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DATE: 10-12-99

TO: Joe O'Leary

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FROM: TOM GRANT, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN
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NOTE: re: Ronald DeLeo

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS FAX TO MY SECRETARY, LYNN, AT
(518) 486-4631. THANK YOU.

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF PAROLE

In the Matter

of

RONALD J. DEFEO

INST. # 75-A-4053

NYSID # 3626260H

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 21st day of September, 1999, Green Haven
Correctional Facility, Green Haven, New York.

BEFORE:

COMMISSIONER MARIETTA GAILOR

COMMISSIONER ILEANA RODRIGUEZ

COMMISSIONER JOSEPH GAWLOSKI

PRESENT:

GARY MORGIEWICZ, F.P.O. II

JILL LENARD, F.P.O. I

TOM STANFORD, F.P.O. I

DIANE MARCH, KBS II

HEARING REPORTER: Linda Whitmore & Associates
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BY COMMISSIONER GAWLOSKI:

Q. Good morning. Have a seat. Let me get the information straight here. You are Ronald Defeo?

A. Yes.

Q. I am Commissioner Gawloski.

A. Good morning.

Q. With me today are Commissioners Gailor, who is sitting right next to me, and Commissioner Rodriguez, who is at the far end of the table.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Good morning.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Good morning.

Q. I would just like to go through a couple of technical pieces here. You are currently serving a conviction for murder second degree and received a 25 to life sentence via verdict, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, are you appealing this verdict or are there any appeals currently pending?

A. Pending right now, no, sir.

Q. I will explain why I ask. If there was an appeal pending, as you see, everything that you say is being taken by an official reporter and this record could be utilized in the appeal process by either party. Therefore, if there is no appeal, we don't have to

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worry about that part of the situation. I would also ask you to answer each question either "yes" or "no" or give a statement that way we can put it on the record. Nodding your head is not going to cut it.

A. Yes.

Q. You were born in 1957, which makes you --

A. 9/26 of '51.

Q. 9/26 of '51?

A. Yes.

Q. That makes you?

A. I will be 48.

Q. You will be 48 years of age.

A. Yes.

Q. The crime that you are convicted of is a very violent crime, it involves six counts of murder.

A. Yes.

Q. What happened?

A. I will be truthful with you, really, there is certain parts of it that I cannot answer. What I can tell you is that I am not making excuses for anything. I loved my family very much and I, I had a very serious drug problem. Like I say, I am not using that as an excuse. Exactly what happened in my house, I am not really sure to this day.

Q. Do you remember anything about it?

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A. I do know that I had gotten into an altercation with my sister, God rest her soul. There was a fight over the rifle in the end, and that's the part that I am involved in. And after the wrestling match between me and my sister, that's exactly what it was, I lost my temper, and I took the gun away from her, threw her down on the bed and I shot her. I didn't even know where I shot her. I thought that I had shot her in the neck, but, that's not what happened.

Q. How about the other people?

A. I had nothing to do with that, no part of that. There were other people in the house. It is no secret to anybody, it is a proven fact. The District Attorney's opening statement to the jury, he stated that-- it was Gerald Sullivan (ph), he is deceased now, too-- he stated that I committed this crime with two other people. The police tried to state that my family was drugged, but the autopsy report clearly stated that nobody was drugged. And his name was Howard Adelman (ph), he testified at the trial that in his medical opinion, three or four people did it. They brought in five other people, questioned them, one of them they believed to this date didn't, after 20, 20 hours, I believe it was, they let him go.

Q. You mentioned that you were on drugs. Were you heavily

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using narcotics at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your drug of choice back then?

A. I was using heroine, which I was involved in so badly I got -- [REDACTED]

Q. Were there any other drugs that you used besides heroine? PCP or anything like that?

A. Yes, sir, I have used all of that, mescaline, LSD.

Q. How is your [REDACTED] now?

A. I got to be honest about [REDACTED], for the last six years I have been [REDACTED].

Q. If you are granted consideration, what plans do you have?

A. I am married. I would go live with my wife. You know,

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I don't have a problem with working, it is just --

Q. How long have you been married?

A. Five years. April 27th is five years.

Q. Where does your wife live?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED] Anything that you would like to add to the record before I talk to the other Commissioners about any questions that they might have?

A. No. Just that, you know, like I said, you know, I loved my family very much. You know, I will be sorry to the day that I die.

Q. You state that you love them, but unfortunately, your actions indicate something opposite. What would make us feel that you would not get involved in similar behavior, some similar violent behavior?

A. I was never -- I was never, never, never like that. That was really the first violent act in my whole life. Still to this day, I am amazed. I mean, you know, I realize that people on drugs do things, but, I never thought that, you know, that it would go that far. I thought that there might have been a limit, but --

COMMISSIONER GAWLOSKI: Commissioner Gailor, any questions?

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: I was listening

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before when you talked about how these crimes occurred, you said that there were other people in the house with you at the time.

THE INMATE: Yes, ma'am.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: They were your friends?

THE INMATE: Yes, ma'am.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Your family was in the house at that time, also?

THE INMATE: Yes, ma'am.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Do you remember how you and your sister became involved in an argument, you said? What was that about?

THE INMATE: When I had heard -- I was down in the basement. My house had four floors, three floors and a basement. It was a large house. I was down in the basement with my friend. I heard a noise but I didn't know what the noise was. You know, it was like a muffled sound but it was very loud. I didn't know what it was. I didn't know that it was a gun shot. When I came up to see what it was, you know, I came up through the basement, then I had to go up one flight of stairs and make a turn and another turn, when I came up the stairs and I had made a left-hand turn, the bedroom door was open and my sister's bed was right

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there and I saw her head and there was a lot of blood. There was a pink and white shag rug on the floor. It was Allison. The next bedroom had my brothers. I didn't even go in there. I ran up the stairs and my sister made a statement, "Oh my God, Butch, you are not supposed to be here."

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Who is "Butch"?

THE INMATE: They called me Butch.

Nobody called me Rodney or Ronald, everybody calls me Butch. She grabbed the rifle, it was on the side of the wall, that's when the altercation between her and me started.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Over what?

THE INMATE: As soon as she said that, "Oh my God, Butch," she grabbed the gun.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Who had -- there was already somebody shot? You are saying, that you saw a lot of blood?

THE INMATE: My sister, downstairs.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Do you have any idea of who did that?

THE INMATE: No. I didn't see anybody. I know that the people were in the house.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: How many people were in the house that were your friends?

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THE INMATE: One was with me and another one that ran out of the house.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: You were doing drugs there together? What were you doing?

THE INMATE: Yes. I was always using drugs, heroine.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: So your sister and you got into a fight. Then what happened? Because four other people died.

THE INMATE: I shot my sister.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: You shot your sister?

THE INMATE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: You don't have a clue as to how your parents got killed or shot?

THE INMATE: I didn't see anybody do it. I will not speculate and say who did it. It is impossible for one person to do this.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Did you hear any shots ring out prior to or after your altercation with your sister?

THE INMATE: No. Just the one. Then I went downstairs, and I went to the rooms later on, everybody was dead.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: No idea why

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someone would do this?

THE INMATE: There was serious problems in my house.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: What does that mean? I don't know what that means.

THE INMATE: There was serious family problems in my house. Me and my sister wanted to get out of there. She was using drugs, too. I mean, we were like animals. We were like dogs on leashes. We were always beat up and abused by my father. I am not making excuses. These are the facts. It just went on and on. My mother, everybody, nobody could control my father.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Your father was abusive, you say?

THE INMATE: Yes-- I ran away -- my whole life since I have been a little kid.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Whose gun was that?

THE INMATE: Whose gun?

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Who had the gun in the house?

THE INMATE: It was -- it was one of my guns, it was a rifle. I used to go hunting in the woods for deer.

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COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Your father, did he abuse alcohol and drugs?

THE INMATE: He, when he drank, his personality changed when he used drugs, but, you know, they were prescription drugs. His personality, it was just like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: So, he had took medications but drank besides?

THE INMATE: Yeah. From time to time. From time to time. They had him on some kind of diet pills back then. I don't know what they were, because he was 280 pounds, big, 5'10".

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: He abused all of you?

THE INMATE: Yes.. My mother had black eyes all of the time. Everybody knew it. Everybody was afraid of him. His own father was afraid of him. My other grandfather, God rest his sole, everybody was afraid of him. Nobody could control the man. It just got out of hand. I, I realized later on that I used drugs to try to escape in my own mind. But, man, when I realized all of this, it was too late.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: What do you think is the most important thing that you have accomplished over the years?

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THE INMATE: I will tell you, I am not trying to be funny, I learned to stay away from drugs. I learned that drugs and alcohol and all of that, if I wasn't using any of this, I would have definitely done things entirely different. I would not have picked the gun up. I might have got in a fight, but I would not have picked that gun up.

Q. Do you have any remaining brothers or sisters?

A. No, sir.

Q. That was your entire family?

A. Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER GAWLOSKI: Any other questions, Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Nothing.

Q. Is there any statement that you would like to make for the record? We will toss it open for you and we can proceed.

A. No.

Q. I think that we have covered the issues. The Commissioners have asked some questions that they had about it. We will review the file and the documentation and we will have a decision for you in about two or three days.

A. Thank you all very much.

COMMISSIONER GAILOR: Thank you for

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coming in.

(Whereupon the inmate was excused from the hearing room at this time.)

(Off-the-record discussion between Commissioners at this time.)

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COMMISSIONER GAWLOSKI:

DECISION

Denied. Hold 24 months, 9/01.

Your instant offense involved the murder of your parents and four siblings through use of a rifle. It shows a total disregard for human life. You have gained little insight into your violent antisocial behavior while incarcerated.

Discretionary release at this time is incompatible with the safety and welfare of society.

The guidelines are unspecified.

(All Commissioners present concur)

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