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Parole Interview Transcript/Decision - FUSL000008 (2000-03-14)

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STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF PAROLE

In the Matter
of

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS at a hearing
held in the above entitled matter by the State of
New York Executive Department Division of Parole
on the 14th day of March 2000 Great Meadow
Correctional Facility Comstock New York

BEFORE COMMISSIONER KENNETH GRABER
COMMISSIONER VERNON MANLEY

PRESENT

Richard Kratzenberg	FPO II
Linda Ryther	FPO I
Cynthia Kroeger	FPO I
Joan Blancette	APA

ASSOCIATED REPORTERS INTERNATIONAL INC
(800) 523 7887

[REDACTED]

1 BY COMMISSIONER MANLEY

2 Q Hello You re [REDACTED]

3 A Yes sir

4 Q I m Commissioner Manley and this is
5 Commissioner Graber

6 COMMISSIONER GRABER Hello

7 THE INMATE Yes

8 BY COMMISSIONER MANLEY

9 Q This is your initial appearance before the
10 parole board is that right?

11 A That s correct

12 Q And you re here for murder two

13 A That s correct

14 Q for which you got twenty years to life and
15 you pled guilty

16 A That s correct

17 Q In this instant offense you killed your wife
18 and your son with a butcher knife

19 A That s correct

20 Q Can you tell us the circumstances which led
21 you to do this?

22 A In all honesty sincerity and truth I just
23 was in a bad state of mind confused I don t
24 know how to I don t have no answer I
25 really don t I was I don t know

1 Q I mean you have no criminal record so I mean
2 we can't say that you had propensity for
3 violence or that you know you had no mental
4 health history either so that you know we
5 can't blame it on that So try to help us out
6 here We have to make a decision based upon
7 something you know

8 A I've looked on this situation for the last
9 twenty years and I thought my goodness you
10 know what was what was I thinking myself
11 You know why didn't I just pack my clothes
12 and leave And as bizarre as it sounds I
13 really don't have an answer You know it
14 goes without saying if I could do it over I
15 would have packed my clothes and left

16 Q You and your wife were not getting along? Or
17 you were getting along but you know you had
18 started falling out of love with her?

19 A Yes You know I wanted out you know
20 That's all I can say

21 Q Did you argue before this happened?

22 A No We had a as bizarre as it may sound
23 she loved being married She was happy very
24 happy you know

25 Q All right Where what have you been doing

- 1 with your time? You ve been in for about
2 eighteen years?
- 3 A In this facility?
- 4 Q Well just in prison?
- 5 A Twenty years
- 6 Q Twenty years What have you been doing with
7 your time?
- 8 A Well I keep busy I keep active I ve
9 learned to oil paint teach myself music
10 Well I took music when they had it so I keep
11 busy with reading and music and art
- 12 Q What what skills do you have?
- 13 A Employment wise?
- 14 Q Uh-huh
- 15 A Well I don t have any occupational skills
16 but I ve always had good jobs I worked in
17 the supermarket I worked in the power
18 company
- 19 Q Now you have your G E D ?
- 20 A Yes
- 21 Q Did you get it?
- 22 A Yes I got it when I was in the service
- 23 Q Okay What hobbies do you have?
- 24 A Music oil painting music you know
- 25 Q If you were released you know society would

1 be very different than it was when you last
2 saw it

3 A I m very aware of that yes

4 Q Now I see here that you were serving in the
5 navy?

6 A Yes from 70 to 74

7 Q What did you do in the navy?

8 A I did what they call launch and recovery send
9 jets out and brought them back

10 Q On ships --

11 A Yes

12 Q or from aircraft carriers?

13 A Both Naval air stations and aircraft
14 carriers

15 Q How much time did you spend in the navy?

16 A Four years

17 Q Four years Did you have any goals? Do you
18 have any goals in life? Did you have any
19 prior to this this offense?

20 A Not in that sense because I was a married man
21 supporting my family but I had goals prior to
22 getting married that I was not able to
23 obtain

24 Q Which were?

25 A Well at the time I wanted to go to college

1 and be a television camera man That s always
2 been my heart s desire but I no longer desire
3 that If I m released I recognize that I
4 have to go to school and I would like to go to
5 vocational school and take up L P N or become
6 an R N or a chef or possibly computers

7 Q All right

8 A But I do recognize that after being here
9 twenty years I would have to go to a
10 vocational school to you know get a good
11 job And then I m looking at school for chef
12 computers or L P N

13 Q I understand that you got married?

14 A Yes

15 Q And your wife how did you meet her?

16 A Well I go to Jehovah Witness services and so
17 the outside elder of the Jehovah Witnesses
18 she had wrote the congregation here asking
19 that someone contact her son-in law here The
20 elder brought the letter into me and had me
21 contact her son in law to talk to him about
22 you know what the Witnesses do and that s
23 how we met

24 Q When did you become a Jehovah Witness?

25 A I was familiar with them on the street but I

[REDACTED]

1 became one since coming to jail yes

2 Q Okay Where would you live if you re
3 released?

4 A With my wife in [REDACTED]

5 Q [REDACTED]

6 A Yes

7 Q What s the address?

8 A Well it s a P O address Her -- the trailer
9 park where she lives in I don t write there
10 I write to a P O so it s in my cell But
11 she lives in [REDACTED] or
12 something

13 COMMISSIONER MANLEY Okay I
14 have no further questions Commissioner
15 Graber do you have any questions?

16 BY COMMISSIONER GRABER

17 Q [REDACTED] I notice that as far as your crimes
18 of conviction you were on drugs at the time?
19 You were using drugs and alcohol?

20 A Well they weren t quote illicit drugs like
21 cocaine and crack and stuff like that They
22 were -

23 Q Prescribed?

24 A sleeping pills No Over the counter
25 sleeping pills

1 Q You were still mixing them right?

2 A Well I was in the state of mind I was trying
3 to commit suicide And that s in the record
4 too right?

5 Q Answer my question please Were you mixing
6 these things?

7 A With the purpose of committing suicide yes

8 Q That wasn t the result was it?

9 A No it wasn t

10 Q Then the follow-up question is what have you
11 done to address these issues? Substance
12 abuse - let me finish Substance abuse You
13 also had told the authorities at that time
14 that you had been thinking for three or four
15 months about killing your wife so this wasn t
16 a spur of moment decision right?

17 A Well yes

18 Q And mental health issues are you taking any
19 mental health therapy now?

20 A When I first came to the prison they sent me
21 call out for mental health and I had an
22 interview with the psychiatrist and they never
23 called me back It was never recommended that
24 I take psychiatric evaluations and so forth
25 and so on so that s why I never took it and

1 it was never required In regards to ASAT
2 when they started program here it was
3 explained to me that I didn t need ASAT they
4 never required it because quote I never
5 messed with elicit drugs

6 Q What do you think - you know when you
7 committed the crime were you of sound mind?
8 Did you know what you were doing?

9 A Well at the time now I recognize that I was
10 quote extremely depressed

11 Q So there should have been services given to
12 you mental health services Now whether you
13 could have gotten them if you had asked for
14 them or you need them when you came in I
15 don t know We re not psychiatrists That
16 certainly was a major factor though was it
17 not?

18 A Being depressed?

19 Q Yeah

20 A Sure

21 Q All right What do you see for yourself in
22 the future as far as mental health issues?
23 Any problem now?

24 A Well I ve been in prison for the last twenty
25 years and you see I ve never had any problems

[REDACTED]

1 with mental health depression I have a good
2 institutional record no -- no disciplinary
3 problems

4 Q Why did you kill the boy?

5 A Again I don't have no answer I'm not being
6 evasive I'm not trying to not answer you I
7 honestly don't have an answer

8 Q After twenty years of thinking about it you
9 don't have an answer?

10 A I don't have an answer as to why I did it what
11 I did period

12 COMMISSIONER GRABER All right

13 BY COMMISSIONER MANLEY

14 Q When you when you admitted to this crime
15 and you got booked at the station is says
16 here that you you jumped through a
17 window -

18 A Yeah Again --

19 Q - and then went to a gasoline station and
20 tried to pour gasoline down your throat?

21 A Yes Again with the purpose of quote
22 killing myself

23 Q All right [REDACTED] we're going to take
24 everything into account and get back to you in
25 a couple of days with our decision

1 A Okay

2 Q Is there anything else you d like to say to us
3 before we make our decision?

4 A No I don t

5 Q Thank you

6 (The inmate was excused)

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1 DECISION

2 COMMISSIONER MANLEY Denied
3 twenty four months Next appearance date
4 would be 3/02 Parole is denied based upon
5 the violent nature and circumstances of the
6 instant offense in which you killed your wife
7 and son with a butcher knife During your
8 interview you demonstrated little remorse and
9 expressed detached responsibility for the
10 vicious crime All things considered it is
11 this panel s belief that you remain a risk to
12 the community and a poor candidate for
13 discretionary release Guidelines are
14 unspecified

15 COMMISSIONER GRABER Concur
16 (Whereupon the hearing in the
17 above entitled matter was concluded)

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CERTIFICATION

I Eileen M Sharp a shorthand reporter
and notary public in the state of New York do
hereby certify that the foregoing record taken
by me at the time and place noted in the heading
hereof is a true and accurate transcript of
same to the best of my knowledge and belief

Eileen M Sharp

Eileen M Sharp

3/23/60

Dated