

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT NO. 130

HON. EDWARD A. HINE, JR., JUDGE

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LESLIE VAN HOUTEN,

Defendant.

9033

NO. A253156

REPORTERS' DAILY TRANSCRIPT

Thursday, May 26, 1977

Volume 33

Pages 4594 to 4675, incl.

JACOBSON

APPEARANCES:

(See Volume 1.)

EMANUEL J. SANZO, C.S.R. No. 1267

- and -

LOIS R. JOHNSON, C.S.R. No. 812

Official Reporters

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JAKOBSON, Gregg 4595

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1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1977; 10:42 A.M.

2 DEPARTMENT NO. 130

HON. EDWARD A. HINZ, JR., JUDGE

3 --o0o--

4 (Appearances as heretofore noted.)

5
6 THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

7 All right. In People versus Van Houten, let the
8 record show the defendant is present, represented by counsel,
9 the People are represented by counsel, the jurors are in their
10 respective places.

11 Mr. Keith, you may call your next witness.

1 MR. KEITH: May I repair to the corridor and see if --

2 THE COURT: Yes, you can even walk over there.

3 THE CLERK: Just come right in there, sir, and go right
4 around there, please.

5
6 GREGG JAKOBSON,
7 called as a witness by the defendant, was sworn and testified
8 as follows:

9 THE CLERK: Would you raise your right hand, please,
10 sir.

11 You do solemnly swear the testimony you may give
12 in the cause now pending before this court shall be the truth,
13 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

14 THE WITNESS: I do.

15 THE CLERK: Just take the stand and be seated, please,
16 sir.

17 Would you pull the microphone over, please,
18 directly under your chin, up as close as you possibly can,
19 and would you give your name for the record, please.

20 THE WITNESS: My name is Gregg Jakobson.

21 THE CLERK: Would you spell your full name slowly,
22 please.

23 THE WITNESS: G-r-e-g-g J-a-k-o-b-s-o-n.

24 THE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

25
26 DIRECT EXAMINATION

27 BY MR. KEITH:

28 Q Mr. Jakobson, what is your present business or

1 occupation?

2 A. Music production.

3 Q. Are you self-employed or work for a particular
4 person, firm, or corporation?

5 A. Different firms, depending on the project.

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3-1
1 Q Do you live in the Southern California area at
2 the present time?

3 A I do.

4 Q And have you been in the music production business
5 for many years?

6 A Ten, twelve years.

7 Q How old are you now, Gregg?

8 A Thirty-seven.

9 Q Directing your attention, Mr. Jakobson, to the
10 late '60s.

11 Did you have occasion during that period of time
12 to meet a gentleman by the name of Charles Manson?

13 A I did.

14 Q Do you recall what year you met Mr. Manson for
15 the first time?

16 '67? '68? '69?

17 A I guess it would have been '67, '68. It's been
18 some years now.

19 Q And were you in the music production business at
20 that time?

21 A I was.

22 Q At that time were you working with or associated
23 with a group known as the Beach Boys?

24 A Yeah, I was working, doing some work with them.

25 Q Among other things?

26 A Among other things.

27 Q And you knew a gentleman by the name of Dennis
28 Wilson?

1 A Right; yes.

2 Q Now, where was it that you first met Charlie
3 Manson?

4 A Dennis Wilson's house.

5 Q And was Dennis Wilson at that time living in the
6 Malibu or Pacific Palisades, Topanga Canyon area?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Could you be more specific?

9 A Sunset Boulevard. I don't remember the address.
10 Nineteen hundred.

11 Q Near the beach?

12 A Near the beach.

13 Q Were you living at Dennis Wilson's at that time,
14 also?

15 A Yes.

16 Q If you recall.

17 A Yes.

18 Q And what was the occasion, if you recall, at which
19 you met Mr. Manson?

20 A You know, I don't really remember the specific
21 first time I met Charles Manson.

22 Q You --

23 A I think it was at Dennis's house one day.

24 Q And this was sometime in 1967, to the best of
25 your recollection?

26 A To the best of my recollection.

27 Q Now, later on you had numerous encounters with
28 Mr. Manson, did you not? Encounters in the sense of

1 conversational encounters.

2 A Yes.

3 Q And these conversations took place at various
4 places; is that correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Now, when you --

7 And later you grew to know Manson.

8 Did you learn or become aware that he had young
9 people who were -- could be described as "his followers"?

10 A Yes.

4-1
Q Now, my question is, when you first met Mr. Manson,
was he with any younger people, if you recall?

A A number of them.

Q And were these both girls and boys?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember the names of any of the young
ladies who were with Mr. Manson when you first met him at
Dennis Wilson's?

A Some. I mean, it's all very sketchy. It goes
back ten years.

Q I appreciate that. We can only ask that you do
the best you can.

A Well, then, yes; I do remember some of the names
of some of the people.

Q And what were those names?

A I remember a Ruth, I remember Leslie, Squeaky.

Q By "Leslie," are you referring to Miss Van Houten?

A Uh-huh.

Q And she wasn't with Manson, was she, when you first
met Charlie?

A I don't think so.

Q The question was directed to what girls were with
him at Dennis Wilson's when you first met him.

A Oh, I really don't remember. I mean, it all runs
together.

Q All right. Okay.

Now, how many times in all, Mr. Jakobson, would
you say that you not only saw but conversed with Charlie,

1 Charlie Manson, from the time you first met him until the
2 time you last saw him other than in the courtroom?

3 A Well, I don't know. I suppose you could say fifty
4 or a hundred times. It's hard to --

5 Q Your best estimate is all we can ask.

6 A Just shooting in the dark, I'd say between fifty
7 and a hundred times.

8 Q And did you see him on occasion at Dennis Wilson's
9 house after you first met him?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Did you see him on many occasions at Dennis
12 Wilson's house?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And you are familiar with a place known as the
15 Spahn Ranch?

16 A Yes.

17 Q You saw him there on occasions, I presume?

18 A I did.

19 Q And on one occasion did you see Charlie in the
20 desert in the Death Valley area?

21 A Yes, I did.

22 Q When was that, Mr. Jakobson?

23 A I guess that would have been Thanksgiving of '68.

24 Q Did you also see Charlie in 1969?

25 A Yeah, I would have seen him in '69.

26 Q All right.

27 Now, using the dates of August 8th, 9th, and 10th,
28 1969, as a reference, when would he, to the best of your

4-3
1 recollection, the last time you saw and conversed with Manson
2 before those dates?

3 A. Maybe a month; maybe a month and a half.

4 Q. Now, did you ever see Charlie again after that,
5 after that month, month and a half, before August 8th, 9th,
6 and 10th, 1969, other than in court?

7 A. I don't think so. I don't think so.

8 There was one time when he came by in the middle
9 of the night, and I don't remember whether it was before or
10 after.

11 Because at the time that wasn't a point of
12 reference.

13 Q. Incidentally, you testified for the prosecution
14 in his case, did you not?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. And you also testified for the prosecution in the
17 matter of People v. Charles "Tex" Watson?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. And did you have occasion to meet Watson?

20 A. Any time, you mean? Yes, I did meet him.

21 Q. Yes, any time.

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. Now, Gregg, you never became a member of the
24 so-called Family, did you?

25 A. No.

26 Q. And throughout your acquaintance with Charlie
27 Manson, you remained as a -- you continued, let's say, your
28 occupation in the music business?

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A. Yes.

Q. And did Manson at any time ever try to recruit
you into his organization?

A. Yes.

Q. And you demurred, I gather?

A. I demurred.

ERASABLE

ERASABLE

NO CONTENT

1 Q Did you become acquainted with any of Manson's
2 female followers?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you have occasion to meet Leslie?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you ever become well acquainted with her?

7 A I don't think so. I mean, I don't know exactly
8 what you mean.

9 Q Well, all right.

10 Did you ever get to know her well. That's simple
11 enough.

12 A Well, we spoke. She was one of the girls that I
13 knew more than some of the other girls.
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5-1
1 Q Now, for a period of time after you first met
2 Manson, did you only see him at Dennis Wilson's house?

3 Or did you see him other places?

4 A Mostly at the house.

5 Q All right.

6 And then after that did you see him mostly at the
7 Spahn Ranch?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And you would drive up to the Spahn Ranch, I take
10 it?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q And did you ever spend the night there?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q You never stayed --

15 Did you ever stay at the Spahn Ranch for any
16 extensive period of time, more than one night or two nights?

17 A No.

18 Q And how long were you in the desert, Mr. Jakobson,
19 around Thanksgiving of '68?

20 A Oh, a couple of nights. Two, three days; a couple
21 of nights.

22 Q Did you have an interest in Manson?

23 I'm not talking about a financial interest; but
24 were you interested in him as a person?

25 A Oh, sure. He was a very fascinating guy, very
26 interesting guy.

27 Q And would you talk to Charlie from time to time,
28 when you did see him, about certain concepts and philosophies

1 that he espoused?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And your discussions would not -- I'm leading you.
4 Would your discussions with Charlie be one-sided,
5 in the sense that he told you how it was and you just remained
6 silent and listened?

7 Or did you join in the conversation and, let's say,
8 advocate your own views?

9 A I think we used to exchange ideas. We used to
10 debate sometimes.

11 Q Incidentally, during your -- the period of time
12 that you knew Manson -- this would be from sometime in 1967
13 to, oh, perhaps the late Spring, early summer of 1968 -- did
14 it appear to you that drugs were used by Manson and his
15 followers?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Now, did you observe the use of marijuana?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you also observe the use of other chemicals?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Would this include LSD?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And the use of marijuana and other chemicals such
24 as LSD, would that occur, in your awareness, at the Spahn
25 Ranch and at Dennis Wilson's and perhaps even in the desert?

26 A Yes; I was aware of them in all those places.

27 Q Incidentally, did you ever go to a house in Canoga
28 Park, on Graham Street, where the entire Family was living

5-3

1 for a period of time?

2 A I did. I think I was out there once.

3 Q Were you interested at all, during your relation-
4 ship with Manson -- "relationship" perhaps isn't the right
5 word -- but during your acquaintance with Manson, in his music?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did you have some, might we say, professional
8 interest in his music?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And did you try to interest others in his music?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you have, however, any contractual, contractual
13 relationship with Charlie Manson?

14 A No.

15 Q In other words, you had not agreed, formally in
16 writing, to produce his songs on record, or the like.

17 A Correct.

18 Q Now, during your conversations with Mr. Manson --

19 Incidentally, let me ask you this as a preamble:

20 Did all or most of your conversations occur between
21 you and Manson alone, or were others present?

22 And by "others," I'm referring to members of his
23 family, or perhaps even some of your friends or business
24 associates.

25 A I would say it was half and half.

26 Q When you say -- We will have to break that down
27 because my question wasn't too good to begin with; it's
28 compound.

1 When you would talk to Charlie, on occasions you
2 would talk to him alone --

3 A Um-hmm.

4 Q -- and on other occasions other people would be
5 present?

6 A Correct.

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1 Q And would the other people join in the conver-
2 sations you were having, if you recall, or be more listeners
3 than carrying on an exchange?

4 A Well, it would depend who the people were, of
5 course, but --

6 Q Yes; I'll get to that. I can't cover it all in
7 one --

8 A No, it wasn't exclusively between myself and
9 Charlie.

10 Q All right.

11 And when you say it depended upon the other people,
12 were some of his followers present at some of your conversations
13 with him?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Like some of the girls?

16 A Yeah, and some of the guys.

17 Q Would they join in the talks, the discussions?

18 A Yes, some of them would. Some of them were very
19 vocal.

20 Q All right.

21 And on other occasions, I take it, people outside
22 the Manson family would be present.

23 A Yes.

24 Q And they would also join in the discussions, if
25 you recall?

26 A (No response.)

27 Q If not, say so. Don't guess.

28 A I'm trying to think of specifics, and I can

1 remember some specifics where I would say yes.

2 Q Now, did Manson talk to you, Gregg, either in the
3 presence of others or alone with you, on such subjects as
4 laws and rules and sin and material possessions?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And love and death?

7 A Yes, to all of us.

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1 Q Do you remember some of the things he told you on
2 these subjects?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And were these things he said just once to you,
5 or would it be appropriate to suggest he repeated certain
6 concepts?

7 A It would be appropriate to say he repeated certain
8 concepts.

9 Q And I wonder if you have ever heard the expression
10 "Helter Skelter"?

11 A I have.

12 Q Once or more than one occasion?

13 A More than once.

14 Q All right.

15 Now, was there a certain -- Strike that.

16 Bearing in mind, Gregg, that you saw Manson,
17 relatively frequently and saw his followers relatively
18 frequently, have you had an opportunity to observe, let's say,
19 the aura or atmosphere that surrounded Manson and his family?

20 MR. KAY: Well, I'll object. That calls for speculation.

21 THE COURT: Well, the objection to that question is
22 overruled.

23 THE WITNESS: I did.

24 Q BY MR. KEITH: And initially, when you first knew
25 him and presumably knew some of his followers, did there appear
26 to you -- I'm leading you a little bit but -- did there appear
27 to you to be an atmosphere of, oh, let's say -- Well, you
28 tell me. I don't want to put words in your mouth.

1 What was the kind of atmosphere, if you can
2 describe it?

3 A Are you speaking about when I first --?

4 Q When you first knew Charlie and the group.

5 A It was a nice dusty, kick-back, take-it-as-it-comes
6 kind of --

7 That was the charm of the general demeanor of
8 everybody.

9 Q "A nice dusty --" What -- By "dusty," you are
10 referring to the dust at the Spahn Ranch?

11 A Yeah. I mean, there was the physical dust.

12 Q Are you suggesting there was a bucolic atmosphere
13 initially?

14 A I don't --

15 Q Rural, out in the country?

16 A Yes, yes.

17 Q And to you did everybody appear to be enjoying
18 themselves?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Having a good time?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And you observed the use of chemicals?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And later on did you observe any change in that
25 atmosphere?

26 A Yes.

27 Q Would you describe what change or changes you
28 observed in the atmosphere, including, if you will, the

1 demeanor of the persons who made up the Family and Charlie
2 himself.

3 Don't guess, now.

4 MR. KAY: Well, I wonder if we could have a foundation
5 as to time -- what time period.

6 MR. KEITH: Well, all right. Let's say in the spring
7 of 1969.

8 THE WITNESS: Yes.

9 Q BY MR. KEITH: Towards the last of your exposure
10 to Charlie Manson?

11 A I definitely witnessed a change.

12 Q Would you describe what you witnessed?

13 A Well, it went from what I said to a rather desperate
14 kind of up-tight scrambling, a pressure, if you will.

15 The cause of that I don't know, but that's what I
16 witnessed.

17 Q And would this have been at the Spahn Ranch proper
18 that you observed this, the kind of up-tightness or pressure?

19 A Yeah, yes, for the most part.

20 Q Did you also -- Pardon me?

21 A For the most part.

22 There were a couple of occasions in town where
23 Charlie would come by, and I still witnessed the same thing.

24 Q When Charlie would come by? Do you mean by that
25 when Charlie would come by where you were living?

26 A Yes.

27 Q Were you still at that time, and we have reference
28 to the spring of 1969 when you observed this change, living

1 at Dennis Wilson's --

2 A No.

3 Q -- when Charlie would --

4 Did Charlie visit you very often in, let's say,
5 the year 1969; not you visit him but would Charlie visit you?

6 A Well, if I may explain a little bit to make it
7 clearer?

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1 Q I'm delighted if you would.

2 A Look, I had moved back to my house in Beverly
3 Glen, and Dennis Wilson had a room downstairs in Beverly Glen.

4 And Charlie would come by at all sorts of odd
5 hours. Sometime I'd be there, sometime Dennis would be there,
6 sometime different people would be there.

7 Bobby Beausoleil would crash there once in a while
8 downstairs.

9 I mean, sometime I did not even know who would be
10 sleeping in that downstairs room.

11 So that's what did happen in that spring and early
12 summer of 1969 when I was back in the Beverly Glen house.

13 Q Do you have any recollection, Gregg, when you moved
14 into the Beverly Glen house?

15 A Well, I don't, because the Beverly Glen house was
16 always there and it was always maintained. My family lived
17 there, so I would come and go.

18 But I had moved away for a while; but then I came
19 back and started living there again on a regular basis.

20 Q All right.

21 What did you observe about Charlie's demeanor in
22 the spring and early summer of '69, whether or not it was at
23 the Spahn Ranch or when he crashed at your place?

24 A Well, he was acting pretty crazy. I mean, he was
25 I think the word I used was like a caged animal. He was,
26 really upset about something.

27 And it was at that time when I told him that he
28 should, you know, go to the desert. Whatever he was doing was

not right for him.

Q Did he talk to you?

A A little bit. Nothing that I can --

I don't remember the specific conversation. I remember the feel, the way he looked, more than anything else.

Q What about the way he looked?

A Well, he looked like -- He looked pretty crazy; looked pretty wild.

That's when I told him, you know, to get out to the desert or something.

Q Did you experience this kind of craziness just once when he showed up at your house, or did you continue to observe the same demeanor?

A Well, in hindsight, I can look at it now as a building thing; but I remember the one specific thing in the middle of the night when he came.

Q This was to your house?

A This was at my place in the Glen that summer.
And if I remember right, that was the last time I saw him.

Q Did he, during this period of time when you noticed that Charlie looked and acted pretty crazy, talk to you about Helter Skelter?

A It's hard to say. I mean --

Q You told us you had heard that expression, of course?

A Yes.

Q And do you remember occasions where he, or some of

6-7
1 his followers, talked about Helter Skelter?

2 A Yes.

3 Q This would be when you were visiting the Spahn
4 Ranch or elsewhere?

5 A Yeah. It was something that came up pretty
6 regularly.

7 I mean, it wasn't -- there was a big painting of
8 the words "Helter Skelter" across it.

9 It was something that happened so often that there
10 is no specific even hardly comes to mind.

11 Q One exposure to Helter Skelter merges into another
12 in your recollection?

13 A Yes.

14 Q No doubt you are most aware of the Beatles white
15 album?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Did you ever hear that played at the Spahn Ranch
18 or the time you visited Gresham Street or elsewhere?

19 A Yes, I did.

20 Q Was that played by Manson and the Family?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you hear them play it?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Where did you hear them play it, at the Spahn
25 Ranch?

26 A I think both at the Spahn Ranch and at the Gresham
27 house.

28 Q Did everybody appear to listen intently to the

1 Beatles?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Did the Family appear to be very much involved in
4 that album?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you ever hear Charlie interpret or say anything
7 about the Beatles songs with reference to Helter Skelter?

8 A Yes.

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1 Q Now, without beating this to death, Helter Skelter
2 meant the black-white revolution, did it not?

3 A Yes, it did.

4 Q And Charlie discussed that with you?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And did you ever hear any of his followers talk
7 about Helter Skelter coming down?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And did you ever hear Charlie talk about his role
10 in Helter Skelter?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You hesitated; you sort of went "see-yes."

13 Does your memory not serve you on that -- in that
14 context, or --

15 A Well, Charlie painted a general picture of Helter
16 Skelter, and then to think of his role specifically I have to
17 think a little bit harder about it.

18 But I -- Yes, he definitely painted himself into
19 the picture.

20 Q Did he talk to you at all about going to the
21 desert with his Family?

22 A He talked about that numerously.

7-1

1 Q And did he talk to you about finding the bottomless
2 pit?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And entering the bottomless pit with the Family
5 and the young love, or the young children, or however you want
6 to term it?

7 A It was one of the things discussed, I'm sure.

8 Q And did Charlie discuss Helter Skelter and its
9 ramifications with you face to face alone, or in your presence
10 with other members of his Family?

11 A Both.

12 Q Now, when other Family members were present when
13 Charlie discussed Helter Skelter, would this be -- how should
14 I put it? -- oh, any particular place, at the Spahn Ranch,
15 any particular time?

16 What I am getting at is, did Charlie talk about
17 Helter Skelter in front of the Family? Did you ever see that
18 happen?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And would this be in the evening?

21 A Well, it would be almost --

22 Q Any old time?

23 A Any old time, right.

24 Q All right.

25 He would just be walking along and say, "Hi,
26 Helter Skelter is coming down," something like that?

27 A Well --

28 Q I don't mean to be facetious about it. This isn't

1 a facetious matter.

2 A It became pretty hard-core gospel for Charlie.
3 And any reference that pointed to that that he
4 could use, he would use it then.

5 I mean, in other words, if we were driving down
6 the street and something supported his belief, he would say,
7 "Look at that, there you are, da da da da."

8 And he would draw it in and use it to say, "See?"

9 Q Did --

10 A As an indicator, I suppose.

11 Q Did you believe Charlie believed in Helter Skelter?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And did you believe Charlie believed that he and
14 his family and perhaps other young people were actually going
15 to seek out a bottomless pit and go to the center of the
16 earth and wait out the revolution?

17 A Well, I saw the bottomless pit -- or I saw what
18 was --

19 You know, I was there. That was one of the far-out
20 fascinating things about this.

21 I mean, the correlations he drew were all -- it
22 was great, you know.

23 I wanted to film it. That was one of my goals,
24 you know. That's why I involved some people.

25 Q Where did you see this bottomless pit?

26 A There was a deep hole in the desert. You could
27 stand and drop a rock down the hole and you would never hear
28 the rock hit the bottom.

1 To my knowledge the hole is still there.

2 There is a rope around it. Some sort of a local
3 monument.

4 Q Oh, really.

5 Who was present, if you recall, when you found the
6 bottomless pit? Charlie?

7 A I think that Dennis and I were off in the desert.

8 I went out to retrieve a vehicle that Dennis had
9 given Charlie; and that's how I ended out in the desert at
10 that time, anyway, in Thanksgiving of '68.

11 Q So that would have been the time when you discovered
12 the hole in the desert?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q And were you with Dennis at the time, or by
15 yourself, or with Charlie Manson, or --

16 A I'm sure I was with somebody.

17 I have been out there since, and I have been out
18 there motorcycle riding.

19 I don't remember the specifics, but I do remember
20 the hole and knowing that this was the hole that was talked
21 about.

22 Q And did you tell Charlie you had found the hole?

23 A I think so.

24 I said, "Yeah," you know, "I saw it, I threw a
25 rock down it."

26 Q What did Charlie say; do you remember?

27 A I don't remember.

28 Q Did Charlie say, "I knew about it all the time,"

1 or --

2 A Well, we spent a couple of days in the area in a
3 jeep, doing a lot of driving around, and so on.

4 That was the vehicle I went out to get.

5 Q Looking --

6 A So I don't remember. It runs together.

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7-5
1 Q When you say "we," you are referring to yourself
2 and Manson?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q And during your trip in the jeep, were you looking
5 for the bottomless pit or --

6 A No; it was just one of the things that we touched
7 upon and drove by.

8 Q In the jeep?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q Are you suggesting that now you remember Manson was
11 with you when you found the bottomless pit?

12 A Well, no; but it all runs together.

13 It was all that same weekend, driving around out
14 there in the jeep.

15 And I have been back since because I showed
16 somebody else the pit.

17 Q Did Manson ever discuss with you how he was going
18 to get down there?

19 A No, I don't think so. I don't --

20 Q Did he ever discuss with you the purpose of gold
21 nylon rope?

22 Does that ring a bell?

23 A Yeah, that very fuzzily rings a bell.

24 Q Did he tell you, in substance and effect, that he
25 was interested in acquiring funds by which to acquire this
26 expensive gold nylon rope?

27 A It seems to me there was some talk about that,
28 because there is a particular kind of gold nylon rope that's

1 used in boating, and we discussed it one day.

2 Q You probably have no recollection of whether it
3 was before or after you actually found the hole in the desert.

4 A I don't remember that.

5 I remember the idea seemed pretty bizarre, to try
6 to get a rope to go down into this hole for how many feet it
7 goes, you know, or whatever.

8 And the price of rope was very expensive.

9 So I used to sort of -- you know, it used to seem
10 like an impossible thing to me to try to get enough rope to
11 drop down into this hole, at \$5 a foot, or whatever it was,
12 you know.

13 Q Did you ever discuss with Charlie the acquisition
14 or use of scuba diving gear?

15 A Yeah, we did.

16 I spent a lot of time on boats and things, so that
17 was one of Charlie's interests.

18 He used to ask a lot of questions specifically in
19 that direction.

20 And Dennis had a boat. We did some time on some
21 boats.

22 Q Was your discussion with Charlie about diving gear
23 directed to the use of that equipment to facilitate the entry
24 into the bottomless pit?

25 A Well, I think so.

26 I mean, it all seems to have been in that direction.
27 Very fuzzy, though.

28 Q Did you ever argue with Manson about his belief in

7-7
1 the imminency of Helter Skelter and belief in the role he and
2 his Family were to play in the revolution by descending into
3 the bottomless pit?

4 A Well, I challenged some of his ideas. Not so much
5 that one, though, because that was always a fantasy to me,
6 anyway.

7 I never even took that one seriously.

8 Q You have advised us that you challenged from time
9 to time some of his ideas.

10 What ideas of his did you challenge?

11 MR. KAY: Well, I will object. That appears to be
12 irrelevant.

13 MR. KEITH: All right.

14 THE COURT: Well --

15 MR. KEITH: What was the nature of the objection?

16 MR. KAY: That it is irrelevant.

17 THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

18 MR. KEITH: Well, I can see some frailty in the question,
19 because I have asked two questions in one.

20 THE COURT: Well, feel free to withdraw the question.

21 MR. KEITH: All right. Thank you, Your Honor.

22 Q First, let's talk about his ideas, and then we
23 will talk about the ones you challenged.

24 That's a better way to go about it.

25 A Well, the only time that I would get on Charlie's
26 case, really, is if something really appeared to take a real
27 negative tact for me.

28 And then I would usually challenge him.

It was like television or something. It was a nice diversion.

A Well, the bottomless pit and the Zuni legend.

[illegible]

7-9
1 Q You are going to have to tell us what "eclectic"
2 means.

3 A Well, "eclectic" means that he would take something
4 from a Zuni legend or an Indian legend that had something to
5 do with the bottomless pit, or the Hopi legend, and he'd put
6 in the Muslims that he got from a black man in prison.

7 And he would put all of that together and weave
8 quite a fabric.

9 I think the best thing I could say is that it was
10 like a picture. That's the way I would describe it. A visual
11 picture he would make.

12 And that was the charm that Charlie had to me,
13 anyway.

14 I would see him paint this very visual picture.
15 And I would see him do it to other people, too.

16 He was a great storyteller.

17 Q Did it appear to you that --

18 Well, you have been around drugs some, I gather,
19 being in the music business.

20 A Yes.

21 Q And have you had occasion to observe the effects
22 of chemicals on users' minds?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And you told us that you have observed the presence
25 and use of marijuana and other chemicals -- not "other
26 chemicals"; that's a plant -- but marijuana and chemicals
27 within the Manson framework.

28 Does --

1 You are familiar with the drug LSD. I will ask
2 you that.

3 A Yes.

4 Q And I believe you may have already told us you were
5 aware of its use within the Manson family.

6 A Yes.

7 Q And you have seen others use it, LSD, outside the
8 Manson family.

9 A Yes.

10 Q And do you have an understanding of generally its
11 effect on certain persons --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- would you say?

14 A Yes, generally.

15 Q Don't say "Yes" just because --

16 A No; yes, I will agree with that.

17 Q Is there any tendency, in your knowledge and
18 awareness and experience -- not with the drug personally, but
19 experience in the use of the drug by others -- to make one have,
20 what you might say, grandiose ideas or fantasy-like ideas?

21 A For sure.
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8-1
1 Q In your experience, does one tend to acquire or
2 espouse grandiose or what you might even call delusional
3 beliefs?

4 MR. KAY: Well, Your Honor, I'm going to object.

5 MR. KEITH: I'll strike the word "delusional."

6 MR. KAY: That calls for a conclusion on the part of
7 the witness.

8 THE COURT: Will counsel approach the bench, and may we
9 have the court reporter.

10 (The following proceedings were held
11 at the bench:)

12 THE COURT: It appears that the area you are getting into
13 with him really requires opinions by an expert.

14 MR. KEITH: I dare say this chap has a lot more expertise
15 than a lot of people we will come across. But I really don't
16 want to try to qualify him as such, because it might be
17 embarrassing to him.

18 I don't care to do that.

19 THE COURT: All right. But I think --

20 MR. KEITH: I'll leave it as it is.

21 MR. KAY: Let me make one point, which kind of concerns
22 me not too much with this witness, but it appears that every
23 time I make an objection Mr. Keith has to make some smart
24 comment in answer to it.

25 Now, I thought we had the agreement that if we
26 were going to argue something about objections that we were
27 going to come up to the bench and argue about them.

28 But I've noticed throughout this whole trial that

1 just about every time I make an objection Mr. Keith has to
2 make some comment.

3 THE COURT: I'm sure that both counsel will not do that,
4 and we'll proceed.

5 MR. KEITH: I'm glad to hear it's a smart comment, at
6 any rate. I wouldn't want to make a dumb one.

7 (The following proceedings were held in
8 open court in the presence of the jury.)

9 Q BY MR. KEITH: Grogg, I take it being in the music
10 business you had occasion to listen to Charlie's music?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And did you hear that out at the Spahn Ranch?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Hear him play?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And, to your knowledge, did Charlie compose his
17 own lyrics and music?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Would Charlie accompany himself with an instrument?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Guitar?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Was he the only one that sang and played or --

24 A Usually.

25 Q Could you identify Charlie as the dominant figure
26 in the Family?

27 A Absolutely.

28 Q Would other members of the Family sit around and

1 listen to Charlie play and sing?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Did Charlie's singing take place at any particular
4 place at the Spahn Ranch when you were there?

5 A Any place.

6 Q Did Charlie's followers accompany him by singing,
7 themselves, on any occasion?

8 A On some occasions.

9 Q Did Charlie at the times he was singing to the
10 members of his Family also talk to them about, say, Helter
11 Skelter or other concepts he may have had?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Were you able to understand what he was saying,
14 or did he talk in riddles on occasions?

15 A Well, I don't know what you mean by understand.

16 I could understand what the words meant and the way
17 he strung them together.

18 Q Well, what I was asking was, did he ever talk in a
19 language that was difficult for you to interpret; to his
20 followers, not to you personally.

21 A No, I don't think so.

22 Q What would he talk about to them during these --
23 while he was singing; not while he was singing, but at or
24 about the times he was singing?

25 A Well, I heard him singing everything from a song
26 to a bunch of flies that were flying around to songs about
27 Helter Skelter. I mean, he was very good at spontaneous
28 musical verbiage. He could accompany himself with the guitar

1 and sing like you and I could hold a conversation.

2 Q Did his followers appear to you to be rapt, that's
3 r-a-p-t, in what he was singing and what he may have been
4 saying?

5 A To different degrees, sure.
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1 Q What do you mean by "different degrees"? Some
2 were, some weren't so much?

3 A Yeah. Sometimes when he was really hot, he really
4 had everybody; and sometimes he didn't.

5 You know, depending on how you have your good days,
6 and your bad days, I guess.

7 Q Did you ever -- and apparently you have according
8 to your testimony earlier this morning -- did you ever have
9 conversations with Charlie -- and we touched upon it very
10 briefly -- concerning his concept of sin and right and wrong
11 and laws?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What would he say on those subjects, to the best
14 of your recollection?

15 A Well, he would say that there isn't any sin and
16 there isn't any right or wrong and there isn't any laws.

17 We used to debate that pretty heavily.

18 Q Did he stick to his guns?

19 A Oh, yeah.

20 Q Did you talk about death with Charlie?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And what would he say on that subject, to the
23 best of your recollection?

24 A There wasn't any death.

25 Q Was that the main thesis, there wasn't any death?

26 Not his main thesis overall, but -- necessarily --
27 but when you discussed death, was that the thrust of his
28 argument?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Did he say any other things about death that you
3 can recall besides there is no death?

4 I suppose that was the focus of his --

5 A Yeah. I don't really remember specifics, but that
6 was definitely the focus of the subject of death.

7 Q Did you discuss Jesus Christ with him?

8 A To some degree.

9 The name was definitely brought up for sure.

10 Q All right.

11 Did he identify himself either expressly or
12 implicitly as Jesus?

13 A Yes, in a rather unclear way he did; in a way that
14 I never understood or could pinpoint.

15 Q Now, thinking back, Gregg, this expression of
16 Charlie's identifying himself, fuzzily as it may be in your
17 mind, as Jesus, was that directed to you or everybody in the
18 group, or don't you recall?

19 A I don't recall.

20 If he was talking to me, he would be talking to
21 me; but if there were other people, he would talk to everybody.
22 He would address everybody.

23 Q Did you ever hear Charlie give any orders to any
24 members of his Family?

25 A Yes.

26 Q And did it appear to you the Family members did
27 his bidding?

28 A Yes.

1 Q By "orders," would it include such things as when
2 to eat and what to do around the Spahn Ranch?

3 A Sure, yes.

4 Q And who to cook and who to sew and who to take
5 care of the babies, that kind of thing?

6 A Absolutely.

7 Q Did you ever hear anybody talk back to Charlie
8 and say -- not including yourself -- any members of his family,
9 to tell him to go -- well, never mind -- tell him to --

10 A No, not really. I never did.

11 Q That they preferred not to, to put it politely?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did you know a young man by the name of Charles
14 "Tex" Watson?

15 A I did.

16 Q And where did you first meet Tex?

17 A At the Sunset Boulevard house.

18 Q Of Dennis Wilson's?

19 A Of Dennis -- yes.

20 Q Okay.

21 What was Tex's demeanor or appearance when you
22 first knew him?

23 A A very nice guy, very open, charming, smiling, tan
24 Southern California kid.

25 Q Did you observe any element of viciousness about
26 him when you first knew him?

27 A None.

28 Q Did you observe a change?

1 A As the relationship progressed? As I observed --?
2 Q Yes, as you observed Charles "Tex" Watson.
3 A Yes.
4 Q And would you describe that.
5 A Well, he went from being what I just said to a
6 totally vacant human being, an automaton, if you will.
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Q And when did you observe Tex become an automaton? Would this be towards the end of your exposure to the Manson family?

A Yeah. There was a big period of time that went by when I did not see him, when he sort of disappeared from the scene, and when I saw him again the change was so marked that I was really taken aback.

Q I take it you can't enlighten us on the cause of the change?

A I really can't say what brought about the change. I think that he had been taking a lot of heavy chemicals.

MR. KAY: Well, I'll object to that. He doesn't really know. He didn't see him for a long period of time.

THE COURT: Objection is sustained.

Q BY MR. KEITH: Did you observe any particular change -- Well, I'm getting ahead of myself.

Would you say Tex's demeanor and attitudes when you first knew him at Dennis Wilson's house were consistent or substantially the same as the attitudes of the other members of Manson's family with whom you had contact?

MR. KAY: Well, I'll object. That is too general.

THE COURT: That objection is sustained.

Q BY MR. KEITH: What I'm trying to learn, Mr. Jakobson, is something about the demeanor of the other members of the Manson family that you met and whom you observed presumably over a period of time, what they were like initially, and did they change; but I didn't want to --

Is there any particular person other than Tex and

1 Charlie himself that stands out in your mind, without going
2 through each and every 20 to 30 people?

3 A Well, okay.

4 Going back in our conversation of today, you could
5 say that Tex exemplified what I was talking about. He was
6 for sure the most radically changed.

7 But we did discuss that there was a change in the
8 overall demeanor of the group.

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1 Q Yes.

2 A And he certainly exemplified it much more than
3 anybody else.

4 But there was a general change in that direction,
5 him being the leader, for sure.

6 Q The leader in the change --

7 A Of the radical change, right, the most noticeable
8 change, the most visual change.

9 Q Did you become, during the course of time, fairly
10 well acquainted with Tex?

11 A We spent some time together in the early part of
12 the relationship, when he used to come by the Sunset Boulevard
13 house a lot.

14 I almost didn't recognize him; the change was so
15 radical.

16 That's how radical the change was. I wasn't
17 even sure if it was the same person.

18 Q Now, you have told us, Gregg, about your discussions
19 with Charlie on the issues of sin, law, rules, death.

20 Did he talk about ego at all?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And what did he say on that subject?

23 A You got about a week?

24 Q I do, but I don't know about --

25 Let's compress it, if you will.

26 A Ego was one of the real focal points of Charlie's
27 arguments because he hooked ego up -- he put it in the center
28 and he ran everything through it.

1 I mean, he could run death through it, he can run
2 the whole metaphysical religion through it, society through it.

3 I mean, ego was the individual that didn't exist,
4 or ego was also -- in the ego there was Christ and the Devil
5 and everything embodied.

6 I mean, I'm compressing something that you could
7 spend hours elaborating on.

8 Q Did he spend hours elaborating on it?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Did you ever hear him talk about ego destruction
11 or death?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And what did he say on that subject? Again
14 compress it as best you can.

15 A Well, once again, all I can do is go back to the
16 thing that ego -- that he didn't have any ego; he was devoid
17 of it.

18 But, see -- but then -- Well, that isn't fair
19 to say, then. Relatively speaking he did have an ego.

20 I mean, it's so -- it jumps from the relative to
21 the metaphysical and back again, and it's hard to follow.

22 He would -- I mean, it's hard for me to say it in
23 a few words what he would spend hours elaborating on.

24 Q All right, I understand.

25 Did you ever hear him discuss the subject of ego
26 with any members of his family?

27 A It was a word used a lot. Desires and having no
28 desires, and so on.

1 Q Did Charlie appear to have an interest in
2 suppressing one's ego?

3 A Suppressing?

4 Q Or destroying it or --

5 A Yes, you could say that.

6 Q I would like to talk to you some about that,
7 briefly, without destroying the meaning of what he said.

8 A Okay; maybe --

9 Ego represented the individual; and Charlie was
10 against that pretty much.

11 He was really into a Family, a group effort; and
12 if somebody had an ego and somebody else had an ego, then,
13 obviously, they couldn't get together. And if you had 30
14 different egos, then they really couldn't get together.

15 So that's the idea, the individuality of it.

16 He was much more into a group ego or a group
17 individuality.

18 Q He was interested in --

19 Was he interested in accomplishing a unity --

20 A Yes.

21 Q -- of thought?

22 I gather you argued with him on this subject?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q And did Charlie ever talk about the establishment?

25 A Yes.

26 Q And what did he say, again briefly, if you can,
27 on that subject?

28 A Well, just generally, I suppose the direction would

be that the establishment was pretty lost; that their path
that they were going on was going nowhere, or nowhere -- Well,
going nowhere.

I could illustrate it, if you like. I mean, maybe
that would help clear it up.

1 Q Yes, please do.

2 A Well, the bottom line being that one time we
3 drove to a place not very far from Spahn Ranch. It was a big
4 housing development. New houses, middle-class, nice houses.

5 And they were all empty, but they were all finished.

6 Do you understand the picture now, driving into
7 this big housing development, streets, street lights, houses,
8 but all empty, not a soul around?

9 And he said --

10 And this more than anything represented the
11 establishment to him, a huge middle-class housing project
12 totally empty, and it was as if you were in a graveyard.

13 And that was the direction. But here you were --

14 Now, taking it from another tact, here you were
15 in a brand new neighborhood, all brand new houses, all pretty,
16 cute, all looking alike.

17 I mean, it was. You could understand what he
18 meant and said by being there.

19 And it was certainly a way that you could take it.
20 It was one of the directions. You could say, "Yeah, okay,
21 I'll buy it."

22 Q Did Charlie ever express to you any belief in
23 racial superiority?

24 A Yeah, sure.

25 Q Is this in connection with Helter Skelter, this
26 fantasy?

27 A Yeah, the connection is there, connected in the
28 work and the scene, very definitely.

1 It was a very interesting theory at the time.
2 I mean, it is still an interesting theory, actually.

3 It was one of the things that I found interesting
4 because he turned it around. Charlie turned things around.
5 It was an interesting turnaround.

6 Q You found Charlie an intelligent person, I gather.

7 A He had strong intellect -- no question about that --
8 yeah.

9 Q And he told you that he spent considerable time
10 in prisons?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q From the time he was almost a child?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And did he believe that the prison system was his
15 mother and father, as opposed to his real mother and father?

16 A He did say that.

17 Q Did Charlie ever discuss the subject of fear with
18 you?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was this instilling fear in people, or --
21 What did he say about that?

22 A Well, once again, there was no fear. It was simply
23 that. There was no fear; he had no fear.

24 Q Was it important to him to eradicate the fear from
25 people --

26 A Yes.

27 Q -- his own Family?

28 By "his own Family," I am referring to --

1 A It was hooked up to the ego thing.

2 Q Did Charlie consider his followers "his Family"?

3 A He spoke often of them as his Family.

4 Q Did Charlie ever tell you, in connection with his
5 fantasy of Helter Skelter, that eventually he, Charlie, would
6 be the savior of the world, along with his followers, who
7 would emerge from the bottomless pit after the conclusion of
8 the revolution?

9 A Yeah; after Helter Skelter had come down completely,
10 the bottom line was they would come to Charlie and --

11 Q The survivors?

12 A -- they would come to him to ask him, yeah --

13 Well, not the survivors, but -- I mean, do you
14 want me to elaborate a little about it?

15 Q Sure.

16 A The idea was, in general -- and this is the part
17 that always -- that I always found fascinating -- was that the
18 black man was superior to Charlie.

19 In other words, he thought the black man was meant
20 to really serve him. But I don't mean serve him as a butler,
21 or something like that.

22 He thought the black man should be the chief of
23 police, the President of the United States.

24 He thought these men really should be in a position
25 of service.

26 And him being something else, sort of a guru type,
27 where he would only be involved in the spiritual aspect, while
28 these people would be taking care of the day-to-day routine of

1 running the country, running the world, seeing that everybody
2 got fed.

3 On the highest level of serving.

4 In other words, like a President serves or a judge
5 serves. That's what Charlie --

6 The bottom line of the black man's role was that
7 to serve on all those levels, including the highest level.

8 And they would all of course be serving him, and
9 he would be sitting someplace, sort of pontificating, or, if
10 you will, as some sort of --

11 You know, he had crossed over into the Jesus Christ
12 role, the Maharishi role, or whatever spiritual role you want
13 to say.

14 That's what was told to me. I mean, I just said
15 it in a few words, but he would elaborate at length on those
16 things.

17 So that there was a structure to it, a beginning,
18 middle and end to it.

19 Q Did you ever hear him elaborate at the same length
20 with his followers?

21 A Sure.

22 I mean, whenever he had an audience he would --
23 He could talk, and he would.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Keith, I wonder if this would be an
25 appropriate time to take the recess? I have another matter.

26 MR. KEITH: Certainly.

27 THE COURT: All right.

28 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, at this time

1. we are going to recess in this case until 1:30.

2. Bear in mind during this recess you are not to
3. discuss this case amongst yourselves or with anyone else and
4. you are not to form any opinion concerning this matter or
5. express any opinion concerning this matter until the case is
6. finally given to you.

7. Furthermore, you must not allow yourselves to read,
8. see, or hear any news media accounts of this matter.

9. The court will be in recess as to this case until
10. 1:30.

11. All jurors, the defendant and counsel and the
12. witness are ordered to return at 1:30.

13. The court is in recess.

14. (At 11:45 a.m. a recess was taken
15. until 1:30 p.m. of the same day.)

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1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1977; 1:50 P.M.

2 DEPARTMENT NO. 130

HON. EDWARD A. HINZ, JR., JUDGE

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4 (Appearances as heretofore noted.)

5
6 THE COURT: People versus Van Houten.

7 Let the record show the defendant is present and
8 represented by counsel; the People are represented by counsel;
9 the jurors are in their assigned places.

10 You may resume examination, Mr. Keith.

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1 MR. KEITH: Thank you, Your Honor.

2
3 GREGG JAKOBSON,
4 resumed the stand and testified further as follows:

5
6 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Resumed)

7 BY MR. KEITH:

8 Q Mr. Jakobson, at the noon recess we were discussing
9 how Charlie felt the black role was going to be at the
10 culmination and termination of the revolution.

11 Do you remember that?

12 A Yes, I do.

13 Q The blacks were going to hold all the high powers
14 in government, is that right?

15 A Right.

16 Q And Charlie was going to be the spiritual leader,
17 as opposed to the temporal leader.

18 Would that be a fair statement?

19 A Yes, it would.

20 Q And did Charlie discuss with you at all, Gregg,
21 the roles, if any, his followers, the followers who would go
22 into the bottomless pit, would assume?

23 A No, other than to maintain a Family unit.

24 Q And did he talk to you at all about what would
25 happen once he, Charlie, and his Family would arrive at the
26 bottom of the bottomless pit?

27 A Just survival. It was a survival tactic.

28 Q Did he discuss with you how they would exist in

1 the bottomless pit?

2 A Not specifics.

3 Q Did you ever hear any of Manson's disciples
4 discussing Helter Skelter?

5 A Only in an echo of what Charlie had already said.

6 Q When you tell us an "echo," do you mean Charlie
7 would say something about Helter Skelter and then and there
8 his followers would echo it, or simply --

9 A No.

10 Q -- that on other occasions --

11 A On other occasions using the same words and the
12 same thought patterns.

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1 Q All right.

2 Do you remember at all a young lady by the name
3 of Dianne Lake?

4 A I don't.

5 Q Sometimes known as Snake?

6 A I --

7 Q Very young girl?

8 A I don't.

9 Q Let me ask you this: Do you have any recollection
10 of a particular member or members of Manson's family who
11 expressed to you or others in their presence or in your
12 presence, rather, a disbelief in Manson's philosophies?

13 A No, I don't have any recollection.

14 Q By that do you mean you don't recall that anybody
15 expressed a disbelief, say, in Helter Skelter, or you don't
16 recall whether they did or not, one way or another?

17 A Well, where's the cutoff point? There was some
18 disbelief after everything that came down came down.

19 Q Well, let's make it up to August 8th, 9th, or 10th?

20 A Then, no, I don't remember.

21 Q Now, you say after August 8th, 9th, and 10th, there
22 was some disbelief?

23 A Well, yeah, in the --

24 Q Well, wait a minute.

25 Did you continue to see or have contact with some
26 of Manson's followers?

27 A Sure. I spent days in a courtroom with them.

28 Q When you were a witness at the first proceeding?

1 A That's right.

2 Q And you didn't talk to Charlie personally, though,

3 did you, or did you?

4 A No. Other witnesses.

5 Q Would this be members of the Family?

6 A Yeah. I guess Paul was a member of the Family.

7 Q Oh, Watkins?

8 A Um-hmm.

9 Q Would this have been in, say, 1970 or '71?

10 A Whenever the trial was. I don't remember the

11 dates. It's all been documented pretty carefully.

12 Q All right.

13 Did you know Paul Watkins before Helter Skelter

14 came down, so to speak?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And did he appear to you to be a firm, staunch

17 member of Manson's Family at that time?

18 A Um-hmm, he did, yes.

19 Q Did you ever know a young man by the name of Brooks

20 Poston?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And was he a member of the Family?

23 A He was.

24 Q To your knowledge?

25 A Um-hmm.

26 Q During the spring of 1969, Gregg, towards the

27 last of your visits to the Spahn Ranch, did you see any

28 activity that indicated that a -- oh, well, I'd be asking you

1 a conclusion -- any activity such as repairing dune buggies?

2 A I did.

3 Q And did you see any other activities that were
4 calculated to assist the Family in going to the desert?

5 A Just vehicle activity, trucks, dune buggies,
6 preparation -- motorcycles.

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1 Q Mostly in the area of the repair and rehabilitation
2 of vehicles, I presume.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Incidentally, did Dennis Wilson or any of the
5 Beach Boys ever visit Spahn Ranch?

6 A Not with me.

7 Q Was the only business associate that ever visited
8 the ranch, business associate of yours, Terry Melcher?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And he was in the record business with you, or
11 music business with you; is that correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did you ever attend at the Spahn Ranch any what
14 you might term sessions or group sessions around the campfire?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And would this be the occasions on which Charlie
17 would sing, or at which Charlie would sing?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Would he also philosophize on these occasions
20 around the campfire?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you ever see anyone lead the singing or the
23 discussions besides Charlie?

24 A No.

25 Q Did anybody seated around the campfire on these
26 occasions --

27 Incidentally, I have just been talking about
28 "occasions."

1 Do you have any recollection of how many times
2 you either observed or participated in group sessions around
3 the campfire?

4 A Not that many, really. A few.

5 Q Three or four?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Five or six?

8 A Three or four.

9 Q Do you ever remember anybody else talking but
10 Charlie?

11 A Well, there were a lot of people talking, but not --

12 Q Not --

13 A -- addressing.

14 Q Not addressing the group, in the sense of expounding
15 themselves on various concepts.

16 A Right.

17 Q That would be done by Charlie.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you ever see any what could be termed dancing
20 at the Spahn Ranch or on the occasion you visited Gresham
21 Street, or elsewhere, for that matter?

22 A Yeah, in a casual way.

23 Q For how long a period of time would you say,
24 Gregg, before you last saw Charlie, did it appear to you that
25 he had -- in your terminology, become crazy?

26 A (No response.)

27 Q Would it be just that spring of 1969?

28 A I'm not sure I understand the question.

13-3

1 Q All right.

2 You told us on one occasion when Charlie came over
3 to your house in the middle of the night --

4 A Yes.

5 Q -- he appeared to be wild, sort of a caged animal
6 appearance, and that to you he appeared to be crazy.

7 Do you remember that?

8 A Yes, I do.

9 Q You're not precisely sure, as I understand it,
10 when that occurred, that episode, other than that it was
11 sometime, to the best of your recollection --

12 A Well, no; as a matter of fact, I'm precisely sure --
13 more sure now when it did occur.

14 My memory has been refreshed.

15 Q All right; tell us.

16 A And it would have been approximately late in
17 August.

18 Q And how often or for how long a time before then,
19 if at all, did you observe that kind of appearance in Charlie?

20 A Well, that was at first, and it had been a long
21 time since I had seen Charlie, a number of weeks had passed;
22 maybe even a couple of months.

23 Q So what you are saying is, you weren't -- inasmuch
24 as you hadn't seen him for a couple of months, he may or may
25 not have exhibited or manifested the same appearance?

26 MR. KAY: Well, I will object. That calls for a
27 conclusion.

28 THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

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Q BY MR. KEITH: Did you notice --

Let's see; this was late in August?

A Correct.

Q 1969?

Was that the first time Charlie had ever come
over to your house --

A No.

14 f1

1 Q -- on Beverly Glen?

2 A No.

3 Q And you hadn't seen Charlie for a couple of months?

4 A Give or take --

5 Q All right.

6 A -- a couple of weeks.

7 Q Now, had you noticed any difference in Charlie in
8 the spring or early summer of 1969?

9 You told us about Tex Watson.

10 A Well, as I said, things seemed to become more
11 desperate than it --

12 Q I remember that.

13 A A length of time went by until --

14 And then the last time I saw Charlie was that
15 night, and there was a marked change. There was a radical
16 change.

17 Q Up to that time, had you observed any gradual
18 change in him?

19 A Yeah.

20 I mean, there was a gradual change. And due to
21 the gradual change, a lot of people that associated with
22 Charlie in town or he spent time with had pulled away because
23 the directions had changed.

24 I mean, there was a split. He didn't --

25 Q When you say a lot of people in town --

26 A I mean myself and some of my associates,
27 Mr. Wilson, people who --

28 You know, there was a direction change, whatever

1 it was.

2 Charlie used to make pretty regular contact, make
3 rounds. He stopped doing it, more or less.

4 Q When you say regular contact or rounds, you are
5 referring to Charlie coming by, say, perhaps your place or
6 Dennis Wilson's place?

7 A His visits, right, right.

8 Q Or who else's place?

9 A The beach, the Whiskey-A-Go-Go, Sunset Strip,
10 State Beach, you know, Topanga Canyon.

11 Q And he stopped doing that?

12 A Well, to my knowledge he did, because I did not
13 see him any more.

14 Q And you also noticed that people that knew him,
15 like yourself and Dennis Wilson, began to pull back?

16 A Yeah. I mean there -- yeah. There was a parting
17 of the ways.

18 Q Charlie went one direction, or appeared to be
19 going in one direction --

20 A Right.

21 Q Was that the direction towards Helter Skelter?

22 A Well, I don't know. I mean, I don't know.

23 Q Are you suggesting there was an overall --

24 A His demeanor changed. I mean, he was changing.
25 He was taking off in a direction that I didn't know.

26 But I assumed that he was getting into his desert
27 trip, and I thought that was good, you know.

28 Go to the desert, Charlie; get out of the city;

14-3
1 that's fine. Get out there in the middle of the sand dunes.

2 Q What you are saying is, you weren't aware of the
3 destination of the direction change, you were aware of a
4 direction change.

5 A Correct.

6 Q The cause of which or the ultimate effect of which
7 you were unaware?

8 A Absolutely correct.

9 MR. KEITH: All right. You may inquire, Mr. Kay.

10 THE COURT: You may cross-examine.

11 MR. KAY: Thank you.

12
13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. KAY:

15 Q Gregg, earlier this year you recall that I
16 approached you about being a witness in the case?

17 A I do.

18 Q And shall we say, to put it mildly, you were
19 somewhat uncooperative?

20 A Yeah, I guess that's about right.

21 Q You didn't -- You told me, in so many words, that
22 you did not want to be a witness and testify; is that right?

23 A Yeah, I did.

24 Q Now, however, what you have testified to today on
25 the stand is the truth to the best of your ability, is it not?

26 A Yes, it is.

27 Q And, in fact, what you have testified to today
28 you testified to, in sum and substance, in both the first trial

1 and the second trial involving Mr. Watson, did you not?

2 A I did.

3 Q And you are certainly, to the best of your
4 ability, attempting to tell the truth today, are you not?

5 A Of course I am.
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1 Q Now, more years ago than we would both like to
2 remember, do you remember testifying in the trial of People
3 versus Charles Watson?

4 A I do.

5 Q And do you remember about the period of time when
6 Manson appeared to you to be like a caged animal?

7 Do you remember testifying as follows to the
8 questions that I asked you in the trial --

9 MR. KEITH: May we --

10 MR. KAY: "Question --"

11 MR. KEITH: May we approach the bench, Your Honor?

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 (The following proceedings were held
14 at the bench:)

15 MR. KEITH: The reason I asked to approach the bench is
16 I haven't read this, and I don't know whether it's impeaching
17 or whether he's refreshing his recollection or what.

18 THE COURT: It should be --

19 MR. KEITH: I don't have it.

20 MR. KAY: Here.

21 "Q Now, did you have an occasion to
22 see Mr. Manson after the Tate-LaBianca murders?"

23 "Yes."

24 (Both counsel read transcript silently.)

25 MR. KEITH: Yeah. Okay. That's about the recording.

26 MR. KAY: Yeah.

27 (The following proceedings were held in
28 open court in the presence of the jury:)

1 MR. KAY: May I continue?

2 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

3 MR. KAY: All right.

4 Question by me:

5 "Q Now, did you have occasion to see
6 Mr. Manson after the Tate-LaBianca murders?"

7 Your answer is:

8 "Yes."

9 This is at page 2842 back on Thursday, August 26th,
10 1971.

11 "Q And was that in August of 1969,
12 the latter part of August?

13 "A Yes, it would have been.

14 "Q Did you notice any change in
15 Mr. Manson, in his personality or physical
16 appearance?

17 "A Yes, considerably.

18 "Q You say a considerable change?

19 "A Yes.

20 "Q What type of change did you notice?

21 "A The only thing I can really liken
22 it to, and I have said it before, is if you have
23 ever seen an animal, wild animal that has been
24 put in a cage just after it has been caught
25 and I have seen them, I have seen skunks and
26 wildcats and things -- that's what his whole
27 demeanor was.

28 "It is hard to describe. It is

1 just a fear. I mean, it is almost a smell.

2 It reeks where they are almost bouncing into
3 the walls back and forth, and the eyes -- and
4 energy is pouring out.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

1 "Q Just like electricity is pouring
2 out of him?

3 "A Yes, I mean, so much so that it
4 upsets me, I mean; it got on me, like."

5 Do you remember me asking you those questions and
6 you giving those answers?

7 A I do.

8 Q And is that an accurate description of how
9 Mr. Manson appeared to you in the latter part of August of 1969?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Now, when you met Tex Watson at Dennis Wilson's
12 house, that was what, in the summer of 1968?

13 A Yeah -- yes.

14 Q And was he just hanging around there at Dennis
15 Wilson's house?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Did he have any visible means of support?

18 A None.

19 Q And did Manson have any visible means of support
20 when he was staying at Dennis Wilson's house?

21 A No.

22 Q Did any of the girls who were living there with
23 him have any visible means of support?

24 A No.

25 Q Would it be fair to say that they appeared to be
26 sponging off of Dennis Wilson?

27 A It would be fair to say that.

28 Q Now, the description that you gave of Mr. Watson

1 to Mr. Keith today, you also testified to that in my
2 questioning you at Mr. Watson's trial, did you not?

3 A I did.

4 Q And in the period between --

5 I take it there was a long period of time from
6 when you saw Watson at Dennis Wilson's house until you saw
7 Watson out at the Spahn Ranch in the early spring of '69.

8 A There was a long period of time where I didn't
9 see him, yes.

10 Q And let me ask you this: Did you notice any change
11 in Leslie Van Houten over that period of time?

12 A I didn't -- I don't even remember seeing her at
13 the end of that period of time that we are talking about.

14 Q So you don't, you don't remember whether there
15 was any change or not.

16 You just don't remember seeing her.

17 A My memory of her was in the earlier days. I have
18 no memory of her in the latter days.

19 Q Now, from the time that Tex Watson first met
20 Manson at Dennis Wilson's house, did it appear that Watson
21 both agreed and accepted Manson's philosophy?

22 A Yes.

23 Q In your conversations with Mr. Manson, did the
24 subject of the philosopher Nietzsche come up?

25 A Yes.

26 Q And did Mr. Manson believe in -- or tell you that
27 he believed in a master race?

28 A Yes.

1 Q And that master race was a white race, was it not?

2 A Yes; according to Nietzsche's philosophies, for
3 sure,

4 Q And that was --

5 A He was familiar with those, yeah. We discussed
6 those.

7 Q Now, as far as the end of the revolution, the
8 period after Helter Skelter was over and the position of the
9 blacks after Helter Skelter, did Manson tell you that the
10 purpose of blackie was to serve whitey?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And so even though Manson said that blacks would
13 be in the position of like presidents --

14 Did he make any differentiation between, say, a
15 President and a street sweeper?

16 A No; it was all the same.

17 Q In other words --

18 A Those were all positions of service.

19 Q They were all to be serving him.

20 A Yeah; maintaining the world, serving the country,
21 the world, him.

22 Q And Manson would be, like, say, in the way Plato
23 discusses the "philosopher king," so to speak?

24 A I suppose, yeah; that's as good as any position.

25 Q When Charlie Manson talked to you about Christ,
26 did he tell you that he was also the Devil?

27 A Yes.

28 Q And did he tell you that everybody was Christ and

1 the Devil?

2 A Yes.

3 Q So did he make any differentiation between himself
4 and anybody else, as far as being Christ and the Devil?

5 A No.

6 Q Approximately how many times would you estimate
7 that Manson asked you to join the Family?

8 A That is really hard to say.

9 I mean, there were a number of invitations in
10 different ways, though.

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1 Q A lot of times?

2 A Yeah. I mean, he was open about it. It was an
3 overt thing.

4 He made no bones about it. Myself, Dennis, other
5 people included.

6 Q But you didn't --

7 You never joined the Family?

8 A No.

9 Q And Dennis Wilson never joined the Family?

10 A No.

11 Q By the way, you and Dennis Wilson still work
12 together, don't you?

13 A We do.

14 Q You are his producer?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q Is he still with the Beach Boys?

17 A He is.

18 Q Now, on any occasion when you were out at Spahn
19 Ranch did you notice a large mural in big day-glo colors with
20 the words "helter skelter" on it?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Could you describe that mural.

23 A Well, it was a very elaborate mural, with day-glo
24 colors which glow when the day-glo lights are turned on.

25 And it occupied the whole end of a room, a wall,
26 one end of the room.

27 And there were mountains there and people running
28 and things coming down from the sky. A lot of colors.

1 Q By the "mountains," any particular mountains?

2 A Well, I think they were meant to depict Death
3 Valley.

4 Q When you and Manson talked about Helter Skelter,
5 did Manson tell you that Helter Skelter was going to start
6 by the black man going into some homes of the white families
7 and ripping them off?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Did he say that the victims of the white families
10 would be really cut up?

11 A Yes, he did.

12 MR. KAY: May I have just a moment, your Honor?

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 (Brief pause.)

15 MR. KAY: I don't have any further questions.

16

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. KEITH:

19 Q Now, Gregg, you might have to inform some of us,
20 at least me,

21 Tell us something about Plato's philosopher king.

22 THE COURT: I am going to sustain an objection to that
23 question. That's too general.

24 You can put your next question.

25 BY MR. KEITH: Well, who was Plato's philosopher
26 king?

27 A I don't know.

28 Q Well --

1 All right; I will withdraw the question and put
2 it this way:

3 I want to know --

4 Mr. Kay suggested, if I recall, that Manson's
5 ultimate role in the world was to assume a characterization
6 similar to Plato's philosopher king.

7 And you said, "Yes."

8 A Um-hmm.

9 Q Right?

10 A Right.

11 Q All I want to find out is if you have a description
12 of Plato's philosopher king.

13 A Well, I went along with two of the three words of
14 "Plato's philosopher king" when it comes to Plato.

15 But I know that Charlie pictured himself as a
16 philosopher king that people would come to and draw answers
17 from.

18 All right. I'm happy to know that.

19 Were you aware, Gregg, whether or not any of
20 Manson's followers considered Manson to be Jesus Christ?

21 A Yes, they did. There were words to that effect.

22 Q And when you say that Manson and his followers were
23 sponging off of Dennis Wilson, did Wilson express a distaste
24 for Manson and his group hanging around the house?

25 A He finally did, yes.

26 Q And they left?

27 A Yes.

28 Q And that's when they all went to Spahn Ranch, if

you remember?

A. Yeah, if the --

It wasn't a black and white situation; it happened over a period of a month, or so.

The house was being closed down. They all moved out.

Q. You advised us initially in your testimony, Gregg, that Manson's philosophy was eclectic, being drawn from many different sources.

A. Yes.

Q. And I gather from your answer to Mr. Kay's question that Nietzsche, the philosopher Nietzsche, was one of Manson's sources?

A. Yes.

Q. And there were others, I presume, such as the Beatles.

A. Yes.

Q. And parts of the Bible?

A. Yes.

Q. And some of his prison experience?

A. Yes.

Q. Anything else you can think of?

A. The Moslem faith was mentioned.

Q. Scientology? Did you ever hear of that?

A. I know what that is. I never heard Charlie use that.

MR. KEITH: I don't have anything further.

MR. KAY: Nothing further.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 Any objection to excusing this witness?

3 MR. KEITH: No, Your Honor.

4 MR. KAY: No objection.

5 THE COURT: All right; you are excused. You may step
6 down. Thank you.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: I take it the next witness will be on
9 Tuesday?

10 MR. KEITH: Pardon me, Your Honor?

11 THE COURT: The next witness will be Tuesday?

12 MR. KEITH: Yes, Your Honor. I'm out of witnesses again.
13 I apologize.

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1 THE COURT: Will counsel approach the bench, please.

2 (A bench conference was held which
3 was not reported.)

4 THE COURT: All right, ladies and gentlemen, at this
5 time we are going to recess insofar as this case is concerned.
6 It will be Tuesday when you are next back here. We don't meet
7 on Fridays on this case, Monday is a holiday, so Tuesday
8 morning will be the next appearance. And we are going to be in
9 session on Tuesday starting at 9:30. We will start in the
10 courtroom on this case at 9:30.

11 So bear in mind during this recess over the Memorial
12 Day holiday that you are not to discuss this case amongst
13 yourselves or with anyone else, and you are not to form any
14 opinion concerning this matter or express any opinion concerning
15 this matter until the case is finally given to you.

16 Furthermore, you must not allow yourselves to read,
17 see, or hear any news media accounts of this matter.

18 All right. The court will be in recess as to this
19 case until Tuesday, May 31st, 9:30 a.m. All jurors, defendant,
20 and counsel are ordered to be present at that time.

21 Court's in recess. Have a good weekend.

22 (At 2:22 p.m. an adjournment was taken
23 until Tuesday, May 31, 1977, at 9:30 a.m.)
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