

26 MR. BURTON: Thank you.

27 THE COURT: All right.

28 MS. MONTANO: My name is Yolanda Montano, and I work for

1 Bank of America.

2 And they will only pay one month.

3 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

4 Yes, sir.

5 MR. MOORE: Carl Moore.

6 I checked with my employer. It's Horris Industries.

7 And they will pay for 22 days.

8 MR. KEITH: I'm sorry; I didn't hear his name.

9 MR. KAY: Carl Moore.

10 THE COURT: Carl R. Moore.

11 MR. MOORE: Carl Moore.

12 THE COURT: All right; thank you, sir.

13 Yes, sir.

14 MR. TUMA: My name is Garth Tuma.

15 I think that's the letter that was sent.

16 THE COURT: Yes. I have a letter here from Jerome A. Lee.

17 MR. TUMA: Yes.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 Do you have anything else to add?

20 MR. TUMA: No. The nature of the project -- if you wish
21 to know -- is --

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. TUMA: -- is the installation of new equipment in our
24 computer center at the Times, and the moving of the whole
25 computer site to another location.

26 And I am heavily involved in the move right now.

27 Most of the work during the next couple of weeks
28 will be paperwork, and after that it will be physical, soft

1 work type work.

2 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

3 Will counsel approach the bench, please.

4 (The following proceedings were held
5 at the bench.)

6 THE COURT: First, here is the letter.

7 (Brief pause.)

8 MR. KAY: Did you read it?

9 MR. KEITH: Yes, I did.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 Let's see; the first one we have is Acosta. He's
12 with the school board and he can't find out about the pay,

13 I am going to excuse him if there is no objection.

14 MR. KEITH: No objection.
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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Then the next one has the luncheon problems.

3 MR. KAY: Yes; we can keep him.

4 THE COURT: We can accommodate him.

5 MR. KAY: Okay.

6 MR. KEITH: Okay.

7 MR. KAY: Apparently he's the only one that we can really
8 keep of all of them.

9 MR. KEITH: Well, let's go down.

10 MR. KAY: All right.

11 MR. KEITH: Just so I get them scratched out.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 Carlos has a 30-day pay only.

14 MR. KAY: Yes.

15 THE COURT: The next one is Hillyer. He's out.

16 Then Jacobs with F.R.A.

17 MR. KEITH: What did you say about Hillyer?

18 THE COURT: He's out.

19 MR. KAY: And then Jacobs, 45 days pay only.

20 MR. KEITH: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Kalish has --

22 MR. KAY: 20 days.

23 THE COURT: -- 22 days, I think -- no, 20 days.

24 Then McLane has 30 days with Occidental.

25 MR. KAY: Yes.

26 THE COURT: Montano had only one month.

27 Moore is with Norzin Industries; he has 22 days.

28 MR. KAY: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Pearson has 30 days only.

2 And then the last one is our L.A. Times man.

3 I think we ought to let him go based on the
4 hardship to the company.

5 We had a number of people that were going to check
6 who have not come back; so that's good.

7 Is there any objection to those?

8 MR. KAY: No.

9 MR. KEITH: No, Your Honor.

10 MR. KAY: It appears out of the group the only one we
11 have kept is Mr. Burton.

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. KAY: Okay.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 (The following proceedings were held in
16 open court in the presence of the
17 prospective jurors.)

18 THE COURT: The following jurors are excused from
19 further service upon this case. I appreciate your attendance
20 before the Court.

21 Mr. Tuma will be the last one excused. If you will
22 pick up the tickets and take them down to the 5th floor jury
23 room, where all jurors excused should report.

24 The following jurors are excused:

25 Wello F. Acosta.

26 Connie S. Carlos.

27 Nat M. Hillier.

28 Ronnie E. Jacobs.

1 Stefan Kalish.

2 Patricia J. McLane.

3 Yolanda Montano.

4 Carl R. Moore.

5 Melvin C. Pearson.

6 Garth H. Tunn.

7 Mr. Burton, we will accommodate your luncheons.

8 MR. BURTON: May I stay?

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 (Laughter.)

11 THE COURT: All right. The bailiff will please have
12 the first 12 on the list brought up to the courtroom.

13 THE BAILIFF: He has gone down to get them.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 Mr. Burton is one of the 12.

16 THE CLERK: Mr. Burton, if you might go straight through
17 that door into the jury room and just wait in there, please.
18 We will call you when we need you.

19 MR. BURTON: Okay.

20 (Brief pause.)

21 THE COURT: All right. The Court will take a short
22 recess until the panel has arrived.

23 (Recess.)

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1 THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

2 All right. People versus Van Houten.

3 Let the record show the defendant is present and
4 represented by counsel; the People are represented by counsel.

5 At this time, ladies and gentlemen, we are going
6 to inquire of the 12 of you concerning the issue of publicity.

7 The court first wants to call off the names of
8 those seated so that we are sure that we have the appropriate
9 people in the correct seats.

10 All right. I'd like to start in the first row to
11 my far right.

12 Are you Mr. John D. Abercrombie?

13 MR. ABERCROMBIE: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Then it's Barbara L. Banks?

15 MISS BANKS: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Is that Miss or Mrs.?

17 MISS BANKS: Miss.

18 THE COURT: Miss.

19 Then James D. Burton?

20 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: Mila Burton?

22 MISS BURTON: Right.

23 THE COURT: Is that Miss or Mrs.?

24 MISS BURTON: Miss.

25 THE COURT: Miss.

26 All right. No. 5 then would be June Day?

27 MRS. DAY: Yes.

28 THE COURT: Is it Miss or Mrs.?

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MRS. DAY: Mrs.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Then Leon S. Doubt?

MR. DOUBT: Correct.

THE COURT: Then to the back row, Mr. Allen Hardt?

MR. HARDT: Right, sir.

THE COURT: Mr. George D. Heishman?

MR. HEISHMAN: Yes.

THE COURT: Mr. George Jackson?

MR. JACKSON: Yes.

THE COURT: Gloria A. Jackson?

MISS JACKSON: Yes.

THE COURT: Is it Miss or Mrs.?

MISS JACKSON: Miss.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Ellen B. Jimenez?

MRS. JIMENEZ: Mrs.

THE COURT: Is it Mrs.? Thank you.

MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes.

THE COURT: And Mr. Eddie L. Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

THE COURT: All right, thank you.

All right. At this time I want to start with Mr. Abercrombie. I'd like to ask you some questions concerning the matter of publicity.

First question is, have you heard or do you know anything about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you have

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read in the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television
or heard on the radio?

MR. ASERCROMBIE: The only thing I know of is just through
movies, on the television, and through the news media.

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1 THE COURT: All right. In regard to the movie, are you
2 talking about the T.V. movie Helter Skelter?

3 MR. ABERCROMBIE: Yes.

4 THE COURT: And have you seen that once, or did you see
5 it twice?

6 MR. ABERCROMBIE: I have seen it twice.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 Have you read the book called "Helter Skelter"?

9 MR. ABERCROMBIE: No, I haven't.

10 THE COURT: Have you seen any other accounts of this
11 matter in the news media in the last few weeks or months?

12 MR. ABERCROMBIE: Not that I can recall, no.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 Now, I take it from what you have said, that you
15 followed the news reports of this matter back in 1969 and the
16 early '70s. Is that correct?

17 MR. ABERCROMBIE: That is correct.

18 THE COURT: Now, as a result of anything you might have
19 read, seen or heard about this case, would you be able to judge
20 the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to
21 be presented in this courtroom?

22 MR. ABERCROMBIE: I don't think so.

23 THE COURT: Well, based on what you have read, seen or
24 heard in this matter, have you formed any opinion as to the guilt
25 or innocence of the defendant?

26 MR. ABERCROMBIE: Yes, there is a possibility.

27 THE COURT: All right.

28 This opinion that you have formed, is this something

1 you could put to one side; or do you think this is something
2 that would require evidence to overcome before you would be
3 able to start with an open mind?

4 MR. ABERCROMBIE: Yes.

5 THE COURT: You would have to have some evidence presented;
6 is that what you are saying?

7 MR. ABERCROMBIE: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

9 Miss Banks?

10 MISS BANKS: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Have you heard or do you know anything about
12 the defendant's past actions, conduct, beliefs or associations,
13 including anything you have read in newspapers, magazines or
14 books, seen on television or heard on the radio?

15 MISS BANKS: I have.

16 THE COURT: What was that?

17 MISS BANKS: I saw the movie *Halter Skalter*, and I also
18 read the book.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 Now, in regard to the movie, did you see that just
21 a few months ago; or was it over a year ago?

22 MISS BANKS: A few months ago.

23 THE COURT: All right.

24 And that was on I think in two parts on two
25 different nights. Did you see both nights?

26 MISS BANKS: Yes, I did.

27 THE COURT: Do you recall seeing or hearing any news
28 media accounts in this matter in late 1969 and the early '70s?

1 MISS BANKS: Yes, I do.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 AS a result -- Well, let me ask you this:

4 Have you seen any coverage in the news media in the
5 last two or three months other than the movie?

6 MISS BANKS: No, I haven't.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 Would you be able to put to one side whatever you
9 might have read, seen or heard about this case, and judge the
10 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
11 introduced in this trial?

12 MISS BANKS: I don't think I would be able to.

13 THE COURT: Are you saying that based on what you have
14 read, seen or heard, that you have formed an opinion
15 concerning the defendant's guilt or innocence?

16 MISS BANKS: Yes, I have.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 Is this opinion such that it would require some
19 evidence to be produced before this opinion could be overcome?

20 MISS BANKS: Yes, some evidence would have to be
21 produced.

22 THE COURT: I'm sure you understand, as all jurors do,
23 that the jury in this case must have an open mind concerning
24 the case.

25 Do you understand that?

26 MISS BANKS: Yes.

27 THE COURT: And do you understand that in order to be a
28 juror and perform the function properly, it would be

1 inappropriate to have a juror on the case who already had
2 their mind made up or had an opinion to the point where it
3 would require some evidence to be produced before they would
4 have an open mind.

5 Do you understand that?

6 MISS BANKS: I understand.

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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 What you are telling me is that you have an
3 opinion concerning this matter?

4 MISS BANKS: Yes.

5 THE COURT: And that it would require some evidence to
6 overcome that opinion?

7 MISS BANKS: Yes.

8 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

9 Mr. Burton, have you heard or do you know anything
10 about this case or about the defendant's past actions, conduct,
11 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
12 newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television or heard
13 on the radio?

14 MR. BURTON: No.

15 THE COURT: You have not heard of this matter?

16 MR. BURTON: I have heard the name; I have heard the
17 Manson case.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 Did you see the T.V. movie or the book called
20 "Helter Skelter"?

21 MR. BURTON: No.

22 THE COURT: And in late 1969 and the early '70s did you
23 follow newspaper accounts of the trial, the Manson trial,
24 so-called?

25 MR. BURTON: As little as possible.

26 THE COURT: Would you be able to put to one side whatever
27 you might have read, seen or heard about this case, and judge
28 the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the

1 evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

2 MR. BURTON: Yes.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 As a result of anything you might have read, seen
5 or heard about this case, have you formed any opinion as to
6 the defendant's guilt or innocence?

7 MR. BURTON: No.

8 THE COURT: Would you allow yourself to be influenced
9 by any publicity you might have read, seen or heard about this
10 case?

11 MR. BURTON: No.

12 THE COURT: And if you are chosen as a trial juror,
13 can you assure the court that you would decide this case
14 solely on the evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

15 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

17 Miss Burton, have you heard or do you know anything
18 about this case or about the defendant's past actions, conduct,
19 beliefs or associations, including anything you might have
20 read in the newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television
21 or heard on the radio?

22 MISS BURTON: Yes.

23 THE COURT: And when was that?

24 MISS BURTON: I read the newspapers.

25 THE COURT: And by that you mean back in 1969 and the
26 early '70s?

27 MISS BURTON: Yes.

28 THE COURT: And have you seen anything in the news media

1 in the last few months about this matter?

2 MISS BURTON: I have heard it on television.

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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Now, you have heard news reports about the matter.
3 Is that what you're saying?

4 MISS BURTON: Right.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 Did you read the book or did you see the TV movie
7 called Helter Skelter?

8 MISS BURTON: No.

9 THE COURT: All right.

10 Could you put to one side whatever you might have
11 read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the defendant's
12 guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be presented in
13 this courtroom?

14 MISS BURTON: I don't think so, no.

15 THE COURT: Are you saying that based on what you have
16 read, seen, or heard about this case that you have formed an
17 opinion as to the defendant's guilt or innocence?

18 MISS BURTON: Yes.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 Now, as to that opinion, can you put that opinion
21 to one side, or would it require some evidence to be produced
22 in order to dispel that opinion?

23 MISS BURTON: There would have to be some evidence.

24 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

25 Mrs. Day, have you heard or do you know anything
26 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
27 beliefs or associations, including anything you might have read
28 in newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television or heard

1 on the radio?

2 MRS. DAY: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: And when was that?

4 MRS. DAY: All the recent part that was in the paper
5 about jury selection and so forth.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 MRS. DAY: And we discussed it in the fact that I was to
8 be on the jury the following week. So we had discussed this.

9 THE COURT: All right.

10 Did you follow newspaper or media accounts of
11 this matter in late 1969 and early '70?

12 MRS. DAY: Yes, yes, for another reason.

13 THE COURT: I beg your pardon?

14 MRS. DAY: For another reason.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 Have you seen the television movie or read the
17 book called "Helter Skelter"?

18 MRS. DAY: I've seen the movie.

19 THE COURT: When did you see that, was it in the last
20 few months or over a year ago?

21 MRS. DAY: When it first came out.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 Could you put to one side whatever you might have
24 read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the defendant's
25 guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be presented in
26 this courtroom?

27 MRS. DAY: No. My mind is made up.

28 THE COURT: Are you saying that based on what you have

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1 read, seen, or heard that you have formed an opinion concerning
2 this matter?

3 MRS. DAY: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Could you put that opinion to one side?

5 MRS. DAY: I don't think so.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 Now, is this opinion such that it would require
8 some evidence to be produced in order to --

9 MRS. DAY: I think it would take an awful lot of
10 evidence for me to change my mind. My mind is made up.

11 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

12 Mr. Doubt, have you heard or do you know anything
13 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
14 beliefs or associations, including anything you might have
15 read in newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television
16 or heard on the radio?

17 MR. DOUBT: The only information or interest that I saw
18 were the headlines at the time and the particular TV news that
19 occurred at the time.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 Have you seen anything in recent months about this
22 case in the news media?

23 MR. DOUBT: No, I haven't.

24 THE COURT: Have you read the book or seen the movie
25 called --

26 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

27 THE COURT: -- Helter Skelter?

28 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Could you put to one side whatever you might
3 have read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the
4 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
5 presented in this courtroom?

6 MR. DOUBT: I have no opinions on it.
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1 THE COURT: So then what you are telling me is that you
2 could judge the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the
3 evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

4 MR. DOUBT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: And I take it, then, from what you have
6 said, that you haven't formed any opinion as to the defendant's
7 guilt or innocence?

8 MR. DOUBT: I haven't formed any opinion on the defendant.
9 All I know is from the main trial headlines that occurred at
10 the time and what TV coverage there was.

11 THE COURT: But you haven't formed any opinion?

12 MR. DOUBT: I haven't read any book or gone to the movies,
13 and I didn't see any of the story releases on TV.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 So that is it accurate to say that you have not
16 formed any opinion based on publicity in this matter?

17 MR. DOUBT: That's true.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 Now, would you allow yourself to be influenced by
20 any publicity that you might have read, seen, or heard?

21 MR. DOUBT: No.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 And if you are chosen as a trial juror in this
24 case, can you assure the court that you would decide this case
25 solely on the evidence to be received in this courtroom?

26 MR. DOUBT: Yes, sir.

27 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

28 Mr.hardt, have you heard or do you know anything

1 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
2 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
3 the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television or
4 heard on the radio?

5 MR. HARDT: At the time it occurred, yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 You haven't seen the TV movie or read the book
8 called "Helter Skelter"?

9 MR. HARDT: I have not, sir.

10 THE COURT: Have you seen anything in the news media in
11 the last few months about this case?

12 MR. HARDT: Nothing other than the jury selection.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 Could you put to one side whatever you might have
15 read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the defendant's
16 guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be presented in
17 this courtroom?

18 MR. HARDT: I definitely could not, sir.

19 THE COURT: Are you saying that you have formed an
20 opinion based on what you have read, seen, or heard of this
21 case as to the defendant's guilt or innocence?

22 MR. HARDT: That is correct, sir.

23 THE COURT: All right.

24 Is this state of mind such that you would require
25 some evidence to be produced in order to dispel your opinion?

26 MR. HARDT: No. I feel that it would take an awful lot
27 of evidence before I would change my mind, sir.

28 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

1 Mr. Heishman, have you heard or do you know anything
2 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
3 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
4 the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television or
5 heard on the radio?

6 MR. HEISHMAN: Only when it occurred in 1969.

7 THE COURT: You haven't seen the TV movie or read the
8 book called "Helter Skelter"?

9 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 Now, could you put to one side whatever you might
12 have read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the
13 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
14 presented in this courtroom?

15 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, sir, I could.

16 THE COURT: And as a result of anything you might have
17 read, seen, or heard about this case, have you formed any
18 opinion as to the defendant's guilt or innocence?

19 MR. HEISHMAN: No, I haven't.

20 THE COURT: Would you allow yourself to be influenced by
21 any publicity you might have read, seen, or heard in this
22 matter?

23 MR. HEISHMAN: No, I wouldn't.

24 THE COURT: And if you are chosen as a trial juror,
25 could you assure the court that you would decide this case
26 solely on the evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

27 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, I could.

28 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

6-8

1 Mr. Jackson, have you heard or do you know
2 anything about this case or about defendant's past actions,
3 conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you might
4 have read in newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television
5 or heard on the radio?

6 MR. JACKSON: Yes, Your Honor.
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1 THE COURT: When was that?

2 MR. JACKSON: In 1969, or when the crime occurred, and
3 over the past few years at the L. A. Press Club during
4 conversation with members of the media, and with my brother-
5 in-law. We've discussed the subject quite in depth -- he's
6 a former assistant U. S. Attorney General -- especially after
7 the book was published.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 Have you read the book?

10 MR. JACKSON: No, I have not.

11 THE COURT: Did you see the TV movie called Helter
12 Skelter?

13 MR. JACKSON: No, I have not.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 Now, I take it you have had numerous conversations
16 with numerous people about this matter?

17 MR. JACKSON: Yes.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 Now, could you put to one side whatever you might
20 have read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the
21 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
22 presented in this courtroom?

23 MR. JACKSON: I would find it difficult, because the
24 people with whom I had conversations are reporters, and I find
25 their credibility to be quite high,

26 THE COURT: All right,

27 And are you saying that based on what you have
28 read, seen, or heard about this case that you have formed an

6-10 1 opinion concerning the defendant's guilt or innocence?

2 MR. JACKSON: Yes, I have formed an opinion.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 And is that opinion such that it would require
5 evidence to dispel it?

6 MR. JACKSON: Yes.

7 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

8 All right, Miss Jackson, have you heard or do
9 you know anything about this case or about defendant's past
10 actions, conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything
11 you have read in the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on
12 television or heard on the radio?

13 MISS JACKSON: I've seen the movie and I've read the
14 book.

15 THE COURT: Did you follow the news media accounts of
16 this matter in late 1969 and the early '70s?

17 MISS JACKSON: Occasionally.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 And when you saw the movie, was that just in the
20 last couple of months, or was it over a year ago?

21 MISS JACKSON: It was when it was first shown.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 Did you see both evenings of the program?

24 MISS JACKSON: Yes.

25 THE COURT: All right.

26 Now, could you put to one side whatever you might
27 have read, seen, or heard about this case --

28 MISS JACKSON: No.

1 THE COURT: and judge -- let me finish -- and judge
2 the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to
3 be presented in this courtroom?

4 MISS JACKSON: I do not think I could.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 As a result of anything you have read, seen, or
7 heard about this case, have you formed any opinion as to the
8 guilt or innocence of the defendant?

9 MISS JACKSON: Yes.

10 THE COURT: And is this opinion such that it would
11 require evidence to be produced to dispel your opinion?

12 MISS JACKSON: I wasn't following you.

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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 What I am trying to get at is this: Some people
3 come in to be jurors, and they have not formed any opinion.

4 MISS JACKSON: Right.

5 THE COURT: And there are some that have formed an
6 opinion.

7 And the people that have formed an opinion fall
8 into probably one of two categories:

9 There are those that have an opinion but they
10 can set it to one side, forget about it, ignore it, and decide
11 the case solely on the evidence to be presented in this
12 courtroom.

13 Then there are some that have an opinion such
14 that they can't put it to one side, and their opinion is
15 strong enough that it would require some evidence to be
16 produced before the juror had an open mind on the matter.

17 So what I am trying to find out is, which category
18 do you fall into?

19 MISS JACKSON: I think I'd have to have evidence.

20 THE COURT: You'd have to have evidence produced to
21 overcome your opinion.

22 MISS JACKSON: Right.

23 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

24 Mrs. Jimenez, have you heard or do you know anything
25 about this case or about the defendant's past actions, conduct,
26 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
27 the newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television or
28 heard on the radio?

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1 MRS. JIMENEZ: Basically the early coverage of the
2 occurrence,

3 THE COURT: You haven't read the book or seen the movie
4 called Helter Skelter?

5 MRS. JIMENEZ: I did see one part about a year ago, sir.

6 THE COURT: One part of the T.V. movie?

7 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Have you read the book?

9 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I haven't.

10 THE COURT: Have you seen anything in the news media in
11 the last few months about this matter?

12 MRS. JIMENEZ: Just about the possibility of another
13 trial, yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 Could you put to one side whatever you might have
16 read, seen or heard about this matter, and judge the defendant's
17 guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be presented in
18 this courtroom?

19 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes.

20 THE COURT: And as a result of anything you might have
21 read, seen or heard about this case, have you formed any
22 opinion as to the defendant's guilt or innocence?

23 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I haven't.

24 THE COURT: Would you allow yourself to be influenced
25 by any publicity you have read, seen or heard about this matter?

26 MRS. JIMENEZ: No.

27 THE COURT: And if you are chosen as a trial juror in
28 this case, can you assure the court that you would decide this

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1 matter solely on the evidence to be presented in this
2 courtroom?

3 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes.

4 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

5 Mr. Johnson, have you heard or do you know
6 anything about this case or about the defendant's past actions,
7 conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you have
8 read in newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television or
9 heard on the radio?

10 MR. JOHNSON: No more than what I have heard on the radio
11 or through the news media, sir.

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1 THE COURT: And that was ---

2 Was that back in 1969 and the early '70s?

3 MR. JOHNSON: Well, it was during '69, early '70s; and
4 about the trial we are here on now.

5 THE COURT: So you have seen also some news media
6 accounts in the last few months about this matter; is that
7 correct?

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I have.

9 THE COURT: Did you see the T.V. movie or read the book
10 called "Helter Skelter"?

11 MR. JOHNSON: No, I haven't.

12 THE COURT: Could you put to one side whatever you might
13 have read, seen or heard about this matter about the defendant,
14 and judge the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the
15 evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

16 MR. JOHNSON: I don't think I could.

17 THE COURT: Have you, based on what you have read, seen
18 or heard in this matter, have you formed any opinion as to the
19 guilt or innocence of the defendant?

20 MR. JOHNSON: I think I have an opinion about it, sir.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 Now, is this opinion such that it would require
23 evidence to be produced in order to overcome your opinion?

24 MR. JOHNSON: I would have to have evidence, yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

26 Will counsel approach the bench, please.

27 (The following proceedings were held
28 at the bench;)

7-5
1 MR. KAY: We are not doing so well with this group of
2 50.

3 THE COURT: No.

4 MR. KAY: We are down to 14 after these challenges.

5 THE COURT: It appears to me that the following -- I
6 assume the following are challenged for cause:

7 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 12.

8 THE CLERK: Could I get their names.

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 Abercrombie.

11 THE CLERK: Okay.

12 THE COURT: Banks.

13 THE CLERK: Okay.

14 THE COURT: Miss Burton. There are two Burtons there.

15 THE CLERK: Right.

16 THE COURT: Mrs. Day.

17 THE CLERK: Okay.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Hardt.

19 THE CLERK: Okay.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Jackson. Miss Jackson.

21 THE CLERK: Okay.

22 THE COURT: And Mr. Johnson.

23 Are you challenging them all for cause?

24 MR. KRITH: Yes.

25 THE COURT: I assume you are. So the challenges will be
26 granted.

27 I will excuse at this time those people.

28 THE CLERK: Okay.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 (The following proceedings were held
3 in open court in the presence of the
4 prospective jurors:)

5 THE COURT: All right. The following jurors are
6 excused. The Court wants to thank you for your attendance
7 upon the court. You should report to the 5th floor jury room,
8 those of you that are excused.

9 I will ask the last juror to be excused,
10 Mr. Eddie Johnson, to pick up the tickets, please, and take
11 them with you.

12 The following jurors are excused:

13 John D. Ambarcrombia.
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1 Miss Barbara L. Banks.

2 Miss Mila Burton.

3 Mrs. June Day.

4 Mr. Allen M. Hardt.

5 Mr. George Jackson.

6 Miss Gloria Jackson.

7 And Mr. Eddie L. Johnson.

8 Mr. Johnson, would you please take the tickets
9 down to the 5th floor?

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 All right. Mr. Keith, you may examine on the
13 issue of publicity.

14 MR. KEITH: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 Lady and gentlemen, the survivors, my name is
16 Maxwell Keith.

17 I represent Miss Van Houten, who is of course
18 seated to my right when I am seated.

19 His Honor has kindly given Mr. Kay and myself
20 the opportunity to inquire of the survivors to delve further
21 into the aspects of the massive publicity that has attended
22 this case, particularly in the past, and how it may affect you
23 as impartial jurors.

24 As I'm sure you realize, both the prosecution and
25 Miss Van Houten are entitled to fair-minded and impartial and
26 open-minded jurors.

27 It's more than "being entitled to it"; we demand
28 it, because the law insists on it.

1 And therefore we have been taking pains to ask
2 questions on the subject of publicity, vis-a-vis, your
3 attitude in the face of that publicity towards Miss Van Houtan.

4 Mr. Burton, I will start with you, if you will
5 take the microphone.

6 Were you living in Los Angeles County in 1969 and
7 1970?

8 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

9 MR. KEITH: Were you on Navy duty, for instance, during
10 the first trial in this case?

11 MR. BURTON: No.

12 MR. KEITH: Active duty.

13 MR. BURTON: No, I wasn't.

14 MR. KEITH: And you did not follow the trial in the
15 newspapers, I gather, other than the almost -- other than
16 almost being a captive --

17 MR. BURTON: As I said, as little as possible.

18 MR. KEITH: Is that because you didn't take any interest
19 in the case; or were you busy doing other things and didn't
20 care about it? Or --

21 MR. BURTON: Well, not particularly.

22 It's one of the things that didn't affect me, I
23 didn't think.

24 MR. KEITH: Well, all right; fine.

25 Many people did follow the case closely; and that's
26 why we are asking these questions.

27 You say you didn't. Fine.

28 Have you read anything about Leslie Van Houtan or

1 seen anything about her on television or heard about her on
2 radio within the last year or so?

3 MR. BURTON: I have heard the name, and when I called
4 my office yesterday and said I might be here three months,
5 my secretary said, "That case?"

6 And I haven't heard of it.
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1 MR. KEITH: You have heard of Manson before.

2 MR. BURTON: I have heard of Manson, yes, sir.

3 MR. KEITH: Have you ever heard of Miss Van Houten
4 having any connection with Manson, until possibly yesterday,
5 when you appeared in court?

6 MR. BURTON: Not really. The name is sort of familiar,
7 but that's all.

8 MR. KEITH: If you had heard of her name before, you
9 had forgotten it in the passage of time?

10 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

11 MR. KEITH: Have you ever heard of a gentleman by the
12 name of Vincent Bugliosi?

13 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

14 MR. KEITH: And do you know who he is?

15 MR. BURTON: I understand he was the -- he was a
16 prosecutor in the Manson trial.

17 MR. KEITH: All right.

18 MR. BURTON: And I didn't like him running for whatever
19 it was he ran for, either.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. KEITH: Well, I wasn't really asking about your
22 opinion of Mr. Bugliosi.

23 MR. BURTON: Oh, excuse me.

24 MR. KEITH: So much as I was making inquiry as to
25 whether you may have heard him speak or seen him speak on
26 television or seen him speak in person.

27 MR. BURTON: Only a couple of his political shorts on
28 T.V.

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1 MR. KEITH: All right.

2 And when you heard those political shorts, as you
3 put it, I take it he did not discuss the so-called Manson
4 case.

5 MR. BURTON: No, sir.

6 MR. KEITH: All right.

7 Do you know what the outcome was of this first
8 so-called Manson trial?

9 MR. BURTON: I think Manson was found guilty, I think.

10 MR. KEITH: Do you have any idea why Leslie,
11 Miss Van Houten, is here in court today awaiting trial?

12 MR. BURTON: No, sir, I don't.

13 MR. KEITH: You understand, of course, that every person
14 charged with a public offense, right down to a traffic ticket,
15 is presumed innocent.

16 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

17 MR. KEITH: And you believe that Leslie Van Houten is
18 presumed to be innocent at the present time, do you not?

19 MR. BURTON: Yes, sir.

20 MR. KEITH: All right.

21 Now, my question is this: Is there anything that
22 you have heard, read or seen about this case in the past, that
23 perhaps has come to your mind since you have been sitting in the
24 jury box as a potential juror, that may in some way
25 contaminate in your mind the presumption of innocence of which
26 she has the benefit?

27 MR. BURTON: No, sir.

28 MR. KEITH: Could you pass the microphone, Mr. Burton,

1 please to Mr. Doubt.

2 Mr. Doubt, were you living in Los Angeles County
3 in 1969 and 1970 and '71?

4 MR. DOUBT: Yes, sir.

5 MR. KEITH: My notes indicate you had seen some
6 headlines about the so-called Manson case.

7 MR. DOUBT: I had seen headlines and news releases.

8 MR. KEITH: On television?

9 MR. DOUBT: Television and radio.

10 MR. KEITH: All right.

11 Did you have occasion to follow the case with
12 any regularity when it was first tried?

13 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

14 MR. KEITH: When the homicides took place did you follow
15 closely the news and television accounts of the continuing
16 investigation?

17 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

18 MR. KEITH: Are you telling me that you took no particular
19 interest in the case other than being exposed to it because of
20 the massive publicity?

21 MR. DOUBT: Outside of the immediate shock value of it,
22 I didn't -- I didn't read any accounts, that is, in detail,
23 in the newspapers at the time.

24 MR. KEITH: You only --

25 MR. DOUBT: The headlines were enough for me.

26 MR. KEITH: You only saw headlines because the headlines
27 were there and you couldn't miss it if you wanted to.

28 MR. DOUBT: No. Headlines and pictures that appeared,

1 and radio news releases.

2 MR. KEITH: When you say that was enough for you, do you
3 mean that that kind of sensational journalism turns you off,
4 or what?

5 MR. DOUBT: Well, it is disturbing, but --

6 MR. KEITH: What's disturbing, that something like that
7 could happen --

8 MR. DOUBT: Yes.

9 MR. KEITH: -- in the first place?

10 MR. DOUBT: The fact that it can happen, and does happen.
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1 MR. KEITH: And reading the headlines about the case
2 disturbed you, then, true?

3 MR. DOUBT: True.

4 MR. KEITH: All right.

5 And were you aware there was a trial involving
6 the homicides --

7 MR. DOUBT: Yes, I was aware of the trial.

8 MR. KEITH: -- that disturbed you?

9 And were you aware of the outcome of that trial?

10 MR. DOUBT: Only in regards to Manson.

11 MR. KEITH: Were you --

12 MR. DOUBT: I mean, I was aware of the fact that he was
13 arrested and was --

14 MR. KEITH: Was tried?

15 MR. DOUBT: Yes.

16 MR. KEITH: All right.

17 And were you familiar with the name Leslie Van
18 Houten before you walked into court yesterday?

19 MR. DOUBT: Only with the association with the -- that
20 her name was mentioned prior to this in the news.

21 MR. KEITH: When you say "prior to this in the news,"
22 how much prior are you talking about; way back then in 1970
23 or thereabouts or more recent?

24 MR. DOUBT: Then.

25 But there was something in the news here, TV news,
26 recently.

27 The only picture was a drawing of her, like a
28 pencil-sketch drawing of her.

1 MR. KEITH: Did that news concern the start of this
2 trial?

3 MR. DOUBT: I don't know. I just remember seeing her
4 picture on the TV news.

5 My job is one that causes me to continuously
6 monitor news, radio and TV. But I only am looking for certain
7 things, namely, scientific. I can't help hearing the other,
8 but it goes in one ear and out the other.

9 MR. KEITH: All right.

10 He won't ask you what your interesting occupation
11 is, that isn't the time or place for it.

12 MR. DOUBT: Okay.

13 MR. KEITH: Unless there is some relationship between
14 your job --

15 MR. DOUBT: No relationship.

16 MR. KEITH: -- and your exposure to news media.

17 Now, when you think back, were you aware that --
18 or are you aware now that Leslie was tried with Manson?

19 MR. DOUBT: Not really aware of it.

20 MR. KEITH: All right.

21 Do you have any idea, from what you have read,
22 heard, or seen, as to why she is in court today awaiting a
23 trial?

24 MR. DOUBT: From what the judge told us yesterday.

25 MR. KEITH: Well, that she's been indicted.

26 MR. DOUBT: Yes.

27 MR. KEITH: Do you have any other ideas to why she might
28 be here now?

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1 MR. DOUBT: I have no opinions on it; no, sir.

2 MR. KEITH: What I'm trying to get at is, you do have a
3 recollection now of her having had purportedly some association
4 with Manson?

5 MR. DOUBT: Yes.

6 MR. KEITH: All right.

7 And do you have a recollection now of her having
8 been tried with Manson back in 1969 and '70?

9 MR. DOUBT: Yes. The names are -- as far as I'm
10 concerned -- are associated, yes.

11 MR. KEITH: Now, you were disturbed about the case
12 through your reading of the headlines and through the news
13 media.

14 As a result of your being disturbed because of
15 the media exposure, did you form an opinion back then about
16 Manson's guilt or innocence?

17 MR. DOUBT: I didn't have a fixed opinion on it other
18 than it was just distasteful, the whole act. I mean as a
19 group, not as an individual.

20 MR. KEITH: What you are telling me is the group that
21 surrounded Manson was distasteful to you, and it was distaste-
22 ful because you read accounts of their alleged participation
23 in certain antisocial conduct?

24 MR. DOUBT: Involvement.

25 MR. KEITH: That was distasteful to you?

26 MR. DOUBT: Well --

27 MR. KEITH: Well, all right, you've answered that.

28 MR. DOUBT: Obviously --

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MR. KEITH: You've answered that question; you've answered that question.

My point is, in your mind does not Leslie start with two strikes against her because you know she was associated with Manson and the Manson group was distasteful to you?

Don't you think you are going to be unfair to her because of that opinion in your mind?

MR. DOUBT: Not from judging her on evidence submitted.

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1 MR. KEITH: What do you mean, "Not from judging ---"?

2 MR. DOUBT: I have no opinion about her at all.

3 MR. KEITH: Well, you remember her, don't you, as
4 having been associated with Manson's group?

5 You found that group distasteful; don't you find
6 her distasteful, too?

7 MR. DOUBT: I don't know how to answer that, sir.

8 It was the group act that was distasteful. Any
9 headline would be.

10 MR. KEITH: Okay.

11 You have no opinion that she may be more likely
12 guilty than innocent because of what you have read, heard,
13 or seen about this case that you found so distasteful?

14 MR. DOUBT: I have not seen any proof that she is guilty
15 other than guilt by association, but --

16 MR. KEITH: Do you have that opinion, she's guilty by
17 association?

18 MR. DOUBT: Other than that she is involved, I have no
19 opinion as to whether she's guilty or innocent; if it was
20 done under force or free will, if she was sober or what.

21 MR. KEITH: You feel those might be issues that you might
22 encounter in this case and that you could decide those issues
23 with an open mind?

24 MR. DOUBT: I could with an open mind; yes, sir.

25 MR. KEITH: You promise me you can do that.

26 MR. DOUBT: Yes, sir.

27 MR. KEITH: All right. You can pass the microphone back.

28 THE BAILIFF: I'll get that.

1 MR. KEITH: Is it Mr. Heishman?

2 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, sir.

3 MR. KEITH: And let's see. You didn't read the book
4 "Helter Skelter" or see the television motion picture by the
5 same name --

6 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir.

7 MR. KEITH: -- is that right?

8 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes.

9 MR. KEITH: And have you had any exposure to this case
10 at all or the so-called Manson family or Manson himself through
11 the media within the past year or so?

12 MR. HEISHMAN: No.

13 MR. KEITH: All right.

14 Now, you did read about the case when it occurred?

15 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, sir.

16 MR. KEITH: Did you follow the case on a day-to-day
17 regular basis --

18 MR. HEISHMAN: No.

19 MR. KEITH: -- or just read headlines like Mr. Doubt?

20 MR. HEISHMAN: That's right.

21 MR. KEITH: Pardon me?

22 MR. HEISHMAN: Just read the headlines.

23 MR. KEITH: And did the headlines leave any impression
24 on you that would cause you to -- let's say would make it
25 difficult for you to give Leslie a fair trial?

26 MR. HEISHMAN: I had no opinion whatsoever. I just
27 read the headlines and that was it.

28 MR. KEITH: Did you learn about the outcome of that

1 first case?

2 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, sir.

3 MR. KEITH: And were you aware --

4 Let me put it this way: Mr. Heishman, had you
5 ever heard of Leslie Van Houten's name before yesterday?

6 MR. HEISHMAN: Last week or so I heard on the news they
7 were selecting a jury. I didn't know I'd be on it.

8 MR. KEITH: Pardon me, sir?

9 MR. HEISHMAN: Little did I know at the time I'd be in
10 it.

11 MR. KEITH: Well, that's understandable.

12 My point is, had you heard of her before you heard
13 her name on the news in the context of a jury being --

14 MR. HEISHMAN: Last couple of weeks; yes, sir.

15 MR. KEITH: That's the only time you have ever heard of
16 her?

17 MR. HEISHMAN: That's right.

18 MR. KEITH: Until now, of course.

19 MR. HEISHMAN: Right.

20 MR. KEITH: You don't remember anything about any
21 involvement she may have purportedly had with Manson, then?

22 MR. HEISHMAN: The only thing at the time, it was Manson
23 and his followers.

24 MR. KEITH: All right.

25 Now, as a result of your reading the headlines and
26 perhaps being exposed to television coverage many years ago,
27 did you form an opinion about Mr. Manson's guilt or innocence?

28 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir. I didn't follow it that closely.

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MR. KEITH: All right.

You weren't interested in the matter?

MR. HEISHMAN: That's right.

MR. KEITH: Have you ever heard a fellow by the name of Vincent Bugliosi --

Well, I'll first ask you if you have ever heard of him?

MR. HEISHMAN: When he was running for some office.

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1 MR. KEITH: Have you ever heard him speak?

2 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir.

3 MR. KEITH: All right, that settles that phase of the
4 questioning.

5 And can you promise me, Mr. Heishman, that you
6 have an open mind right now towards Miss Van Houten?

7 MR. HEISHMAN: I believe so, yes, sir.

8 MR. KEITH: And you realize, of course, that she is,
9 as our law says, clothed with the presumption of innocence?

10 MR. HEISHMAN: That's right.

11 MR. KEITH: And do you feel, as far as your attitude
12 is concerned, that she presently, as she sits before you,
13 has the benefit of that presumption, or do you feel that it
14 is somehow tainted because of any past exposure you have had
15 to publicity of this case?

16 MR. HEISHMAN: No. In my mind, I've got to see the
17 evidence.

18 MR. KEITH: All right, thank you, sir.

19 Could you pass the microphone to Mrs. Jimenez.
20 Mrs. Jimenez, you did see a segment of the
21 television motion picture by the name of Kelter Skelter
22 presumably?

23 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.

24 MR. KEITH: And did you see that about a year ago or
25 within the last two or three months?

26 MRS. JIMENEZ: About a year ago.

27 MR. KEITH: And do you remember which part or segment
28 you saw?

1 Let me try and refresh your recollection or
2 orient you. One part concerned the, as I recall it,
3 investigatory stage, and the other part was mostly concerning
4 a television trial in the worst sense.

5 Do you remember which part you saw?

6 MRS. JIMENEZ: I saw the first part, I believe.

7 MR. KEITH: You don't remember seeing any trial scenes?

8 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, sir.

9 MR. KEITH: Is that correct?

10 All right. Now, had you ever heard the name
11 Leslie Van Houton before you came into court yesterday?

12 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.

13 MR. KEITH: And how did you hear that name?

14 MRS. JIMENEZ: Well, I guess I recall it from the
15 original trial, and then I --

16 MR. KEITH: Did you -- Excuse me, I didn't realize you
17 hadn't finished.

18 MRS. JIMENEZ: -- and then in the last four weeks.

19 MR. KEITH: And what did you read, see, or hear in the
20 last four weeks where her name was mentioned?

21 MRS. JIMENEZ: On television about the possibility of
22 another trial.

23 MR. KEITH: Of another trial?

24 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.

25 MR. KEITH: And that's all you remember reading or
26 seeing or hearing?

27 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.

28 MR. KEITH: Now, during the first trial you did read

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1 about the case in the newspapers and perhaps see about it
2 on television?

3 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes.

4 MR. KEITH: You were living in this county at that time?

5 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, I was.

6 MR. KEITH: And thinking back, do you remember whether
7 or not Leslie was involved at all in the first trial?

8 MRS. JIMENEZ: I really don't recall her.

9 MR. KEITH: You don't recall her name?

10 MRS. JIMENEZ: The name I recall, but I don't know the
11 particulars about her involvement.

12 MR. KEITH: Now, do you remember her name being mentioned
13 in the television motion picture Helter Skelter?

14 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I don't.

15 MR. KEITH: Do you remember what meaning, if any,
16 Manson gave to the term "helter-skelter"?

17 What does it mean to you as far as --bearing in
18 mind that you did see that television motion picture.

19 Do you have a recollection --

20 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I don't recall.

21 MR. KEITH: -- what meaning he gave that term?

22 Are you telling us your recollection of the motion
23 picture is somewhat vague?

24 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, it is.

25 MR. KEITH: Have you ever seen any other motion pictures
26 or television shows purporting to depict the so-called Manson
27 family as it was?

28 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I didn't.

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MR. KEITH: It was in the late '60s.

MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I haven't.

MR. KEITH: All right.

Have you ever formed any opinion as to the guilt of Manson?

MRS. JIMENEZ: Not really, no.

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1 MR. KEITH: You have no opinion whatsoever as to
2 whether or not Leslie is more likely to be guilty rather than
3 innocent based on what you have seen, heard or read about this
4 case.

5 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I don't.

6 MR. KEITH: And you are positive of that.

7 MRS. JIMENEZ: I am.

8 MR. KEITH: You promise me that?

9 MRS. JIMENEZ: I do.

10 MR. KEITH: And you promise me, as you promised the judge,
11 that you have not been influenced whatsoever one iota by what
12 you may have read, seen or heard about this case.

13 MRS. JIMENEZ: I don't believe so.

14 MR. KEITH: Or about Charlie Manson.

15 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, sir.

16 MR. KEITH: I have nothing further.

17 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

18 MR. KAY: You can keep the microphones, if you want.
19 I will just backtrack. That way we won't have to start off
20 with passing the microphones around.

21 This news that you saw --- or you say you saw a
22 recent article about the possibility of a new trial.

23 Was that in the newspapers?

24 MRS. JIMENEZ: No; on T.V.

25 MR. KAY: And I take it it was on the nightly news?

26 MRS. JIMENEZ: Right.

27 MR. KAY: And which channel was it on; do you remember?

28 MRS. JIMENEZ: (No response.)

1 MR. KAY: Which channel do you usually watch the nightly
2 news on?

3 MRS. JIMENEZ: Channel 4.

4 MR. KAY: Now, this year have you seen Miss Van Houten
5 on T.V. at all, other than maybe this one occasion?

6 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, sir.

7 MR. KAY: Do you take a local newspaper?

8 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, I do.

9 MR. KAY: And which one is that?

10 MRS. JIMENEZ: The Times.

11 MR. KAY: And did you read an article in the L.A. Times,
12 on the front page of the paper, which purported to be an
13 interview with Miss Van Houten?

14 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I did not.

15 MR. KAY: Have you read any articles in the L.A. Times
16 this year about Miss Van Houten and about this trial?

17 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, sir.

18 MR. KAY: Have you read any articles in any other
19 newspapers about Miss Van Houten this year?

20 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, sir.

21 MR. KAY: Do you read the Los Angeles Magazine?

22 MRS. JIMENEZ: I take it, but I don't always read it.

23 MR. KAY: Have you read this month's issue?

24 MRS. JIMENEZ: No.

25 MR. KAY: Do you read the Christian Science Monitor?

26 MRS. JIMENEZ: No.

27 MR. KAY: Have you ever seen Mr. Keith on television or
28 heard him on radio or read about him in any magazines or

1 newspaper talking about Miss Van Houten?

2 MRS. JIMENEZ: No, I haven't.

3 MR. KAY: Now, from what you know about this case, from
4 whatever source, have you formed any opinion that Miss Van Houten
5 might have been mentally ill or mentally unbalanced at the
6 time of the Labianca murders?

7 MRS. JIMENEZ: No.

8 MR. KAY: Have you formed any opinion that anybody who
9 participated in the so-called Tate-Labianca murders must have
10 been crazy or mentally unbalanced; have you formed any
11 opinion like that?

12 MRS. JIMENEZ: No.

13 MR. KAY: The reason I say that is not only is
14 Miss Van Houten entitled to a fair trial in this case but the
15 prosecution is entitled to a fair trial, too.

16 And we have the burden in this case not only
17 of proving her guilt or innocence but proving the degree of
18 her guilt.

19 In other words, we have to prove to whatever jury
20 sits there beyond a reasonable doubt that Miss Van Houten had
21 the mental capacity to commit a willful, deliberate,
22 premeditated murder of the first degree.

23 Now, realizing that we do have that burden, do you
24 feel that you can keep an open mind on that subject and give us
25 a fair trial in this case?

26 MRS. JIMENEZ: Yes, I do.

27 MR. KAY: Okay.

28 Could you pass the microphone down to Mr. Heishman.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Kay, I wonder if I could interrupt at
2 this time.

3 I have two other matters that I have to take up
4 between now and 12:00. So at this time we will recess in this
5 matter until 1:30.

6 The jurors should bear in mind you are not to
7 discuss this matter amongst yourselves or with anyone else,
8 you are not to form any opinion concerning this matter or
9 express any opinion concerning this matter until the case is
10 finally given to you.

11 THE CLERK: Excuse me, Your Honor; I believe Mr. Burton
12 wanted an extended lunch today.

13 MR. BURTON: It's too late.

14 MR. KEITH: It was Thursday.

15 THE CLERK: Thursday?

16 MR. BURTON: It's too late; but thank you, anyhow.

17 THE COURT: You should not allow yourselves to read,
18 see or hear any news media accounts in this matter.

19 The jury and counsel are ordered to return at
20 1:30.

21 Thank you.

22 (At 11:44 a.m. a recess was taken
23 until 1:30 p.m. of the same day .)

1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1977; 2:00 P.M.

2 DEPARTMENT NO. 130

HON. EDWARD A. HINZ, JR., JUDGE

3 --oOo--

4 (Appearances as heretofore noted.)

5
6 THE COURT: People versus Van Houten.

7 Let the record show the defendant is present,
8 represented by counsel; the People are represented by counsel;
9 the prospective jurors are in the jury box.

10 You may resume, Mr. Kay.

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1 MR. KAY: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 Mr. Heishman, I believe I was talking to you
3 as we --

4 MR. HEISHMAN: Yeah, you were just beginning.

5 MR. KAY: Okay.

6 Now, I have it here that you told Mr. Keith that
7 you had heard something about Leslie Van Houten this year
8 on the news.

9 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, KKK.

10 MR. KAY: KKK?

11 MR. HEISHMAN: Yeah. They just said they'd be selecting
12 a jury.

13 MR. KAY: The radio or the T.V.?

14 MR. HEISHMAN: Radio.

15 MR. KAY: Oh, KKK News radio; okay.

16 All they said was they were going to select a
17 jury in this case?

18 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes, sir.

19 MR. KAY: That's all they said about the case?

20 MR. HEISHMAN: That's all.

21 MR. KAY: Did you hear anything else about
22 Miss Van Houten this year on KKK?

23 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir.

24 MR. KAY: Do you listen to KKK on a regular basis?

25 MR. HEISHMAN: Yes.

26 MR. KAY: Do you watch any T.V. news at night?

27 MR. HEISHMAN: Very seldom.

28 MR. KAY: Have you seen Miss Van Houten on T.V. at all

1 during this year?

2 MR. HEISEMAN: No, sir.

3 MR. KAY: Do you read any of the local papers?

4 MR. HEISEMAN: Yes, sir.

5 MR. KAY: Which one?

6 MR. HEISEMAN: The Herald.

7 MR. KAY: The Herald?

8 MR. HEISEMAN: Yes.

9 MR. KAY: And have you read any articles about
10 Miss Van Houten or about this case in the Herald this year?

11 MR. HEISEMAN: No, sir.

12 MR. KAY: Have you ever seen Mr. Keith on television or
13 heard him on radio or read about him in the newspaper talking
14 about Miss Van Houten?

15 MR. HEISEMAN: Not to my knowledge, no.

16 MR. KAY: And do you read Los Angeles Magazine?

17 MR. HEISEMAN: No.

18 MR. KAY: Do you read the Christian Science Monitor?

19 MR. HEISEMAN: No.

20 MR. KAY: Now, from what you know about this case, have
21 you formed any opinion that Miss Van Houten might have some
22 type of mental illness or have been mentally unbalanced at the
23 time of the LaBianca murders?

24 MR. HEISEMAN: I have no opinion whatsoever.

25 MR. KAY: Do you have any opinion as to whether anyone
26 who participated in the so-called Tate-LaBianca murders must
27 have been crazy or mentally unbalanced at the time of their
28 participation?

1 MR. HEISHMAN: All I recall was the headlines.

2 MR. KAY: So you haven't formed any opinion --

3 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir.

4 MR. KAY: -- about anybody's mental state?

5 MR. HEISHMAN: No, sir.

6 MR. KAY: Do you have any opinion as to Miss Van Houten's
7 mental state at any time in her life?

8 MR. HEISHMAN: I have no knowledge, no.

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1 MR. KAY: All right.

2 Do you feel you can give the prosecution a fair
3 trial in this case?

4 MR. HEISHMAN: I think so.

5 MR. KAY: Okay. Could you pass it to Mr. Burton, pass
6 the microphone.

7 Mr. Burton, which one of the local papers do you
8 read?

9 MR. BURTON: I don't subscribe.

10 MR. KAY: Okay. Do you read any at the office or
11 anything?

12 MR. BURTON: Oh, sure. Whenever I find a free paper,
13 I'll read it.

14 MR. KAY: You are not particular whether it's the Times
15 or the Herald or whatever?

16 MR. BURTON: Not really, no.

17 MR. KAY: Okay.

18 Have you read any articles about Miss Van Houten
19 in any of the newspapers this year?

20 MR. BURTON: Not to my knowledge.

21 MR. KAY: Have you seen her on TV at all?

22 MR. BURTON: Not to my knowledge.

23 MR. KAY: Have you seen Mr. Keith on television?

24 MR. BURTON: Not to my knowledge.

25 MR. KAY: Or heard him on radio or read about him
26 anywhere talking about Miss Van Houten?

27 MR. BURTON: No.

28 MR. KAY: Do you take the Los Angeles Magazine?

1 MR. BURTON: No.

2 MR. KAY: Do you read the Christian Science Monitor?

3 MR. BURTON: No.

4 Well, I've read all of them sometimes, probably,
5 but I don't subscribe.

6 MR. KAY: You don't read them on a regular basis?

7 MR. BURTON: No.

8 MR. KAY: And you do not recall reading any articles
9 about Miss Van Houten in any of those sources?

10 MR. BURTON: No.

11 MR. KAY: All right.

12 Now, from what you know about the case, have you
13 formed any opinion as to Miss Van Houten's mental state at
14 any time in her life?

15 MR. BURTON: No.

16 MR. KAY: Do you have an opinion that anyone who might
17 have participated in the so-called Tate-LaBianca murders must
18 have been crazy or mentally unbalanced at the time of their
19 participation?

20 Do you have any opinion such as that?

21 MR. BURTON: Not really.

22 MR. KAY: Do you feel you can keep an open mind on that
23 issue and decide the question of Miss Van Houten's state of
24 mind based on the evidence that you hear from the witness
25 stand?

26 MR. BURTON: Yes.

27 MR. KAY: Okay, thank you.

28 Could you pass the microphone down to Mr. Doubt.

1 Mr. Doubt, from what you told Mr. Keith I under-
2 stand that you saw a sketching of Miss Van Houten on television
3 recently.

4 MR. DOUBT: Not -- well, I'm not sure about recently.
5 I saw a sketch.

6 MR. KAY: This year meaning recently.

7 MR. DOUBT: Yes, yes.

8 MR. KAY: Okay.

9 And do you remember was that a trial scene in
10 court?

11 MR. DOUBT: It was a sketch about a court scene, yes.

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1 MR. KAY: And have you seen Miss Van Houten other than
2 on a drawing on television this year?

3 MR. DOUBT: I think there was a film clip of her getting
4 escorted -- getting into or out of a car.

5 MR. KAY: Okay.

6 But you did not hear her talking or anything?

7 MR. DOUBT: No.

8 MR. KAY: You did not hear any interviews or anything
9 like that?

10 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

11 MR. KAY: Okay.

12 Do you read one of the local papers here in L. A.?

13 MR. DOUBT: Not in Los Angeles. I get the Star News,
14 Pasadena paper, and Sunday Times.

15 MR. KAY: Okay.

16 And have you read any articles about Miss Van
17 Houten on this trial in either the Times or the Pasadena Star
18 News?

19 MR. DOUBT: No, I haven't.

20 MR. KAY: Do you read the Los Angeles Magazine?

21 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

22 MR. KAY: Christian Science Monitor?

23 MR. DOUBT: No, sir.

24 MR. KAY: Have you seen Mr. Keith on television or heard
25 him on radio or read about him anywhere talking about
26 Miss Van Houten?

27 MR. DOUBT: I don't recall ever seeing him on TV and/or
28 pictures in the newspaper.

1 MR. KAY: Or heard him on the radio or anything?

2 MR. DOUBT: Or heard him on the radio.

3 MR. KAY: Okay.

4 Have you formed any opinion about Miss Van Houten's
5 mental state at any time in her life?

6 MR. DOUBT: I have no opinion on her.

7 MR. KAY: Okay. Thank you very much.

8 I have no further questions and no challenges.

9 THE COURT: Any challenges?

10 MR. KEITH: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right. At this time the bailiff will
12 take the four prospective jurors back to Department 106. The
13 next group should be brought into the courtroom.

14 Bear in mind the admonition I've given you a number
15 of times. Thank you.

16 (The remaining prospective jurors exited
17 the courtroom, and a new group of
18 prospective jurors was escorted in.)

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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, at this time I would like
3 to call your names and be sure that we have the appropriate
4 people sitting in their proper places.

5 I would like to start here in the first row with
6 you, ma'am.

7 Are you Rebecca Marbra?

8 MRS. MARBRA: Um-hum, yeah.

9 THE COURT: And is it Miss or Mrs.?

10 MRS. MARBRA: Mrs.

11 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

12 Are you Mr. Alphonso Miller?

13 MR. MILLER: Yes.

14 THE COURT: And then Maudsen E. Murray?

15 MISS MURRAY: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Is it Miss or Mrs.?

17 MISS MURRAY: Miss.

18 THE COURT: And Elizabeth A. Reagan?

19 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Is that Miss or Mrs.?

21 MRS. REAGAN: Mrs.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 Clara Ann Robinson?

24 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes; Mrs.

25 THE COURT: Mrs.; thank you.

26 Jack Wayne Rogers?

27 MR. ROGERS: Yes, sir.

28 THE COURT: Thank you.

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Then to the back row, Joyce Ann Shabazian?

MISS SHABAZIAN: "Shabazian."

THE COURT: Is it --

MISS SHABAZIAN: Miss.

THE COURT: Miss; thank you.

Willie Mae Shaker?

MRS. SHAKER: Yes; Mrs.

THE COURT: Mrs.; thank you.

Iza M. Stern?

MRS. STERN: Iza M. Stern; Mrs.

THE COURT: What's the first name?

MRS. STERN: "Iza."

THE COURT: Oh, "Iza."

Is it Miss or Mrs.?

MRS. STERN: Mrs.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Oscar D. Vildosola.

MR. VILDOSOLA: Vildosola, yes.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Mrs. Marbra, I understand that you have a problem concerning hardship.

MRS. MARBRA: Yes; my job told me they only pay me for 30 days, and he couldn't give me the time off extra.

THE COURT: All right.

Now, where are you employed?

MRS. MARBRA: J.J. Newberry's.

THE COURT: You were supposed to check last night. I take it you just --

1 MRS. MASHRA: I just got the call. I just got somebody
2 today at 12:30.

3 THE COURT: I see.

4 Will counsel stipulate this juror may be excused?

5 MR. KAY: So stipulated.

6 MR. KEITH: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: All right, ma'am, you are excused from
8 further service.

9 You should report to the 5th floor jury room.

10 At this time I would like to start with you,
11 Mr. Miller.

12 I will ask you questions, as I will ask each of
13 the panel members, concerning the matter of publicity.
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1 After I have had an opportunity to ask questions
2 of each of you, then Mr. Keith, the defense attorney, and
3 following him, the deputy district attorney, Mr. Stephen Kay,
4 will ask questions of the panel.

5 Mr. Miller, have you heard or do you know anything
6 about this case or about the defendant's past actions,
7 conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you have
8 read in newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television or
9 heard on the radio?

10 MR. MILLER: Yes, I heard it on the radio and, you know,
11 the news media.

12 THE COURT: Has that been in the last few months, or
13 was that back in late 1969 and the early '70s?

14 MR. MILLER: Well, I'm sure in the late '60s and the
15 early '70s I heard something pertaining to the case, something
16 general.

17 THE COURT: Have you seen anything about this case or
18 heard about the defendant in the news media in the last few
19 months?

20 MR. MILLER: I haven't -- I don't recall reading anything
21 about it, but I think I heard something about the defendant
22 or someone in the general case --

23 I heard something mentioned in the news pertaining
24 to it. I don't recall what it was.

25 THE COURT: All right.

26 MR. MILLER: I heard the name mentioned.

27 THE COURT: Have you seen the T.V. movie called *Halter*
28 *Skalter*?

1 MR. MILLER: I have seen parts of it.

2 I work in hospitals, and I go in a room where
3 patients are, and I might look -- You know, just excerpts of
4 it.

5 I have never seen the movie through.

6 THE COURT: Do you recall when you saw that? Was it,
7 say, within the last two or three months, or was it more than
8 a year ago?

9 MR. MILLER: I think I saw part of it not too long ago.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 But you just saw excerpts from it?

12 MR. MILLER: Yes. Somebody was watching it, and I --
13 And that's it.

14 THE COURT: Have you ever read the book called "Helter
15 Skelter"?

16 MR. MILLER: Yes.

17 THE COURT: And would you be able to put to one side
18 whatever you might have read, seen or heard about this case --

19 MR. MILLER: Sure, yes.

20 THE COURT: -- and judge the defendant's guilt or
21 innocence solely on the evidence to be introduced at this
22 trial?

23 MR. MILLER: Sure.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 Based on anything you have read, seen or heard
26 about this matter, have you formed any opinion concerning the
27 defendant's guilt or innocence?

28 MR. MILLER: None whatever.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Would you allow yourself to be influenced by any
3 publicity you have read, seen or heard about this case or about
4 the defendant?

5 MR. MILLER: No.

6 THE COURT: If you are chosen as a trial juror in this
7 matter, can you assure the court that you will decide this
8 case solely on the evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

9 MR. MILLER: I believe so.

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1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 Would you pass the microphones, please.

3 All right. Miss Murray, have you heard or do you
4 know anything about this case or about the defendant's past
5 actions, conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything
6 you have heard or read in the newspapers, magazines or books,
7 seen on T.V. or heard on the radio?

8 MISS MURRAY: Just general news coverage. But I did
9 see the movie twice.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 And did you read the book called "Halter Skalter"?

12 MISS MURRAY: No, I didn't.

13 THE COURT: I take it by the "T.V. movie," you mean the
14 T.V. movie called Halter Skalter?

15 MISS MURRAY: Yes.

16 THE COURT: And you were aware of the newspaper coverage
17 and media coverage back in the late '60s and early '70s?

18 MISS MURRAY: I was a little bit young at that time,
19 but I do recall general information.

20 THE COURT: Could you put to one side whatever you might
21 have read, seen or heard about this case, and judge the
22 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
23 introduced in this trial?

24 MISS MURRAY: I'm not sure, sir.

25 I feel kind of -- I lean a little bit one way.
26 The movie affected me quite a bit.

27 THE COURT: Well, I'm sure you understand how important
28 it is that each juror who sits on this case have an open mind

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concerning the matter.

Do you understand that?

MISS MORRIS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And it would be inappropriate, of course,

to have a juror sit on this case who already had their mind

made up about the case.

Let me ask you this: as a result of anything you

have read, seen or heard about this case or about the

defendant, have you formed any opinion as to the guilt or

innocence of the defendant?

MISS MORRIS: I feel like I have already.

THE COURT: All right.

Now, is this opinion such that it would take some

evidence to overcome it or does your opinion

MISS MORRIS: I think so, yes.

THE COURT: All right, thank you.

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1 Mrs. Reagan, have you heard or do you know anything
2 about this case or about the defendant's past actions, conduct,
3 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
4 newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television or heard on
5 the radio?

6 MRS. REAGAN: Yes. At the time, you know, the news, I
7 followed it, and did read all of the news items.

8 I did not read the book, but I did see the movie
9 on television also, and was very strongly affected.

10 THE COURT: When you say "the movie," was that within
11 the last couple of months, or was that more than a year ago?

12 MRS. REAGAN: I think it was within -- I don't think it
13 was a year ago. I think it was more recent than that.

14 THE COURT: And did you say you had read the book, or
15 you hadn't?

16 MRS. REAGAN: No, I did not read the book.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 MRS. REAGAN: For other reasons, though, I feel that I
19 would not be good as a juror on this case, and the reasons are --

20 THE COURT: Just a minute, ma'am, please.

21 What we want to do is just talk about the issue
22 of publicity; and once we get through with that, then we can
23 start selecting a jury and go into these other areas.

24 MRS. REAGAN: All right.

25 THE COURT: So I would like to cut you off from the
26 other reasons, and just concentrate on this matter of
27 publicity.

28 Now, did you follow newspaper accounts of the

1 matter in the late '60s and early '70s?

2 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I did.

3 THE COURT: Could you put to one side whatever you might
4 have read, seen or heard about this matter, and judge the
5 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
6 introduced in this trial?

7 MRS. REAGAN: Oh, as far as that goes, yes.

8 I have another personal incident, though, recently
9 that's happened in my life that would affect my thinking in
10 this.

11 But as far as the news items go, I think I could.

12 THE COURT: All right. Just basing it on the publicity
13 or on the newspapers, television or radio, as a result of
14 anything you have read, seen or heard about this case or about
15 the defendant, have you formed any opinion as to the
16 defendant's guilt or innocence?

17 MRS. REAGAN: No. I guess I would have to say really
18 I have not.

19 THE COURT: You have not formed an opinion?

20 MRS. REAGAN: No.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 Would you allow yourself to be influenced by any
23 publicity you have read, seen or heard about the defendant or
24 about this case?

25 MRS. REAGAN: No, I don't think so.

26 THE COURT: And if you are chosen as a trial juror in
27 this matter, can you assure the court that you would decide
28 this case solely on the evidence to be presented in this

1 courtroom?

2 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

3 THE COURT: All right; thank you.

4 Mrs. Robinson, have you heard or do you know
5 anything about this case or about the defendant's past actions,
6 conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you might
7 have read in newspapers, magazines or books, seen on television
8 or heard on the radio?

9 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

10 THE COURT: You haven't heard about this matter at any
11 time?

12 MRS. ROBINSON: Well, yes, I have heard about it.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 Now, were you aware of the so-called Manson trial
15 in the late '60s and early '70s?

16 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

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1 THE COURT: Did you read newspaper accounts of that
2 matter?

3 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I heard it on the radio.

4 THE COURT: I beg your pardon?

5 MRS. ROBINSON: I heard it on the radio.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 Have you seen anything in the news media in the
8 recent months about this case or about the defendant?

9 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I haven't.

10 THE COURT: Have you seen the TV movie or read the book
11 called "Helter Skelter"?

12 MRS. ROBINSON: Neither one of them.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 Would you be able to put to one side whatever you
15 have read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the
16 defendant's guilt or innocence strictly on the evidence to be
17 introduced in this trial?

18 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

19 THE COURT: And as a result of anything you have read,
20 seen, or heard about this case or about the defendant, have
21 you formed any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the
22 defendant?

23 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

24 THE COURT: And would you allow yourself to be influenced
25 by any publicity you have read, seen, or heard about this case?

26 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

27 THE COURT: If you are chosen as a trial juror in this
28 matter, can you assure the court that you would decide this

1 matter solely on the evidence to be presented in this court-
2 room?

3 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

4 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

5 Mr. Rogers, have you heard or do you know anything
6 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
7 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
8 newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television or heard
9 on the radio?

10 MR. ROGERS: Just from the television and the papers.

11 THE COURT: That was back in the late '60s and early
12 '70s?

13 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, and just, well, about two or three
14 weeks ago I think they had a write-up in the paper about it,
15 about the trial coming up.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 Have you seen the TV movie or read the book
18 called "Helter Skelter"?

19 MR. ROGERS: No.

20 THE COURT: Could you put to one side whatever you have
21 read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the defendant's
22 guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be presented in
23 this courtroom?

24 MR. ROGERS: No, I don't think I could.

25 THE COURT: Are you saying that based on what you have
26 read, seen, or heard in this matter that you formed an opinion
27 concerning the defendant's guilt or innocence?

28 MR. ROGERS: Well, it's kind of hard to say, because,

1 like I say, I read the papers and the television and I followed
2 quite a bit on it.

3 THE COURT: I understand that you apparently followed
4 the trial very closely, was that it, or did you --

5 MR. ROGERS: Yes, sir. I kept up with it quite a bit.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 Now, based on that, your contact in keeping up on
8 the case, did you at any time form an opinion concerning the
9 defendant's guilt or innocence?

10 MR. ROGERS: Not really, no.

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1 THE COURT: Do you have an opinion as you sit there now
2 as to the defendant's guilt or innocence?

3 MR. ROGERS: Yes. It's kind of hard to say. I hate to
4 say either way.

5 I mean, I do not think I could say she was
6 innocent or guilty either one right at the moment, no; but,
7 like I say, I had read all the papers and the television when
8 it was out quite a bit.

9 THE COURT: Well, you understand, as I mentioned a
10 little earlier, that it would be inappropriate to have a juror
11 who has already got their mind made up.

12 MR. ROGERS: I know that.

13 THE COURT: And it would also be inappropriate to have
14 a juror who, based on what they have read, seen, or heard in
15 this matter, had an opinion such that the other side would have
16 to produce some evidence in order to get you, say, to ground
17 zero; in other words, to have an open mind.

18 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

19 THE COURT: So what I'm trying to find out is, and I
20 know it may be difficult to answer, but we'd like you to do
21 the best you can, because you are the only one that can tell
22 us this.

23 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

24 THE COURT: And that is, do you have a completely open
25 mind about this, or is your mind such that you have an opinion
26 one way or the other?

27 MR. ROGERS: I'd have to have a lot of evidence.

28 THE COURT: To remove the opinion you have?

1 MR. ROGERS: Yeah.

2 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

3 Miss Shabazian, have you heard or do you know
4 anything about this case or about defendant's past actions,
5 conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you have
6 read in the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television
7 or heard on the radio?

8 MISS SHABAZIAN: I did see the movie when it first came
9 out, which I think was about a year ago; and I did read the
10 book when it first came out, which I'm not sure of the time.

11 But I have not seen anything recently, and I
12 haven't read the newspapers lately.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 Did you follow this matter in the late '60s and
15 early '70s?

16 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I was in my early teens, and I
17 really didn't care too much about it.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 Now, would you be able to put to one side whatever
20 you have read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the
21 defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be
22 presented in this courtroom?

23 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I believe I could.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 As a result of anything you have read, seen, or
26 heard about this case or about the defendant, have you formed
27 any opinion as to her guilt or innocence?

28 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, not herself specifically.

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1 THE COURT: Would you allow yourself to be influenced
2 by any publicity you have read, seen, or heard about this
3 matter about the defendant?

4 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I don't believe so.

5 THE COURT: And if you are chosen as a trial juror in
6 this matter, can you assure the court that you will decide
7 this case solely on the evidence to be presented in this
8 courtroom?

9 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I could.

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1 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

2 Mrs. Snaer, have you heard or do you know anything
3 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
4 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
5 the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on the television
6 or heard on the radio?

7 MRS. SNAER: Well, I heard it on the radio and on the
8 news in 1969 and early '70s, but I haven't heard anything on
9 it recently.

10a THE COURT: All right.

11 Have you seen the TV movie or read the book called
12 "Helter Skelter"?

13 MRS. SNAER: No, I have not.

14 THE COURT: Would you be able to put to one side whatever
15 you might have read, seen, or heard about this matter and judge
16 the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to
17 be presented in this courtroom?

18 MRS. SNAER: I think I could.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 As a result of anything you have read, seen, or
21 heard about this case or about the defendant, have you formed
22 any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant?

23 MRS. SNAER: No, I haven't.

24 THE COURT: Would you allow yourself to be influenced by
25 any publicity you might have read, seen, or heard about this
26 case?

27 MRS. SNAER: I don't think so.

28 THE COURT: And if you are chosen as a trial juror in

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1 this matter, can you assure the court that you would decide
2 this case solely on the evidence to be presented in this
3 courtroom?

4 MRS. SNAER: Yes.

5 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

6 Mrs. Stern, have you heard or do you know anything
7 about this case or about defendant's past actions, conduct,
8 beliefs or associations, including anything you have read in
9 the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television or
10 heard on the radio?

11 MRS. STERN: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: And what --

13 MRS. STERN: When it happened.

14 I remember seeing it in the news and, you know,
15 for the following month or so when it was on I followed it
16 closely.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 And have you seen the television program or read
19 the book called "Helter Skelter"?

20 MRS. STERN: No, I have not.

21 THE COURT: Have you seen anything in the news media in
22 recent months about this case or about the defendant?

23 MRS. STERN: I think I heard that the trial was coming
24 up, but that's about it.

25 THE COURT: All right.

26 And can you put to one side whatever you might have
27 read, seen, or heard about this case and judge the defendant's
28 guilt or innocence solely on the evidence to be presented in

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1 this courtroom?

2 MRS. STERN: Yes, sir, I can.

3 THE COURT: And as a result of anything you might have
4 read, seen, or heard about this case or about the defendant,
5 have you formed any opinion as to the defendant's guilt or
6 innocence?

7 MRS. STERN: No, sir; I have not.

8 THE COURT: And would you allow yourself to be influenced
9 by any publicity you have read, seen, or heard about this
10 case?

11 MRS. STERN: No, sir.
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1 THE COURT: If you are chosen as a trial juror in this
2 matter, can you assure the court that you would decide this
3 case solely on the evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

4 MRS. STERN: Definitely, sir.

5 THE COURT: Thank you.

6 Mr. Vildosola, have you heard or do you know
7 anything about this case or about defendant's past actions,
8 conduct, beliefs or associations, including anything you have
9 read in the newspapers, magazines, or books, seen on television
10 or heard on the radio?

11 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, I do.

12 THE COURT: And when was that?

13 MR. VILDOSOLA: I read the newspapers, and I worked at
14 the Hall of Justice while the trial was going on.

15 THE COURT: Have you seen the TV movie or read the book
16 called "Helter Skelter"?

17 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, sir; I have.

18 THE COURT: And when did you see the TV movie?

19 MR. VILDOSOLA: Oh, it was about the first time it came
20 out.

21 THE COURT: Did you see it the second time it was on?

22 MR. VILDOSOLA: No, sir.

23 THE COURT: Did you attend any of the proceedings at
24 the first trial in this matter?

25 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, I did.

26 THE COURT: And in what capacity did you attend those
27 proceedings?

28 MR. VILDOSOLA: Spectator.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 As a result of anything you might have read, seen,
3 or heard about this case, could you lay that to one side and
4 judge the defendant's guilt or innocence solely on the
5 evidence to be presented in this courtroom?

6 MR. VILDOSOLA: No, I couldn't.

7 THE COURT: Are you saying that as a result of what you
8 have read, seen, or heard about this matter that you have
9 formed an opinion as to the defendant's guilt or innocence?

10 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, I have.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 And is this opinion such that some evidence would
13 have to be presented in order to overcome your opinion?

14 MR. VILDOSOLA: I don't think so.

15 THE COURT: Well, what you are saying is you formed an
16 opinion on the matter; is that correct?

17 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Can you put that opinion to one side?

19 MR. VILDOSOLA: No, I could not.

20 THE COURT: In other words, this opinion would stay with
21 you during the course of this trial, wouldn't it?

22 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Is that what you're saying?

24 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: All right.

26 Now, if you were chosen as a trial juror in this
27 matter and you had an opinion one way, would the other side
28 have to put on some evidence in order to remove that opinion

1 that you have?

2 MR. VILDOSOLA: Yes, they would.

3 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

4 Will counsel approach the bench, please.

5 (The following proceedings were held
6 at the bench:)

7 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have challenges?

8 MR. KEITH: Defendant will challenge Miss Murray,
9 confidential secretary; Mr. Rogers --

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MR. KEITH: -- and Mr. Vildosola.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. KEITH: Is there somebody else?

14 THE COURT: Those are the only ones that I thought who --

15 MR. KEITH: Those are the only ones I've marked.

16 MR. KAY: No objection.

17 THE COURT: No objection?

18 All right. I will excuse those three.

19 Do you have the names?

20 THE CLERK: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 (The following proceedings were held in
23 open court:)

24 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the following three
25 jurors are excused from further service upon this case. Those
26 of you excused are to report to the jury room on the fifth
27 floor.

28 The following are excused: Miss Maureen E. Murray,

1 Mr. Jack Wayne Rogers, and Mr. Oscar D. Vildosola.

2 Thank you for your attendance upon the court.

3 THE BAILIEF: Would you walk this way, please.

4 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Keith, you may inquire
5 regarding publicity.

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1 MR. KEITH: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Maxwell Keith.
3 I represent Miss Van Houten, who's awaiting trial, as you
4 know.

5 His Honor, Judge Hinz, has been kind enough to
6 permit myself and the prosecuting attorney to ask you
7 additional questions beyond what he has already asked on the
8 subject of publicity and how your minds may have been affected
9 by it, which would in turn have a bearing on your ability to
10 give Miss Van Houten a fair trial.

11 So we all have been taking considerable pains to
12 explore your state of mind, vis-a-vis, publicity and the
13 massive notoriety that this matter received some years ago
14 and even up to the present time.

15 I will ask some questions, if I say, of you,
16 Mr. Miller.

17 And if you would take the microphone which is
18 hanging over the railing, we can proceed.

19 My notes indicated you read a book entitled
20 "Helter Skelter"; is that correct?

21 MR. MILLER: (Nods head affirmatively.)

22 MR. KEITH: Did you read it from start to finish?

23 MR. MILLER: Yes.

24 MR. KEITH: And did you care for it? Did you like the
25 book?

26 MR. MILLER: It's a story.

27 MR. KEITH: How long ago did you read it, would you say?

28 MR. MILLER: Oh, shortly after it came out.

1 MR. HENNER: I don't remember exactly when that was.
2 Was that two or three years ago or -- I'm not
3 sure, honestly.

4 MR. HENNER: I'm not sure, either. It's been awhile
5 since because I have forgotten it.

6 MR. HENNER: Do you remember any of the things you read?

7 MR. HENNER: None, none.

8 MR. HENNER: Do you remember Miss Van Duster's name
9 mentioned in the book?

10 MR. HENNER: I think so.

11 MR. HENNER: As you remember if name mentioned in the
12 book?

13 MR. HENNER: I'm not sure.

14 (Laughing.)

15 MR. HENNER: I know the woman's.

16 I know it.

17 Do you remember this name in the book?

18 MR. HENNER: No, I don't.

19 MR. HENNER: I will research --

20 MR. HENNER: I don't.

21 MR. HENNER: It was a gentleman by the name of
22 Vincent English. Does that refresh your recollection?

23 MR. HENNER: Yes, right.

24 MR. HENNER: Now, Mr. English in the past has done a lot
25 of speaking about this case.

26 I wonder if you ever heard him speak either on
27 television or in person?

28 MR. HENNER: No, I haven't.

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1 MR. KEITH: And he may have even spoken about the case
2 when he was running for District Attorney of this County.

3 But you never had any contact with him --

4 MR. MILLER: No.

5 MR. KEITH: -- either on television or --

6 MR. MILLER: No.

7 MR. KEITH: -- seeing him in person, is that right?

8 MR. MILLER: No, I haven't.

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1 MR. KEITH: Did the book -- having read the book, do you
2 remember --

3 It was about Charles Manson, was it not?

4 MR. MILLER: Right.

5 MR. KEITH: And it was about a trial, was it not?

6 MR. MILLER: Right.

7 MR. KEITH: And you do have a vague recollection of
8 reading about Miss Van Houten in the book. Or am I overstating
9 the case?

10 MR. MILLER: Well, I remember reading about the
11 characters. Each individual character, I couldn't
12 characterize them.

13 MR. KEITH: Did the book make a lasting impression upon
14 you? Apparently not, but I thought I might ask.

15 MR. MILLER: No, no book really does. I read for
16 entertainment.

17 MR. KEITH: The bottom line is, as a result of reading
18 the book does Leslie Van Houten start this trial, if you are
19 selected as a trial juror, with two strikes against her?

20 MR. MILLER: Not at all.

21 MR. KEITH: You understand, of course, she is presumed
22 innocent at the present time, right?

23 MR. MILLER: Right.

24 MR. KEITH: And I would like to know if that presumption
25 of innocence is somehow contaminated in your mind because of
26 having read a book called "Helter Skelter"?

27 MR. MILLER: No.

28 MR. KEITH: Let me ask you this: Do you remember why

1 the book was called "Helter Skelter"?

2 Does that --

3 MR. MILLER: Yes, somewhat. I never got it clear in
4 my mind, but I think I remember it.

5 MR. KEITH: It had something to do with Mr. Manson's
6 philosophy.

7 MR. MILLER: Yes.

8 MR. KEITH: Do you remember his philosophy, after having
9 read the book, or have you forgotten about it?

10 MR. MILLER: His philosophy in general, no. To me it
11 was stupid. It didn't make sense to me.

12 MR. KEITH: Pardon me, sir?

13 MR. MILLER: It just didn't make sense. You know, it's
14 something that I --

15 MR. KEITH: "Sense makes no sense"; do you remember that
16 phrase?

17 MR. MILLER: (No response.)

18 MR. KEITH: You don't remember that, do you?

19 MR. MILLER: No.

20 MR. KEITH: You don't -- you honestly think, then, that
21 you can forget all about having read the book and anything you
22 may remember about it, and give Miss Van Houten a fair trial?

23 MR. MILLER: Oh, yes.

24 MR. KEITH: You also saw a little bit of the television
25 motion picture Helter Skelter because of your work.

26 Having seen portions of that show, does that leave
27 any lasting impression on you so it would be difficult for you
28 to give Leslie a fair trial?

1 MR. MILLER: Not at all.

2 MR. KEITH: I take it you didn't pay particular
3 attention to the parts of the motion picture you did see.

4 MR. MILLER: No. It's just a movie to me, a show.

5 MR. KEITH: Were you living in Los Angeles County in
6 1969, '70 and '71?

7 MR. MILLER: Yes.

8 MR. KEITH: And I suppose you couldn't help but be
9 exposed to the massive publicity and notoriety the first case
10 received, right?

11 MR. MILLER: Yes, I'm sure.

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1 MR. KEITH: Did you follow the case in the newspapers
2 or on television news programs?

3 MR. MILLER: Not really follow it.

4 When I heard it I listened. If I didn't -- I
5 didn't look for it.

6 MR. KEITH: I understand what you mean. You weren't --
7 you didn't take any special interest --

8 MR. MILLER: No special interest.

9 MR. KEITH: -- in those proceedings.

10 Having read the book, however, do you remember
11 whether or not Miss Van Houten was a defendant in that first
12 trial; do you remember at all?

13 MR. MILLER: I only remember what role she played --
14 I know she was one of the characters; I remember the name.

15 MR. KEITH: All right.

16 MR. MILLER: And what she did, I don't have the slightest --
17 I don't --

18 MR. KEITH: All right.

19 Do you feel, as His Honor has said, that she
20 starts out even in your mind?

21 MR. MILLER: Oh, sure.

22 MR. KEITH: She is not at any disadvantage.

23 MR. MILLER: No.

24 MR. KEITH: All right.

25 And you can promise me you won't be influenced
26 by anything you may have read, seen or heard about Leslie.

27 MR. MILLER: Not at all.

28 MR. KEITH: Or about Charles Manson, or about his group.

1 MR. MILLER: No.

2 MR. KEITH: Could you pass the microphone to
3 Mrs. Reagan, please.

4 Mrs. Reagan, I dare say that at least, according
5 to your responses to His Honor, that you did follow the case
6 to some extent back in 1969, '70 and perhaps into 1971.

7 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I did read some.

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1 MR. KEITH: Did you pay particular attention to the
2 newspaper and television accounts of the case?

3 Or did you simply follow it because it made
4 headlines, if you understand the distinction?

5 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

6 MR. KEITH: I'm trying to find out if you really --

7 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

8 MR. KEITH: -- got into it or whether --

9 MRS. REAGAN: I followed it to a certain degree; and
10 then when your mind gets to the point where you can't accept
11 any more, it's like a nightmare that's hard to believe, you
12 know, could really happen, you just finally -- I just finally
13 quit reading.

14 I followed it for awhile, and then --

15 MR. KEITH: Did you follow the first case into the
16 trial stage at all?

17 MRS. REAGAN: I may have, but I don't really remember
18 now.

19 MR. KEITH: There was a great deal of publicity about
20 the homicides --

21 MRS. REAGAN: I think when it got to the point of going
22 through the trial, I don't think I really continued to follow
23 it.

24 I mean, occasionally I would read something and
25 read some of it, but I didn't follow it in its entirety.

26 MR. KEITH: Did you -- strike that.

27 Were you aware of the outcome of the first case,
28 the so-called Manson case?

1 MRS. REAGAN: I probably was, but, you know, like
2 some things you just kind of block out of your mind.

3 I mean, it's not something that I can think back
4 and remember now.

5 MR. KEITH: Was the name Leslie Van Houten familiar to
6 you before you came into court?

7 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I remember the name,
8 I don't remember all of the --- you know,
9 particulars about her.

10 MR. KEITH: Do you now remember whether or not she may
11 have been a defendant along with Manson in that first trial?

12 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I believe she was.

13 MR. KEITH: Now, do you have any idea why she's here
14 now today awaiting trial?

15 MRS. REAGAN: Not really.

16 MR. KEITH: For supposedly the name thing.

17 MRS. REAGAN: Not really.

18 MR. KEITH: You have read nothing or have heard nothing
19 about ---

20 MRS. REAGAN: Except I knew the trial was coming up.
21 I'm not aware of why.

22 MR. KEITH: So it comes as a surprise to you to see her
23 here, I suppose.

24 MRS. REAGAN: Except for the fact that I did read a trial
25 was coming up for her, but I didn't go into why or how or,
26 you know ---

27 MR. KEITH: Does the fact that she was a defendant, or
28 at least that you know she was a defendant, even though you

1 may not have known what happened to her at that trial, does
2 that fact influence your judgment so that it would be
3 difficult for you to give her a fair trial now, to which she
4 is entitled, as you well know?

5 MRS. REAGAN: No, I don't think that would affect me.

6 MR. KEITZ: Now, you did see the television motion
7 picture by the name of Helter Skelter.

8 MRS. REAGAN: Right.

9 MR. KEITZ: But you did not read the book.

10 MRS. REAGAN: Right.

11 MR. KEITZ: Did anybody talk to you about the book that
12 had read it?

13 MRS. REAGAN: My husband did a little bit, but he didn't
14 want to share it with me.

15 He didn't recommend that I read the book, so I
16 didn't.

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1 MR. KEITH: Did your husband -- Or has your husband
2 ever commented to you about, let's say, Leslie in particular?

3 MRS. REAGAN: No.

4 MR. KEITH: Or Manson in particular?

5 MRS. REAGAN: Manson, yes, but not --

6 MR. KEITH: How about Susan Atkins or Patricia Krenwinkel;
7 did he ever come to you or make observations to you about
8 them, after having read the book?

9 MRS. REAGAN: He may have, but I don't --

10 MR. KEITH: Or having read part of it.

11 MRS. REAGAN -- but I don't remember.

12 MR. KEITH: Now, you did see the entire television
13 motion picture.

14 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I believe I did see the entire.

15 MR. KEITH: It was in two parts. Did you see both
16 parts?

17 MRS. REAGAN: I'm not sure now whether I saw both parts
18 or not.

19 MR. KEITH: In any event, it left you strongly affected,
20 in your words.

21 MRS. REAGAN: Oh, yes. It's a pretty frightening thing.

22 MR. KEITH: All right.

23 MRS. REAGAN: However, I don't dwell on it. It's not --
24 You know, it's something that's happened, and you
25 put it out of your mind.

26 So it isn't something that has -- that I dwell on
27 or have thought about.

28 MR. KEITH: Do you remember that an actress played the

1 role of Leslie Van Houten in that television movie?

2 MRS. REAGAN: I'm afraid I don't remember at this point,
3 no.

4 MR. KEITH: You don't recall --

5 MRS. REAGAN: No.

6 MR. KEITH: -- her name being in that -- I shouldn't
7 say "her name" -- her character being portrayed in that
8 motion picture by an actress?

9 MRS. REAGAN: The only thing I can remember is that
10 she was involved to some degree in the movie. But not, you
11 know --

12 MR. KEITH: You don't --

13 MRS. REAGAN: I don't actually remember how she was
14 involved completely, no.

15 MR. KEITH: You realize, of course, she is entitled as
16 she now sits before you with the benefit of a presumption of
17 innocence.

18 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

19 MR. KEITH: As we all are if we are accused of a public
20 offense.

21 MRS. REAGAN: I do.

22 MR. KEITH: Do you feel that that presumption in some
23 manner has been hurt or impaired or poisoned by reason of
24 your having seen the television motion picture by the name
25 Helter Skelter and having -- and being frightened by it, and
26 also having followed the news about the case for awhile when
27 the homicides originally occurred?

28 MRS. REAGAN: No, I do not.

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1 MR. KEITH: Did you ever have an opinion about Leslie's
2 guilt or innocence?

3 MRS. REAGAN: No, because I don't judge people easily.
4 I have to have, you know, facts before I try to make a
5 judgment. I don't think I made a judgment, because I didn't
6 follow that closely.

7 I didn't feel that I knew enough to make a judgment
8 in my mind, you know, in my own mind.

9 MR. KEITH: You would be able to promise me, then, that
10 you could forget, if you are selected as a trial juror, forget
11 all about what you have read, seen, or heard either on the
12 radio and television or in the newspapers, just completely
13 erase it from your mind, and have an open mind and give Leslie
14 a fair trial?

15 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

16 MR. KEITH: Despite all the publicity?

17 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I think I could.

18 MR. KEITH: Can you do better than think?

19 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I could.

20 MR. KEITH: Or is that as far as you can go with me?

21 MRS. REAGAN: If I have reservations, they are for other
22 reasons; but it is not on this point right now.

23 MR. KEITH: Right. We are making an inquiry on just
24 this point.

25 MRS. REAGAN: Yes. I could on this point, yes.

26 MR. KEITH: All right, thank you.

27 Pass the microphone to --

28 It's Mrs. Robinson?

1 MRS. ROBINSON: Mrs. Robinson, yes.

2 MR. KEITH: Pardon me?

3 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

4 MR. KEITH: Your only exposure to the so-called Manson
5 case was the hearing about it on the radio some years back;
6 is that correct?

7 MRS. ROBINSON: That's right.

8 MR. KEITH: And were you living in Los Angeles County in
9 1969 and '70?

10 MRS. ROBINSON: I was.

11 MR. KEITH: Do you read any newspapers at all?

12 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I don't.

13 MR. KEITH: Do you read any magazines at all?

14 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I don't.

15 MR. KEITH: Do you see television at all?

16 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

17 MR. KEITH: Did you have a television back in '69 and
18 '70?

19 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

20 MR. KEITH: But you don't listen to -- or rather listen
21 to news shows on television?

22 MRS. ROBINSON: No, not too much.

23 MR. KEITH: The news you receive comes from the radio,
24 is this a fair statement?

25 MRS. ROBINSON: No, television mostly.

26 MR. KEITH: But you didn't hear or see anything about
27 the so-called Manson case on television back in '69 and '70?

28 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes, I did, about that time.

1 MR. KEITH: I see. And you also heard about it on the
2 radio?

3 MRS. ROBINSON: No, not too much on the radio; more on
4 television.

5 MR. KEITH: My notes are wrong. I've got it backwards.

6 Having heard about the case on television some
7 years back, did you form any opinion then as to the guilt or
8 innocence of any of the defendants in that case?

9 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I didn't.

10 MR. KEITH: Have you ever heard the name Leslie Van Houten
11 before you came into court the other day?

12 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes. Yes, I have.
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1 MR. KEITH: And in what connection had you heard of her?

2 MRS. ROBINSON: Just about what I heard on TV.

3 MR. KEITH: Over TV when?

4 MRS. ROBINSON: Back in '69 and '70.

5 MR. KEITH: Did you hear on television or see on
6 television, then, that she was a defendant in that other case?

7 Do you remember hearing that?

8 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

9 MR. KEITH: And do you remember the outcome of that
10 case?

11 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

12 MR. KEITH: Do you remember what happened to Leslie in
13 that case? Without telling me, do you remember what happened
14 to her?

15 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes, I vaguely remember.

16 MR. KEITH: All right.

17 Do you have any idea why she's here awaiting trial
18 today?

19 MRS. ROBINSON: Do I have any?

20 MR. KEITH: Yeah, yeah. Do you know? Is it surprising
21 to you to see her sitting there today about to be tried for
22 the same alleged offenses as you had heard about on television
23 years ago?

24 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

25 MR. KEITH: You don't have any idea? You didn't see
26 anything on television or read anything in the newspapers about
27 why she is here?

28 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I don't; no, I didn't.

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1 MR. KEITH: Why don't you pass the microphone to
2 Mrs. Shabazian, please.

3 Is it -- am I pronouncing it correctly?

4 MISS SHABAZIAN: Miss Shabazian.

5 MR. KEITH: Pardon me?

6 MISS SHABAZIAN: Miss Shabazian.

7 MR. KEITH: Miss Shabazian, you saw both the movie,
8 entitled Helter Skelter, and the book, "Helter Skelter"; is
9 that right?

10 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I did.

11 MR. KEITH: Did you enjoy those literary efforts?

12 MISS SHABAZIAN: I don't think it was very well written,
13 but that's my opinion.

14 MR. KEITH: You read the whole book?

15 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I did.

16 MR. KEITH: And you saw the whole movie, both parts?

17 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I did.

18 MR. KEITH: Did you see the movie within the last two
19 or three months or approximately a year ago?

20 MISS SHABAZIAN: It was over a year ago, I believe.

21 MR. KEITH: All right.

22 And did either work leave any impression upon you
23 so that it would make it hard for you to judge Leslie fairly?

24 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I do not recall her name mentioned
25 all that much. And I knew she was brought to trial, but I
26 don't recall the outcome at all.

27 I did not follow it that much.

28 MR. KEITH: And when the original trial occurred, you

1 didn't follow it at all because you were too young, right?

2 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yeah, I was only like 14. I didn't
3 care too much when I was 14.

4 MR. KEITH: Pardon me?

5 MISS SHABAZIAN: I didn't care too much about that type
6 of thing when I was 14.

7 MR. KEITH: Oh, I understand. I'm not being critical.

8 Did you come to understand, having read the book
9 and reading and seeing the television show, that Manson meant
10 by "helter-skelter"?

11 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I did.

12 MR. KEITH: And do you remember something about Manson's
13 so-called beliefs and philosophies, after having read the
14 book?

15 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

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1 MR. KEITH: And do you remember from reading the book
2 that Manson had some young girls who were in a group?

3 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

4 MR. KEITH: That was called a family?

5 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes.

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6 MR. KEITH: Now, do you remember reading in the book or
7 seeing in the television motion picture that Leslie may have
8 been a member of that so-called family?

9 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

10 MR. KEITH: Knowing those things, do you feel that
11 Leslie sits at a disadvantage at this trial?

12 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I don't.

13 MR. KEITH: You can promise me that?

14 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I can.

15 MR. KEITH: And you have no opinion that she may be more
16 likely guilty than innocent, after having been exposed to the
17 book and television shows?

18 MISS SHABAZIAN: Well, not after hearing the evidence.
19 I believe I could give her a very fair trial, my fair opinion.

20 MR. KEITH: Are you suggesting you may have an opinion
21 now but you can lay it aside?

22 MISS SHABAZIAN: No. I mean I don't base my opinion
23 just by reading the book and seeing the movie.

24 MR. KEITH: So you are telling me you don't have any
25 opinion now?

26 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, not really.

27 MR. KEITH: Pardon me?

28 MISS SHABAZIAN: Not really.

1 MR. KEITH: When you say, "Not really --"

2 MISS SHABAZIAN: No opinion at all.

3 MR. KEITH: Do you have a little teeny opinion, a budding
4 opinion, or a fading opinion?

5 MISS SHABAZIAN: No.

6 MR. KEITH: And do you think that you might be influenced
7 by the television motion picture and the book that you read?

8 MISS SHABAZIAN: I do believe it was over-dramatized to
9 make a point.

10 MR. KEITH: Both?

11 MISS SHABAZIAN: Both, yes.

12 MR. KEITH: What you are saying is you rather doubt the
13 accuracy of those works?

14 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes.

15 MR. KEITH: All right.

16 Could you pass the microphone to --

17 Gosh, I don't know whether I can pronounce your
18 name.

19 MRS. SNAER: You don't have to try. It's Willie Snaer.

20 MR. KEITH: Is it Miss or Mrs. Snaer?

21 MRS. SNAER: Mrs.

22 MR. KEITH: You haven't seen the television motion
23 picture and haven't read the book, right?

24 MRS. SNAER: No, I have not.

25 MR. KEITH: Has anybody ever talked to you about it or
26 made comments and observations, you know, about the book or
27 the television show by the name of Helter Skelter?

28 MRS. SNAER: No, because no member of my family, you

1 know, my immediate family, read or saw the movie.

2 MR. KEITH: I was wondering if somebody may have talked
3 to you about it who was a friend of yours or coworker, if you
4 are employed outside the home.

5 MRS. SNAER: Yeah, I am employed, but no one at my job
6 has discussed it with me.

7 MR. KEITH: Did you pay any special attention to the
8 case back in 1969 and 1970 when you were exposed to the
9 publicity?

10 MRS. SNAER: Well, when you say special attention, I
11 would not say it was special. It was on the news, and we have
12 the television on, and I did, you know, watch it; but I did
13 not follow it that close.

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1 MR. KEITH: Well, what I meant by special attention is
2 did you make a special effort --

3 MRS. SNAER: No, I didn't.

4 MR. KEITH: -- to read and to hear about the case?

5 MRS. SNAER: No, I did not.

6 MR. KEITH: As a result of hearing about the case,
7 however, did you form any opinion then about Leslie Van Houten,
8 if you even remembered her name.

9 You may not remember her name at all.

10 MRS. SNAER: I really do not remember her name.

11 MR. KEITH: All right.

12 Having been in court for a day or so, does that
13 refresh your recollection at all about what she may have done
14 or alleged to have done back in 1969 and '70?

15 MRS. SNAER: No, I really don't remember.

16 MR. KEITH: When the name of the case was read to you
17 by His Honor, that didn't register anything in your mind?

18 MRS. SNAER: Well, the names, you know, like vaguely
19 I remember a little bit about them, but not what each character
20 or each person did. I don't remember that.

21 MR. KEITH: Okay.

22 You can promise me, as have the other jurors,
23 that you wouldn't be influenced by anything you may have read
24 or heard about this case in the event you are selected as a
25 trial juror?

26 MRS. SNAER: No, I wouldn't.

27 MR. KEITH: And you would decide this case solely on
28 the facts and the evidence as presented from the witness

1 stand?

2 MRS. SNAER: Yes.

3 MR. KEITH: You can do that?

4 MRS. SNAER: Yes.

5 MR. KEITH: You are sure of that?

6 MRS. SNAER: I'm positive, because I didn't follow
7 through on the case before.

8 MR. KEITH: Could you pass the microphone to Mrs. Stern,
9 please.

10 Now, Mrs. Stern, did you follow this so-called
11 Manson case closely in the newspapers at the time of the
12 first trial?

13 MRS. STERN: No, I didn't follow it in the newspapers.

14 MR. KEITH: Or on television?

15 MRS. STERN: Yes, I did.

16 I was working at the old Hall of Records at the
17 time, and I remember the girls sitting outside when Manson
18 was here. But I never really made a special effort to go home
19 and turn the news on to see what's happening.

20 But if I watched the news, it's there.

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1 MR. KEITH: You saw the girls on the corner?

2 MRS. STERN: Yes.

3 MR. KEITH: And were you ever a spectator at the trial?

4 MRS. STERN: No, sir.

5 MR. KEITH: The first trial.

6 Have you ever talked to any of the girls on the
7 corner --

8 MRS. STERN: No.

9 MR. KEITH: -- or did they ever talk to you?

10 MRS. STERN: No.

11 MR. KEITH: Did you make any special effort to hear
12 about the case on television back in 1969, '70 and perhaps
13 '71?

14 MRS. STERN: Well, I remember the first couple of days,
15 when the news broke, you know, I watched it, and I was
16 interested in it.

17 But as time kept going on, you know, you would
18 hear it over and over, and I really lost interest.

19 I knew what had happened, and that's about it.

20 MR. KEITH: Have you read, seen or heard anything about
21 Leslie Van Houten in the last year?

22 MRS. STERN: No, sir.

23 MR. KEITH: Do you remember her name?

24 MRS. STERN: No, sir. Yesterday, when I walked in, I
25 didn't know who she was when Your Honor (sic) mentioned her
26 name.

27 MR. KEITH: All right.

28 Now, did that refresh your recollection at all

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1 about her having --

2 MRS. STERN: Well --

3 MR. KEITH: -- having been a defendant in the first
4 trial?

5 MRS. STERN: What happened was, I reacted to the reaction
6 that I heard around me.

7 And I asked, "Well, who is it?" And then I
8 listened to what the judge said.

9 And then I knew who she was.

10 But I don't know if she was tried before or along
11 with everybody else, or what happened.

12 MR. KEITH: All right.

13 Consequently, you are confident that you don't
14 have any opinion now that she may be more likely guilty than
15 innocent because of what you have read, heard or seen about
16 the so-called Manson case, including seeing the girls on the
17 corner.

18 MRS. STERN: Well, I don't have any opinion as to her
19 innocence or guilt. I don't know.

20 MR. KEITH: You have an open mind now?

21 MRS. STERN: Yes, I do.

22 MR. KEITH: Although you know she is entitled to the
23 presumption of innocence as she sits before you now, do you
24 feel in your heart that she has the benefit of that
25 presumption?

26 MRS. STERN: From me she does.

27 MR. KEITH: All right; that's what I am interested in.

28 Thank you very much.

1 THE COURT: All right. At this time we are going to
2 take the afternoon recess.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, you are not to discuss this
4 case amongst yourselves or with anyone else, you are not to
5 form any opinion or express any opinion concerning this matter
6 until the case is finally given to you.

7 In addition, it would be inappropriate for you
8 to read, see or hear any news media accounts of this case.

9 All right. The Court will be in recess until
10 20 minutes past the hour. I have got one matter to take up
11 during the recess.

12 So we will recess until 3:20.

13 All jurors present in the courtroom, the
14 defendant and counsel are ordered to be present at 3:20.

15 The Court is in recess as to this case.

16 THE BAILIFF: Would you just step right throught that
17 door and into the jury room.

18 (Recess.)
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1 THE COURT: People versus Van Houten.

2 Let the record show the defendant is present and
3 represented by counsel; the People are represented by counsel;
4 the prospective jurors are in their appropriate places.

5 You may inquire, Mr. Kay, regarding publicity.

6 MR. KAY: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 Mr. Miller, do you read any local newspapers?

8 MR. MILLER: Occasionally, yes.

9 MR. KAY: You don't subscribe to any?

10 MR. MILLER: No.

11 MR. KAY: Okay.

12 And have you read any articles about Leslie Van
13 Houten in any newspapers this year?

14 MR. MILLER: No.

15 MR. KAY: Have you seen Miss Van Houten on TV at all
16 this year?

17 MR. MILLER: No, no.

18 MR. KAY: Do you watch the nightly news on TV?

19 MR. MILLER: No. I'm usually working -- I don't get
20 home until around midnight.

21 MR. KAY: You work the late shift at the hospital, 3:00
22 to 11:00, or something?

23 MR. MILLER: Well, from 7:00 in the morning until 11:00
24 at night.

25 MR. KAY: 7:00 in the morning until 11:00?

26 MR. MILLER: Yes.

27 MR. KAY: Oh, my goodness.

28 MR. MILLER: I'm home very little.

1 MR. KAY: Now, from reading --

2 Well, let me ask you this: Have you ever seen
3 Mr. Keith on television or heard him on radio or read about
4 him in the newspaper or magazine talking about Miss Van Houten?

5 MR. MILLER: No, not that I know of.

6 MR. KEITH: From what you know about this case, from
7 seeing parts of the movie Helter Skelter, and from hearing
8 news of it in the late '60s and early '70s, have you formed
9 any opinion to the effect that Miss Van Houten might have
10 been mentally ill or mentally unbalanced at the time of the
11 LaBianca murders?

12 MR. MILLER: No.

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2 MR. KAY: Have you formed an opinion that anyone who
3 may have participated in the so-called Fata-LaBianca murders
4 must have been crazy or mentally ill at the time of their
5 participation?

6 MR. MILLER: I don't -- no, I wouldn't say I have formed
7 an opinion.

8 I would probably say they would have to be crazy
9 to do something like that, but I would take it, you know, as
10 a movie or story because I don't know -- I don't know about
11 it.

12 What I have read was a book that I read. It's a
13 story, so --

14 MR. KAY: All right.

15 Let me ask you: In this trial not only is
16 Miss Van Houten entitled to a fair trial but the prosecution
17 is entitled to a fair trial.

18 MR. MILLER: Right.

19 MR. KAY: Now, we have a burden in this case not only
20 of proving Miss Van Houten's guilt but we have to prove
21 beyond a reasonable doubt that she had the mental capacity to
22 commit a willful, deliberate, premeditated murder.

23 Do you think you can keep an open mind on that
24 subject?

25 MR. MILLER: Indeed so.

26 MR. KAY: And base whatever decision you make, base it
27 solely on the evidence you hear from the witness stand.

28 MR. MILLER: Whatever you two tell me.

MR. KAY: Do you think, realizing what burden we have in

1 this case, that you can give the prosecution a fair trial?

2 MR. MILLER: I'm sure.

3 MR. KAY: Have you heard the name --

4 Well, have you heard the name Tex Watson?

5 MR. MILLER: Yes, I have heard that name.

6 MR. KAY: Do you know who he was?

7 MR. MILLER: I know he was in the story.

8 MR. KAY: What about the name Linda Kasabian?

9 MR. MILLER: I know that was in the story also.

10 MR. KAY: Do you know who she is?

11 MR. MILLER: Just a character in the story; I know that.

12 MR. KAY: I don't remember whether you answered this
13 question for Mr. Keith:

14 Do you know what Manson and the Family meant by
15 the term "halter-skalter"?

16 MR. MILLER: (No response.)

17 MR. KAY: You don't have to tell me what it is, but do
18 you know in your own mind what --

19 MR. MILLER: I don't know. I was confusing to me as to
20 what he meant, really.

21 MR. KAY: You never really understood what that meant.

22 MR. MILLER: No. I read what he said he thought it
23 meant, but, you know, it didn't register to me.

24 MR. KAY: Okay. Thank you very much.

25 Could you pass the microphone down to Mrs. Reagan.

26 Now, Mrs. Reagan, have you seen Leslie Van Houten
27 on T.V. this year?

28 MRS. REAGAN: No, I haven't.

1 MR. KAY: Do you take a local newspaper?

2 MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I do.

3 MR. KAY: Which one?

4 MRS. REAGAN: The Times.

5 MR. KAY: And did you read the article on the front page
6 of the Times which purported to be an exclusive interview
7 with Miss Van Houten?

8 MRS. REAGAN: I don't remember.

9 I do recall now -- which I didn't remember a few
10 minutes ago -- I do remember reading one thing within the last
11 couple of months, I believe, about the fact that her, oh,
12 mental attitude had changed.

13 I don't remember exactly how it was stated, but,
14 you know -- and that's all I remember.

15 I don't really remember much else about the
16 article.

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1 MR. KAY: From reading that article and from other
2 things you know about the case, have you formed any opinion
3 that Miss Van Houten might have been mentally ill or mentally
4 unbalanced at the time of the Labianca murders?

5 MRS. REAGAN: Not for her in particular; but, you know,
6 you just feel like something has to be wrong. It's not
7 a normal reaction.

8 But I don't think I formed any particular opinion
9 about her in particular, no.

10 MR. KAY: Well, now, as I told Mr. Miller, the
11 prosecution's burden in this case --

12 MRS. REAGAN: Yes.

13 MR. KAY: -- is, we have to prove that Miss Van Houten --
14 I mean if we want the jury to convict her of first degree
15 murder -- we have to prove that she had the mental capacity
16 to commit a willful, deliberate, premeditated murder in the
17 first degree.

18 Realizing that, do you think you can give the
19 prosecution a fair trial?

20 MRS. REAGAN: I think so.

21 MR. KAY: Do you --

22 MRS. REAGAN: Yeah. I don't know, you know; that
23 question about whether a person is in their complete mental --
24 have all of their mental capabilities at this point, when they
25 do something like -- you know, commit whatever, are a part of
26 this kind of thing; I don't know; I have some reservations
27 as to how I feel.

28 I don't -- feel there has to be something wrong,

1 you know.

2 MR. KAY: Well, now, do you think with that feeling
3 you would require the prosecution to put on evidence to
4 change your opinion about that?

5 MRS. REAGAN: No. I think I would take -- you know,
6 I would just listen to the evidence on both sides and then
7 form an opinion.

8 MR. KAY: Well, as we are starting out the trial
9 obviously no one has put on any evidence yet.

10 MRS. REAGAN: No, right.

11 MR. KAY: Do you feel you have an absolute open mind
12 on the question of Leslie Van Houten's mental state at the
13 time of the murders, or do you feel that, well, you think
14 that anybody who may have participated in the Tate or
15 LaBianca murders just has to be crazy, and you will want to
16 see evidence from the stand that she wasn't crazy or nobody
17 is going to change your opinion?

18 MRS. REAGAN: I don't know whether I would go so far
19 that I'd have to see evidence that she wasn't crazy, but I'd
20 have to feel there was something -- I mean, I do have a question
21 about that, right.

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1 MR. KAY: Well, because of the question, do you think --
2 because of the question you have in your mind, do you feel
3 that the prosecution is starting out at a disadvantage if you
4 were sitting as a juror in this case?

5 MRS. REAGAN: No, I don't think so. It's hard to say,
6 but I don't think so.

7 MR. KAY: Well, do you think you would be -- kind of
8 have a little slant to believe that maybe she was mentally
9 unbalanced at the time unless you saw some real convincing
10 testimony from the stand that she was mentally okay?

11 MRS. REAGAN: Well; no. I guess I couldn't say that I
12 really would feel she was mentally unbalanced.

13 You know, there is a feeling in my mind that she
14 was definitely mentally unbalanced, but I do not really think
15 I could say that honestly.

16 So I think I'd be open, you know, at the start,
17 without having this as a preconceived idea.

18 MR. KAY: Do you really think that any opinion you might
19 have had -- do you think you can put that aside and just
20 decide the question of her mental state at the time of the
21 LaBianca murders based on the evidence you hear in this
22 courtroom?

23 MRS. REAGAN: I think so.

24 The best I can say is I think so. I feel that I
25 could.

26 MR. KAY: Well, can you promise me that you will do
27 that?

28 MRS. REAGAN: I certainly -- well, I would promise,

1 because I do feel that a person has a right, you know, to be
2 proven guilty before -- either way, you know. But --

3 MR. KAY: That's right. I didn't want --

4 MRS. REAGAN: -- before making a decision --

5 MR. KAY: I don't want to start off with two strikes
6 against me. Because, as Miss Van Houten does not want to
7 start out with two strikes against her, I do not --

8 MRS. REAGAN: Right, right. You are right.

9 MR. KAY: And we certainly do have the burden in a
10 criminal case of proving the defendant's guilt or innocence.

11 MRS. REAGAN: Right.

12 MR. KAY: But we also have to prove beyond a reasonable
13 doubt that she had this mental capacity. And if a juror
14 figures, well, just whoever was involved in this had to be
15 crazy, then I'm starting out with two strikes against me.

16 MRS. REAGAN: Right, right. I do not think I'd put it
17 that loosely. I don't think I'd feel that, you know, as I
18 said, that anyone is crazy to be involved in something like
19 this.

20 MR. KAY: Do you have any idea of what role, if any,
21 Leslie Van Houten played in the LaBianca murders as you sit
22 there now?

23 MRS. REAGAN: No. The only feeling I have about it is
24 that, as I remember it, it was a minor part; but I don't --
25 you know, I don't really know what the part was. I could not
26 tell you what part she played in it, no.

27 MR. KAY: And not knowing what part she played, do you
28 think you can keep an open mind about what her mental state was

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at the time?

MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I think I could.

MR. KAY: Because you really do not know what her mental state was at the time, do you?

MRS. REAGAN: No, no, no. It's true, I don't.

MR. KAY: Okay.

Have you heard the name --

Well, just a minute. I have one more.

Have you heard the name Linda Kasabian?

MRS. REAGAN: Yes, I've heard the name.

1 MR. KAY: Do you know who Linda Kasabian is?

2 MRS. REAGAN: I couldn't tell you what her role was.
3 I just know the name. I know she was involved.

4 MR. KAY: Okay, thank you.

5 Mrs. Robinson?

6 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

7 MR. KAY: Do you know who Linda Kasabian was?

8 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I don't.

9 MR. KAY: Have you heard the name Tex Watson?

10 MRS. ROBINSON: I don't recall.

11 MR. KAY: Have you heard the name Squeaky Fromme?

12 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

13 MR. KAY: Have you heard the term --

14 Do you know what the Manson family meant by the
15 term "helter-skelter"?

16 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I don't.

17 MR. KAY: Have you heard anything about Miss Van Houten
18 on the radio this year?

19 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I haven't.

20 MR. KAY: Have you seen her on TV?

21 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

22 MR. KAY: Do you read any of the local papers?

23 MRS. ROBINSON: I don't take the paper.

24 MR. KAY: Have you ever heard Mr. Keith on the radio or
25 on TV or read about him anywhere talking about Miss Van Houten?

26 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

27 MR. KAY: Have you formed any opinion, from what you
28 know about this case, about Miss Van Houten's mental state at

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1 the time of the LaBianca murders?

2 MRS. ROBINSON: No, I haven't.

3 MR. KAY: Have you formed an opinion that anyone who
4 participated in the so-called Tate-LaBianca murders must have
5 been crazy or mentally unbalanced at the time of their
6 participation?

7 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

8 MR. KAY: Do you have an opinion as to Miss Van Houten's
9 mental state at any time in her life even as she sits there
10 right now?

11 MRS. ROBINSON: No.

12 MR. KAY: And realizing what the prosecution's role is
13 in this case, do you feel that you could give us a fair trial,
14 too?

15 MRS. ROBINSON: Yes.

16 MR. KAY: Okay, thank you.

17 Could you pass the microphone back to Miss Shabazian.

18 Okay, since you have read "Helter Skelter" and
19 saw the movie, I take it you know the different people I've
20 mentioned.

21 Like, do you know who Linda Kasabian is?

22 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

23 MR. KAY: All right.

24 Have you formed any opinion about Miss Kasabian,
25 about her veracity?

26 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I haven't.

27 MR. KAY: And without telling me what it was, do you
28 remember what Manson and the Family meant by the term "helter-

1 shelter"?

2 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

3 MR. KAY: Okay. I take it you have heard of Tex Watson?

4 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes.

5 MR. KAY: And Squeaky Fromme?

6 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes.

7 MR. KAY: Do you read any of the local newspapers?

8 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I don't.

9 MR. KAY: Have you read any articles anywhere about
10 Miss Van Houten this year?

11 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I haven't.

12 MR. KAY: Have you seen Miss Van Houten on TV this year?

13 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I haven't.

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1 MR. KAY: Have you seen Mr. Keith on TV or heard him
2 on the radio or read about him talking about Miss Van Houten
3 this year?

4 MISS SHABAZIAN: No.

5 MR. KAY: All right.

6 From reading "Helter Skelter" and seeing the
7 movie, and from whatever other background you have about this
8 case, have you formed any opinion as to the fact that Leslie
9 Van Houten might have been mentally unbalanced or mentally ill
10 at the time of the LaBianca murders?

11 MISS SHABAZIAN: No, I haven't.

12 MR. KAY: Do you think you can keep an open mind on that
13 subject?

14 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

15 MR. KAY: And realizing the burden that the prosecution
16 has in this case about proving Miss Van Houten's mental
17 capacity at the time of the LaBianca murders, do you think you
18 can give us a fair trial?

19 MISS SHABAZIAN: Yes, I do.

20 MR. KAY: Okay, thank you.

21 Could you pass the microphone down to Mrs. Snaer.

22 Mrs. Snaer, do you watch the nightly news on TV?

23 MRS. SNAER: Not all the time.

24 MR. KAY: Well, when you do watch it, what channel do
25 you watch?

26 MRS. SNAER: Well, 2 and 4; sometimes 2 and 4.

27 MR. KAY: Okay.

28 And you haven't seen Miss Van Houten on TV at all

1 this year?

2 MRS. SNAER: No, I haven't.

3 MR. KAY: All right.

4 Do you read any of the local papers?

5 MRS. SNAER: No, I don't.

6 MR. KAY: Have you read any articles anywhere about
7 Miss Van Houten this year?

8 MRS. SNAER: No, I have not.

9 MR. KAY: All right.

10 Have you seen Mr. Keith on TV or heard him on the
11 radio or read about him talking about Miss Van Houten?

12 MRS. SNAER: No, I have not.

13 MR. KAY: And have you formed any opinion about
14 Miss Van Houten's mental state at the time of the LaBianca
15 murders?

16 MRS. SNAER: No, I have not.

17 MR. KAY: Have you formed an opinion about the mental
18 state of anyone who may have participated in the so-called
19 Tate-LaBianca murders at the time of their participation?

20 MRS. SNAER: No, I have not.

21 MR. KAY: Do you feel you could give the prosecution a
22 fair trial, realizing the burden we have of proving her
23 mental capacity at the time of the LaBianca murders?

24 MRS. SNAER: I feel that I could.

25 MR. KAY: Any doubt about that?

26 MRS. SNAER: No.

27 MR. KAY: Okay.

28 MRS. SNAER: I haven't followed it that closely.

1 MR. KAY: So you just don't have an opinion.

2 Do you think you can keep an open mind about her
3 mental state and base your opinion about that from the
4 evidence you hear from the witness stand?

5 MRS. SNAER: Yes.

6 MR. KAY: Okay.

7 Can you pass the microphone down to Mrs. Stern.

8 Mrs. Stern, do you read Los Angeles Magazine?

9 MRS. STERN: No, I do not.

10 MR. KAY: Do you read the Christian Science Monitor?

11 MRS. STERN: No.

12 MR. KAY: Do you take any of the local newspapers?

13 MRS. STERN: No.

14 MR. KAY: Do you read any of the local newspapers?

15 MRS. STERN: Sometimes.

16 MR. KAY: And which papers do you read?

17 MRS. STERN: Usually the Times.

18 MR. KAY: And did you read any articles this year in the
19 Los Angeles Times about Leslie Van Houten or about this trial?

20 MRS. STERN: No.

21 MR. KAY: Do you watch the nightly news on TV?

22 MRS. STERN: I try to, yes.

23 MR. KAY: Which channel do you watch?

24 MRS. STERN: Seven.

25 MR. KAY: Did you see Miss Van Houten on the Channel 7
26 news this year?

27 MRS. STERN: I don't remember, but I think I saw a
28 sketch when they were talking about the trial coming to court,

1 or something like that, or reopening, or whatever.

2 But that's about it.

3 MR. KAY: You didn't see her in person, though?

4 MRS. STERN: No.

5 MR. KAY: You didn't hear her talking on television?

6 MRS. STERN: No, I did not.

7 MR. KAY: You didn't hear any interviews with her?

8 MRS. STERN: I beg your pardon?

9 MR. KAY: You didn't hear any interviews with her on TV?

10 MRS. STERN: No, I did not.

11 MR. KAY: Now, from what you know about this case, have
12 you formed any opinion as to Miss Van Houten's mental state
13 at the time of the LaBianca murders?

14 MRS. STERN: No, sir.

15 MR. KAY: Have you formed an opinion that anyone who
16 participated in the so-called Tate-LaBianca murders must have
17 been crazy or mentally unbalanced at the time of their
18 participation?

19 MRS. STERN: No.

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1 MR. KAY: All right. Do you think you can keep an
2 open mind on the question about Miss Van Houten's mental state,
3 and base your opinion that you will formulate at sometime,
4 based solely on the evidence that you hear from the witness
5 stand?

6 MRS. STERN: Yes.

7 MR. KAY: And you feel that knowing the burden that
8 the prosecution has in this case about proving Miss Van Houten's
9 mental capacity at the time of the Liananca murders, do you
10 think you can give us a fair trial?

11 MRS. STERN: Yes, I do.

12 MR. KAY: Okay.

13 Thank you very much.

14 No further questions.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 Will counsel approach the bench, please.

17 (The following proceedings were held
18 at the bench.)

19 THE COURT: I take it there are no challenges.

20 MR. KAY: None from me.

21 MR. KEITH: None from me, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. We now have, counting these
23 people, 69.

24 I propose we start tomorrow morning with them.
25 I would like to have tomorrow morning --

26 You were going to get me a typed list of the
27 witnesses.

28 MR. KAY: I already did. I gave it to the clerk about

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1 a week ago. I gave you about five copies.

2 I don't have any secretaries --

3 THE COURT: All right. If either counsel have any
4 questions that they want me to ask the panel tomorrow on
5 voir dire, I would like to have those in writing from you.

6 MR. KAY: One thing I would ask, I note that there was
7 a juror today that had her dark glasses on.

8 I wonder if the court could ask the jurors to
9 remove dark glasses. I would like to watch their eyes.

10 THE COURT: All right, we will do that.

11 MR. KEITH: All right.

12 THE COURT: All right. We will recess at this time
13 until tomorrow morning at 10:00 o'clock.

14 At that time we will have the full panel here,
15 and we will start with the voir dire.

16 MR. KAY: I think there is one question I would like
17 Your Honor to ask, and that is if you could ask about the
18 birth date of each juror, the month, day and year, during your
19 general voir dire.

20 MR. KEITH: Are you going to consult an astrologist?

21 MR. KAY: That's the only question I have.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 (The following proceedings were held in
24 open court in the presence of the
25 prospective jurors.)

26 THE COURT: At this time, ladies and gentlemen, the
27 court is going to recess in this matter until tomorrow morning.

28 The bailiff will be instructed to take the jurors

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1 back down to Department 106.

2 The court will admonish you there before leaving
3 tonight.

4 So the court will be in recess until tomorrow
5 morning at 10:00 a.m.

6 The defendant and counsel are ordered to be
7 present at that time.

8 Thank you.

9 (Recess.)

10 (The following proceedings were held in
11 Department 106 in the absence of the
12 defendant and both counsel.)

13 THE COURT: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

14 I must admonish you again that you are not to
15 discuss this case amongst yourselves or with anyone else, and
16 you are not to form any opinion concerning this matter or
17 express any opinion concerning this matter until the case is
18 finally given to you.

19 In addition, you must not allow yourselves to read,
20 see or hear any news media accounts of the proceedings on
21 any matters related to this trial.

22 Now, tomorrow you are ordered to all return to
23 this courtroom at 9:45 for further proceedings.

24 Sometime tomorrow the entire group will be brought
25 up to the other courtroom, and we will begin the general
26 selection of the jury.

27 So have a good evening. We will see you tomorrow
28 morning. Report here at 9:45, Department 106, on the 9th floor.

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Thank you.

(at 3:40 p.m. an adjournment was taken until
Wednesday, April 6, 1977, at 10:00 a.m.)

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