

# Supreme Court of the United States

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 JOHN F. DAVIS, CLERK

In the Matter of:

Docket No. 199

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 GEORGE B. HARRIS, Judge of the United  
 States District Court for the Northern  
 District of California

Petitioner,

vs.

LOUIS NELSON, Warden, California State  
 Prison at San Quentin,

Respondent.

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Place Washington, D. C.

Date December 9, 1968

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REBUTTAL

J. Stanley Pottinger

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1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

2 October Term, 1968

3 -----x  
 4 GEORGE B. HARRIS, Judge of the United States :  
 District Court for the Northern District of :  
 5 California, :  
 Petitioner; :  
 6 :  
 7 vs. : No. 199  
 8 LOUIS NELSON, Warden, California State :  
 Prison at San Quentin, :  
 Respondent. :  
 9 -----x

10 Washington, D. C.

11 December 9, 1968

12 The above-entitled matter came on for argument at  
13 11:30 a.m.

14 BEFORE:

- 15 EARL WARREN, Chief Justice  
 16 HUGO L. BLACK, Associate Justice  
 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, Associate Justice  
 17 JOHN M. HARLAN, Associate Justice  
 WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR., Associate Justice  
 18 POTTER STEWART, Associate Justice  
 BYRON R. WHITE, Associate Justice  
 19 ABE FORTAS, Associate Justice  
 THURGOOD MARSHALL, Associate Justice

20 APPEARANCES:

21 J. STANLEY POTTINGER, ESQ.  
 22 425 California Street  
 San Francisco, California  
 23 Counsel for Petitioner

1 APPEARANCES (Continued):

2 DERALD E. GRANBERG, ESQ.

Deputy Attorney General of the State of California; a

3 JEROME M. FEIT, ESQ.

Attorney, U. S. Department of Justice

4 Counsel for Respondent

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No. 199, George B. Harris, Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, petitioner; versus Louis Nelson, Warden, California State Prison at San Quentin, respondent.

Mr. Pottinger?

ARGUMENT OF J. STANLEY POTTINGER, ESQ.

ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER

MR. POTTINGER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court:

This case presents the question of whether or not a District Court has the power or the authority to order the use of discovery interrogatories in habeas corpus proceedings.

This particular question stems from a habeas corpus proceedings below instituted by the petitioner, a Mr. Alfred Walker. Mr. Walker was arrested and his premises were searched on the basis, and solely on the basis, of information supplied to the Oakland police officers by an informant, a lady named Miss Frances Jenkins.

The record indicated, however, so serious a question as to the reliability of the informant, which is the sole basis which could sustain, constitutionally sustain, probable cause, that Chief Judge Harris ordered counsel to be appointed and an evidentiary hearing on this sole question to be held.

Shortly prior to the evidentiary hearing, petitioner

1 Walker propounded a short set of interrogatories to the respon-  
2 dent, inquiring into the possible record that would either  
3 establish reliability or unreliability on the part of the in-  
4 formant.

5 The respondent objected to these interrogatories, not  
6 on the ground that they were inappropriate, but on the ground  
7 that the District Court had no authority for permitting their  
8 use in a habeas corpus proceeding. The matter was argued and  
9 Chief Judge Harris ordered answers to the interrogatories.

10 The respondent immediately sought leave to file a  
11 petition for mandamus or prohibition in the Ninth Circuit, and  
12 such leave was granted, thereby postponing the evidentiary hear-  
13 ing. The matter was briefed and argued in the Ninth Circuit  
14 and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals did, in fact, enter an  
15 order vacating Chief Judge Harris' order.

16 Petitioner Walker then petitioned for a writ of  
17 certiorari and the case is now before you on the basis of a  
18 writ issued to the Ninth Circuit.

19 In considering any applicability of discovery pro-  
20 cedures to habeas corpus, I think it is essential to bear in  
21 mind one indisputable premise: that is that the constitutional  
22 and historic validity of the writ of habeas corpus today depends  
23 in large part upon the District Court's ability to fulfill its  
24 duty, to inquire into disputed issues of fact.

25 As this Court stated in the landmark case of Townsend

1 against Sain, determination of fact issues in habeas proceed-  
2 ings today is the typical and not the rare case.

3 Given this duty, the question arises in this case, and  
4 in other habeas proceedings, as to what rules, what guidelines,  
5 what procedures a District Court can look to in order to ful-  
6 fill this fact finding task.

7 We have suggested two basic guidelines, two basic  
8 areas, two grounds, which the court might look to. The first  
9 is the application of suitable or appropriate Federal Rules of  
10 Civil Procedure, and the second is an application of appro-  
11 priate procedures pursuant to the Court's inherent power.

12 I should first like to discuss the applicability of  
13 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, since we believe that  
14 the controlling rule, that is, Rule 81(a)(2), supports such an  
15 application and because we believe that an application of appro-  
16 priate rules is preferable and clearly preferable to a use of  
17 procedures pursuant to the Court's inherent power.

18 Q May I ask you whether there is any indication  
19 on the record here as to which theory the District Court used  
20 in ordering that the interrogatories be answered?

21 A No, there is not, Mr. Justice.

22 Q You do not know in this case whether the Court  
23 felt compelled to do so by the rules, or whether the Court was  
24 acting as a matter of discretionary power?

25 A No. There is no indication whatsoever. All

1 that we can surmise from the record is that the interrogatories  
2 were initially propounded pursuant to Federal rules. However,  
3 at the argument on this matter, the Court did not make a ruling  
4 on the Federal rules. The Court did take the matter under sub-  
5 mission, rather than ruling from the bench, and when the order  
6 of the Court was entered, it deleted any reference to the  
7 Federal rules.

8 The order simply states that interrogatories are to  
9 be answered, and it did not say pursuant to the Federal Rules  
10 or pursuant to inherent power. We believe, of course, that,  
11 therefore, the ruling of the Court is sustainable on any valid  
12 ground.

13 My understanding of the jurisdiction of the writ of  
14 prohibition is that it can only issue if there is no jurisdic-  
15 tion whatsoever to sustain the order in question. We believe  
16 that there are two interpretations that Rule 81(a)(2) will sup-  
17 port.

18 One is the interpretation given by the Ninth Circuit  
19 and which is urged upon this Court by respondent, and the second  
20 is a broader interpretation which is urged upon the Court by  
21 petitioner.

22 Rule 81(a)(2) provides that there is no doubt that  
23 some of the rules of Federal procedure are applicable to habeas  
24 corpus, but it provides that only those rules will be appli-  
25 cable to the extent that the practice in such proceedings is



1 not set forth in statutes of the United States, and, secondly,  
2 that the practice has heretofore conformed to the practice in  
3 civil actions.

4 The first requirement is not an objection that we con-  
5 cede in this case because there are no statutes governing the  
6 practice presently before the Court and, indeed, the Ninth  
7 Circuit did not have a problem with this first requirement.

8 It is the second requirement that is in issue. Under  
9 the Ninth Circuit's interpretation, the Court has read the rule  
10 here to require a showing that there is an actual use of the  
11 specific procedure, in this case the discovery interrogatories,  
12 in civil actions prior to 1938, and that the exact same pro-  
13 cedure was reported and used in habeas corpus proceedings prior  
14 to 1938.

15 In that event, and only in that event, says the Ninth  
16 Circuit, can appropriate rules be applied today. We believe  
17 that there is no reason to read the rules so restrictively.  
18 Indeed, the language does not necessarily dictate this inter-  
19 pretation; nor does the statutory history, which actually is  
20 very unelucidating on the entire question. It does not dic-  
21 tate this interpretation either.

22 The language of the statute, frankly, doesn't make  
23 sense under this interpretation, because the result is to make  
24 only those rules, or only those procedures, applicable which  
25 were already applicable prior to 1938, and to that extent, of

1 course, that procedure would continue on anyway after the promul-  
2 gation of the Federal rules.

3 The alternative under this narrow interpretation is  
4 to make no rules applicable, in which case there was no reason  
5 for the provision to be placed in the Federal rules in the  
6 first place. So even on its face, this interpretation does  
7 not make sense.

8 But a more important reason for rejecting the inter-  
9 pretation is the result that would flow from this interpreta-  
10 tion. The result would be to freeze all procedures which are  
11 available in habeas corpus to those procedures available in the  
12 year 1938, and the entire history of the writ of habeas corpus  
13 has been one of growth, of flexibility, of permitting the  
14 courts to meet the expanded needs of the writ itself, and cer-  
15 tainly those needs have greatly expanded under the aegis of  
16 this Court, under the habeas corpus statutory scheme provided  
17 by Congress.

18 We believe it would be an intolerable restraint upon  
19 the District Courts to be restricted simply to the narrow and  
20 rather formalistic procedures available in the year 1938.

21 Under our interpretation of Rule 81(a)(2), we read  
22 the statute to require only a showing that there was a practice  
23 in habeas corpus conforming to a practice in civil actions in  
24 a more general sense. We read it to say that if there was a  
25 general format applicable in habeas corpus, similar to the

1 general format in civil proceedings, then those rules which  
2 are suitable to or which facilitate that general format are  
3 available today under the rules.

4 In other words, the general format that did apply to  
5 habeas corpus prior to 1938 and to civil proceedings prior to  
6 1938 was the development and trial of issues of fact by a court.  
7 Those two practices were identical or did exist in both civil  
8 and habeas proceedings.

9 We feel that to that extent, rules in the Federal  
10 Rules of Civil Procedure which facilitate that practice should  
11 be available. This, of course, would exclude, for instance,  
12 civil rules governing trials by jury, since there never was a  
13 trial by jury in habeas proceedings and there should not be  
14 such a trial today.

15 But those rules which are suitable we believe are  
16 supported by the statute and sound policy dictates their use  
17 today. For the same reasons as the obverse of the restrictive  
18 practice that I mentioned on the part of the Ninth Circuit, the  
19 expanded duties under the habeas corpus decisions of this Court  
20 would require the Court to utilize appropriate rules to that  
21 end.

22 Indeed, we point out in our brief that the vast  
23 majority of courts in this country which have utilized rules in  
24 habeas corpus have indeed adopted this interpretation, and  
25 that no fewer than six circuits in this country, over a period

1 of 20 years, have adopted various rules of the Federal Rules  
2 of Civil Procedure appropriate to the task before them, five  
3 circuits of which have adopted discovery rules.

4 All of the discovery rules of civil procedure have  
5 been used in habeas proceedings and reported other than, I  
6 believe it is, requests for admissions. I don't believe we  
7 found a case on that particular proceeding, but all other rules  
8 have been used, including Rule 35.

9 Q Do you mean a full sweep of the discovery rules?

10 A Yes, Your Honor. Every discovery rule other  
11 than, I believe, one has been reported in use in District Courts  
12 or in Circuit Courts.

13 Q A full sweep of the rules as ordinarily appli-  
14 cable to a civil cause.

15 A The full extent of the rules. But when you say  
16 "full sweep," it doesn't necessarily mean it would work the  
17 same way in a civil proceeding. In other words, there are some  
18 distinctions in habeas and civil proceedings which exist and  
19 which, once the rule is applied, would not necessarily let it  
20 be applied to the full extent.

21 Q Can you illustrate that?

22 A Yes. This particular problem arises from the  
23 argument by the State that abuse would occur if certain of the  
24 rules, the discovery rules, were permitted in habeas corpus.  
25 I think that the basic objection by the State is one of abuse.

1           The State contends that most habeas petitioners today  
2 are proceeding in the form of paupers. They are indigents.  
3 That is true. We don't dispute that. They contend that if such  
4 a person who is unrestrained by litigation costs would have the  
5 ability to use discovery rules, he would greatly burden the  
6 State out of an attempt to embarrass them, to burden them for  
7 its own sake, to use the rules in bad faith.

8           For this reason, the State contends that it will be  
9 forced to attend hearings to obtain protective orders that it  
10 would not otherwise be required to attend or to seek under the  
11 present habeas statutory scheme. But this particular argument  
12 simply does not hold water.

13           First of all, if you look at the habeas corpus --

14           Q     That is not an unfamiliar argument anyway in the  
15 matter of discovery generally, is it?

16           A     That is correct, Mr. Justice. It is not an  
17 unfamiliar argument. We think that initially, the way that  
18 argument has been met in the last 30 years, it can be met here.  
19 That is that the rules themselves provide completely adequate  
20 protection, specifically Rule 30 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
21 Procedure, which permits the court on its own motion, by an ex  
22 parte motion, or by an argument to the motion, to enter fully  
23 objective orders.

24           Fully aside from that, it is important to note that  
25 the habeas corpus statutory scheme and the Federal rules, when

1 integrated as they presently exist, would still not permit any  
2 discovery by any petitioner until the matter has been reviewed  
3 by a District Court under present law. This occurs for a simple  
4 reason.

5 In section 1915, Title 28, it provides that a form  
6 of pauper's proceeding cannot commence until an order of the  
7 Court permits it to commence. Normally, that order is entered  
8 in a show-cause order when the District Court has reviewed the  
9 request for the proceeding along with the petition itself.

10 Rule 33 provides that there can be no discovery with-  
11 out special leave of the Court for 10 days following the com-  
12 mencement of the action; in other words, following a determi-  
13 nation by the District Court that the action does or does not  
14 have merit in the entrance of a show-cause order.

15 Rule 26, incidentally, covering depositions, provides  
16 an even longer moratorium of 20 days before any discovery can  
17 commence. The result is that any petitioner who submits a  
18 petition in the form of paupers or otherwise, cannot even have  
19 the action commence under Rule 33 or the Federal rules until  
20 the District Court has looked at the merits.

21 Of course, if it is an unmeritorious, frivolous or  
22 burdensome petition, it will be dismissed, as it is today, and  
23 discovery cannot ensue. If, on the other hand, the Court issues  
24 a show-cause order, Title 28 provides that the statements are  
25 filed in return of five days of that order and a hearing on

1 the entire matter is to be held three days thereafter. So even  
2 if the matter proceeds, there will be a full hearing within the  
3 10 days that Rule 33 would commence, within eight days.

4 At that particular hearing, and again we point out  
5 that there can be no discovery even attempted at this point, the  
6 Court will be permitted, in fact, will have, several choices:  
7 It can either issue the writ, at which point discovery will be  
8 immaterial; it can deny the writ, at which point discovery  
9 would be immaterial; or it can order an evidentiary hearing.

10 Q I gather that in the habeas corpus indictment  
11 it imposes the restraint that you have been mentioning.

12 A That is correct.

13 Q On the application of the discovery rules and  
14 the civil rules.

15 A That is right.

16 Q There aren't any comparable restraints in the  
17 ordinary civil cases.

18 A That is right.

19 Q In the ordinary civil case, one files the  
20 complaint and the other side just goes ahead and proceeds in  
21 discovery.

22 A That is exactly right. Under the present statu-  
23 tory scheme, there are already built-in reviews and restraints  
24 on the use of discovery wholly aside from what we believe is a  
25 completely adequate restraint in the Federal rule itself,

1 Rule 30. So we have two separate built-in restraints that  
2 will preclude the kind of abuse that the State will suggest  
3 will occur in habeas cases.

4 In addition to this, we have to note two other exper-  
5 iences with the rules. Since 1938, when the rules were promul-  
6 gated, a prisoner has been permitted to bring a civil rights  
7 action, and under that, he has been permitted to invoke the  
8 entire spectrum of civil discovery, so that if a prisoner is  
9 really interested solely in burdening the State, as the State  
10 suggests the bad-faith prisoner supposedly would be doing, he  
11 could have done so for the last 30 years. Yet we have scoured  
12 decisions and have been unable to find any number of decisions  
13 reported where this kind of abuse took place.

14 In addition to that, we have to point out that several  
15 circuits have, for many years now, applied discovery rules  
16 directly to habeas proceedings, and yet over these past few  
17 years that this application has been available, we find no  
18 cases reported where prisoners have abused the availability of  
19 the Federal rules.

20 So not only does the statutory scheme preclude abuse,  
21 but experience that has already been had with the rules, both  
22 in habeas and civil rights cases, indicates that abuse simply  
23 is non-existent.

24 Q How much discovery do you think in a habeas  
25 proceeding is available to the State?



1           A     Well, I think that in habeas proceedings the  
2 issue is not one of guilt or innocence and, therefore, does not  
3 involve the self-incrimination privilege. It is not really  
4 often one that even involves the testimony of the petitioner.

5           In our case, the petitioner couldn't perjure himself,  
6 even if he were so inclined. He will not testify on the issue.  
7 We are dealing with the process by which one is incarcerated,  
8 rather than guilt or innocence.

9           I think the State will have just as much discovery  
10 available to it as the petitioner will. For instance, it will  
11 be available to the State to inquire into any of the matters  
12 surrounding probable cause that it feels appropriate to a par-  
13 ticular case.

14           I would like to point out on this ground that this  
15 is the second objection tendered by the State; that is, the  
16 State feels that it is incongruous to have discovery available  
17 in a habeas corpus proceeding which is not to the full extent  
18 available in a criminal proceeding.

19           But we wish to point out that that objection also is  
20 invalid. For one reason, because we are involved in the process  
21 by which one is incarcerated rather than with guilt or inno-  
22 cence. The reasons for limiting discovery in some instances  
23 in criminal cases simply doesn't apply to habeas corpus cases.

24           The reason for limiting it in criminal cases has  
25 traditionally been not the belief that discovery would not lead

1 to the objective discovery of truth, but, rather, that there  
2 are counterbalancing considerations: Number 1, that a guilty  
3 defendant could tamper with witnesses who he discovered through  
4 the discovery process; and, second, he could use the self-  
5 incrimination privilege to deter the State from discovery against  
6 him.

7 Q California has liberal discovery provisions in  
8 its law, doesn't it?

9 A Yes, I believe that is correct. California does  
10 have perhaps the most liberal discovery provisions of any State  
11 in the Union. But since we are dealing here, in addition, with  
12 Federal habeas corpus, I think it is important to point out in  
13 addition to that that in any State in the country the reasons  
14 for limiting criminal discovery in some cases simply do not  
15 apply in habeas corpus cases.

16 In addition to that, it is important to note that  
17 where criminal Rule 16, which has greatly expanded criminal  
18 discovery, does not fully compliment civil discovery, the in-  
19 herent power of the Court does. In other words, even where  
20 criminal Rule 16 has not permitted complete discovery to the  
21 same extent it would be under the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-  
22 cedure, Courts have quite frequently exercised their inherent  
23 power to go that last mile.

24 We have cited cases in our brief, the Shores case,  
25 the Nolte case, and other cases, where the Courts have

1 complimented civil discovery. So we don't feel that there is  
2 a valid objection to extending discovery devices in habeas pro-  
3 ceedings on this ground. At any rate, it is certainly not an  
4 objection which should control in this case.

5 Q Of course, in an ordinary criminal case, the  
6 parties are the State as prosecutor and the defendant as the  
7 person under indictment or against whom information has been had.  
8 Habeas corpus is slightly different in that the plaintiff, the  
9 petitioner, the applicant, is the man in custody and the defen-  
10 dant or respondent is custodian. I don't know that the custo-  
11 dian knows the answers to these questions.

12 How would he know? How would the warden of a peni-  
13 tentiary know anything about Frances Jenkins?

14 A Mr. Justice, what happens is that in this par-  
15 ticular case the warden will not know of his own first-hand  
16 knowledge much information. At least to my knowledge he will  
17 not know much information about Frances Jenkins.

18 But the point is that historically, because of the  
19 development of the writ, the respondent has always been named  
20 as the warden of the person in custody, but the real party in  
21 interest is the State.

22 Just as the use of civil discovery has been permitted  
23 against nominal parties, where the real party in interest  
24 comes forth with the real information in question, so it would  
25 be in our case, and so it would be in habeas cases generally.

1           The warden is still going to be the nominal party.  
2 Since it is the State who represents him, the same attorneys,  
3 the real parties in interest are those witnesses who are State  
4 witnesses and who, therefore, should furnish the information.

5           Q     You ask in your interrogatories, appearing at  
6 page 34 of the record, that the respondent, that is, the warden  
7 of the penitentiary, answer all these questions. He can't  
8 possibly know. All he knows are the conditions under which he  
9 received the petitioner for custody in the penitentiary, is that  
10 right; that he was convicted properly of a crime, and so on?

11          A     Yes. The warden, again, is named as the nominal  
12 party.

13          Q     And that is the party to answer these questions  
14 under oath.

15          A     It was not construed as such, I believe, by the  
16 Court or any of the parties, Mr. Justice.

17          Q     I am not attempting in my question to be tech-  
18 nical with respect to this case, but I am expressing my tenta-  
19 tive question as to whether or not this might not be an addi-  
20 tional reason why discovery procedures aren't appropriate in a  
21 habeas corpus case.

22          Q     Just exactly how would this work? Is this, in  
23 effect, a writ asking that the State proceed to find out the  
24 answers?

25          A     Nominally, again, yes.

1 Q Actually, what will happen?

2 A Actually, what would happen is that Mr. Granberg,  
3 or other persons we have dealt with in this case in the State  
4 Attorney's Office, and who will be representing the State in  
5 the proceeding, if ordered to answer, will secure the infor-  
6 mation from the police officers to whom the questions are  
7 directed, in fact.

8 Q It is quite a different thing from a civil inter-  
9 rogatory, because what the prisoner here is asking is that the  
10 State be commanded to procure information for him, namely, the  
11 answers to these questions. In the usual civil interrogatory,  
12 of course, you address the interrogatory to the person who is  
13 in possession of the information.

14 Is that what this is? What you are asking us to  
15 approve here is a procedure by which the State is commanded to  
16 obtain requests for certain information. Technically, I sup-  
17 pose that if we accept your argument, it would mean that the  
18 jailhouse lawyer or the convicted person himself could sit down  
19 and write a set of interrogatories and having filed his peti-  
20 tion, a writ of habeas corpus, without any Court intervention.

21 A Mr. Justice, I don't believe that could happen.

22 Q You would have to get Court approval?

23 A You would have to.

24 Q How about depositions upon written interrogatories?

25 A The same. It would have to be approved. And it

1 would be approved for the simple reason that in any event, dis-  
2 covery is not going to ensue until an evidentiary hearing has  
3 been had.

4 Q Under the civil rules, if I am involved in a civil  
5 suit, with time intervals and so on taken into account, I can  
6 just serve notice on somebody that I am going to take his  
7 interrogatory, take his deposition, and I don't need Court ap-  
8 proval. Isn't that right?

9 A Ordinarily that is the case, but I don't believe  
10 that could be the case in habeas proceedings for the simple  
11 reason that the Court, on its own motion, or the parties on  
12 their own motion, or the petitioner seeking to acquire infor-  
13 mation -- any of these parties can simply state that no dis-  
14 covery under Rule 30 will proceed until an evidentiary hearing  
15 has been determined to be necessary, until counsel is appointed.

16 Q Is that in the civil rules?

17 A It is supported by Rule 30; yes, Your Honor.

18 Q I listened with interest to your argument about  
19 Rule 30, but actually if you say that the civil rules applied  
20 in habeas proceedings, I suppose it is at least arguable that  
21 a person could serve notice on Frances Jenkins that that per-  
22 son wants to take her deposition; is that right?

23 A Yes, sir; it is possible, but I see no burden  
24 upon that particular person other than to notify the Court that  
25 notice has been received and have the Court review the

1     appropriateness of it, which, in effect, in this case means  
2     that the Court would have two possibilities:

3             The Court can say, without discovery at the present  
4     time, when it appears that a witness might have relevant infor-  
5     mation in good faith, "I must have this person come to a hear-  
6     ing, because this person, as an informant, may have relevant  
7     information."

8             Therefore, any person who it is believed has infor-  
9     mation, whether they have it or not, is forced to a hearing.  
10     They must come to a hearing, at which time the Court can do one  
11     of two things: Have the evidentiary hearing itself, and when  
12     a person is found not to have any relevant information the  
13     person is dismissed, even though the time has been used and the  
14     person has had to travel to the hearing; or the Court can have  
15     two hearings. It can have the first hearing to determine who  
16     has relevant information, segregate those that do not from those  
17     who do, and hold the evidentiary hearing in the second place.  
18     Discovery would obviate this.

19             Q     Aren't you a little concerned that this might  
20     turn out to be occupational therapy for jailhouse inmates and  
21     cause a certain amount of inconvenience to the rest of the  
22     world?

23             A     I don't believe it will, Mr. Justice, again  
24     because jailhouse lawyers could have done so long ago if they  
25     intended to do so, at least in several circuits.

1           There is no indication of such abuse. And second,  
2 because I think as a matter of course, particular orders will  
3 be entered. When the State files its return, all it has to do  
4 is, in a one-line sentence, ask for a preclusion of discovery,  
5 until an evidentiary hearing is ordered or until it is viewed  
6 by the Court to be necessary.

7           MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: We will recess.

8           (Whereupon, at 12 Noon the oral argument in the  
9 above-entitled matter was recessed, to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.  
10 the same day.)



1 (Argument resumed in the above-entitled matter)

2 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE: Mr. Pottinger, you may proceed  
3 with your argument.

4 FURTHER ARGUMENT OF J. STANLEY POTTINGER, ESQ.

5 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

6 MR. POTTINGER: Mr. Chief Justice, may it please  
7 the Court:

8 We were in the process of reviewing objections which  
9 have been tendered by respondent to the application of appro-  
10 priate Federal rules or other discovery devices pursuant to  
11 inherent power to habeas corpus proceedings.

12 Q Pursuant to what power?

13 A Of procedures, either through the Federal rules  
14 or pursuant to inherent power. That is to say that discovery  
15 devices could be applied to habeas corpus proceedings by a  
16 District Court pursuant to its own inherent power as a separate  
17 ground from applying those rules pursuant to ---

18 Q Without any previous support of Congress or  
19 does the Court draw up the rules?

20 A Mr. Justice, we believe that under the inherent  
21 power authorities that we have argued there are essentially  
22 three separate specific authorities for the use of appropriate  
23 procedures in habeas corpus. The one is the inherent power  
24 of the Court, wholly aside from any statute or any constitutional  
25 provision.

1           And we have cited the case of ex parte Petterson,  
2 decided by this Court, which did establish that Courts do have  
3 the inherent power to act to the ends of justice aside from  
4 any specific statute. That is cited and discussed in our reply  
5 brief.

6           Q     They have the power to do what?

7           A     To act and adopt procedures pursuant to the  
8 end of justice as they determine them to be needed in a Court.

9           Q     It would be a lot better for you, wouldn't it,  
10 if you could hang onto some act of Congress?

11          A     Yes, Mr. Justice, I think that we would much  
12 prefer to have the rules applied pursuant to Rule 81(a)(2) of  
13 the Federal Rules, which is tantamount to Congressional pro-  
14 visions since the rules were approved by Congress. That is  
15 ture. We would prefer to have the rules extended pursuant to  
16 81(a)(2) as opposed to having this order sustained below  
17 pursuant to inherent power.

18                Because while we believe that there is no question  
19 that the Court in habeas proceedings in particular has the  
20 inherent power and the discretion to act to the ends of the  
21 duties before the Court, in this case to try issues of fact.  
22 We believe that it is preferable to have the rules applied  
23 where appropriate, because the rules are codified, they are  
24 available to all attorneys, they are available to petitioners  
25 and the entire body of law that has grown up around the practice

1 set forth in the Federal Rules of procedure would be available  
2 throughout the country.

3 On the other hand, if procedures were to be adopted  
4 pursuant to the inherent power of the Court, and if that  
5 were the sole ground for sustaining the District Court's  
6 order in this Court, then we would find that various District  
7 Courts throughout the country would adopt appropriate procedures  
8 on an ad hoc basis. Their decisions would be scattered through  
9 various reports. There would be a lack of uniformity. And  
10 while it is important that, as an alternative, inherent power  
11 is an important ground and a valid ground for sustaining  
12 the order, we have no doubt that it would be preferable to have  
13 the Federal Rules apply.

14 Q Maybe no one else would be bothered by the  
15 Court, but it gives me troubles talking about inherent power  
16 to do what is practical in legislation.

17 Q You do have an act of Congress explicitly  
18 applicable to habeas corpus, don't you, and I am referring to  
19 2246, which says that on application for a writ of habeas corpus,  
20 evidence may be taken orally or by deposition or, in the dis-  
21 cretion of the Judge, by affidavit. If affidavits are admitted  
22 any party shall have the right to propound written interroga-  
23 tories to the affiants or to file answering affidavits.

24 A Mr. Justice Stewart, that provision, however,  
25 most definitely does not deal with discovery. It deals strictly

1 with evidentiary matters.

2 Q That is correct.

3 A And for that reason it does not control, it does  
4 not allude to and it does not regulate discovery procedures  
5 in habeas corpus proceedings. It simply is not relevant to the  
6 present determination.

7 Q Well, it does regulate and control depositions  
8 and affidavits and written interrogatories with respect to the  
9 actual hearing in a habeas corpus case and does provide in  
10 these terms that such a hearing need not always conform to the  
11 more formal requirements of a criminal trial, that is evidence  
12 may be taken by affidavit, for example, in the discretion of  
13 the Judge.

14 And, at least arguably, this means that when Congress  
15 has provided this much with respect to interrogatories,  
16 depositions and affidavits, it did not mean to provide for  
17 anything further by way of discovery.

18 A Well, I suppose that is arguable. Certainly  
19 respondent has argued it. But we believe that it should be clear  
20 from decisions which have construed this provision, decisions  
21 incidentally which have been favorable in the ultimate result  
22 to respondent but in determining this provision such decisions  
23 and the history of the act and the language of the act, itself,  
24 all indicate that that particular section, 2246, deals only with  
25 the limited specific procedures of a manner of taking evidence

1 for a habeas proceeding and not for dealing with pretrial  
2 discovery.

3 Q There is one argument of that habeas corpus  
4 that I am not sure you made. That it is a constitutional remedy  
5 and it might be more inherent power in connection with the  
6 constitutional remedy which is given to the Court than it would  
7 in connection with other matters.

8 A I believe that is true. I think that that would  
9 support our position that inherent power is a valid ground for  
10 sustaining the order below.

11 Q That gets up close to the questions as to whether  
12 Congress could do away with habeas corpus.

13 A I believe that is impossible, if I read the  
14 suspension clause correctly in the Constitution. I don't believe  
15 that could be done.

16 Q Mr. Pottinger, I am having a little difficulty  
17 understanding why the written interrogatories procedure would  
18 not be effective for you here. Now the depositions under the  
19 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure would not be available to  
20 petitioner here until he had filed his application for a writ,  
21 would they?

22 A They would not be available even then.

23 Q I know, and then there would be a lapse of time?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q Why couldn't, after he has filed this application

1 for a writ, why can't he go to the Court and ask the Court  
2 to proceed by written interrogatories?

3 Now, your answer to that may be that the deposition  
4 procedure is at least nominally mandatory. The Judge has to  
5 permit him to go ahead. On written interrogatories, the Judge  
6 can say, "I don't chose to proceed by written interrogatories  
7 here." Is that right?

8 A Do I understand you to be referring now to  
9 2246?

10 Q That is right.

11 A I think that that is a correct interpretation  
12 of 2246, insofar as it . applies only to evidence, however.

13 Q Whatever it may be, because if a person should  
14 proceed by written interrogatories under the Federal Rules of  
15 Civil Procedure, the interrogatories, presumably, would be  
16 available, they ordinarily are available to both parties.

17 A That is correct.

18 Q And the state could introduce whatever the  
19 prisoner does not introduce. It is a little hard to see that  
20 there is any real operative difference here when you relate the  
21 two procedures, 2246 in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures  
22 to the habeas proceeding, except for the element of power the  
23 Judge, under 2246, to say, "No, I am not going to proceed  
24 by written interrogatories here."

25 A No, I don't believe that is correct, Mr. Justice

1 Fortas, because rule 2246 provides for interrogatories only as  
2 a means of cross-examining an affiant of an affidavit. The  
3 Court is not permitted, under 2246, to permit a party to proceed  
4 with interrogatories. The only time interrogatories are  
5 available under 2246 is in the event in a prior determination  
6 the Court has decided to allow evidence to come in by affidavit.

7 Interrogatories, otherwise, cannot even be permitted  
8 under 2246. It is clear from the language and the interpretation.

9 Q I am aware of that, but I suppose if the Court  
10 proceeds by affidavit that he could accept as evidentiary what-  
11 ever comes in on written interrogatories. That would be sworn.

12 A That is true.

13 But unfortunately the affidavit provisions do not  
14 permit any discovery. In this particular case there is no  
15 reason to believe that we would have the right or the ability  
16 to obtain an affidavit from the State.

17 Q But the chronology in the peculiar situation of  
18 a habeas case, chronology works out so as, I think you very  
19 aptly and very well put it, sir, chronology works out so that  
20 if you don't have the usual difference between discovery,  
21 pre-trial discovery, and the use on trial that you have in a  
22 civil proceeding.

23 A Well, certainly not up until -- it is true that  
24 the procedure differs greatly until an evidentiary hearing  
25 is ordered.

1 At that point, I believe that the procedures are  
2 directly paralleled, because once an evidentiary proceeding is  
3 ordered, then we find ourselves confronted with precisely the  
4 same type of determination that a Court and counsel are confronted  
5 with in a civil proceeding and that is to find, develop, present,  
6 and draw conclusions of fact.

7 And that is exactly what has happened in habeas corpus  
8 proceedings today under, first, Brown against Allen and then  
9 under the mandatory provisions of Townsend against Sain.

10 We are contending that given that requirement the  
11 Court must have the tools to fulfill it and the only tools  
12 that it can use to fulfill it are provided either pursuant to  
13 its inherent power or preferably pursuant to the Federal Rules  
14 of Civil Procedure.

15 Briefly, there are three other objections that the  
16 State has tendered. One is we believe to be somewhat curious.  
17 They have contended that the summary provisions of Section  
18 2243 require a speedy hearing and for this reason discovery  
19 would actually slow down the hearing and be contrary to the  
20 2243.

21 As I have already pointed out, discovery, on the  
22 contrary, will facilitate and speed the hearing by permitting  
23 the exclusion of the double hearing. And, secondly, I think  
24 we need only point out that any delay that is occasioned by a  
25 petitioner's use of discovery is delay of his own choosing.



1 Thirdly, I think it is important to point out that  
2 the summary provisions of 2243 require the Court to quickly  
3 review the matter and not ultimately dispose of the matter  
4 quickly.

5 In other words, the review process must get underway  
6 quickly after a petition is filed, but if it is in the interest  
7 of the petitioner and Court to develop facts ultimately to be  
8 determined at the evidentiary hearing, certainly the summary  
9 provisions of Section 2243 would not suggest that the Court or  
10 the parties should sacrifice the ultimate justice to be  
11 accorded the petitioner through this fact-finding process  
12 simply for the sake of speed.

13 If I may, I will reserve the few remaining moments  
14 for rebuttal.

15 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE: You may, Mr. Pottinger.

16 Mr. Granberg?

17 ARGUMENT OF DERALD E. GRANBERG, ESQ.

18 ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT

19 MR. GRANBERG: Mr. Chief Justice, may it please the  
20 Court:

21 I would like to direct my remarks, initially, to  
22 petitioner's argument that the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
23 authorize the use of the discovery mechanism provided therein  
24 to a habeas proceeding.

25 This, of course, turns on the construction to be

1 afforded to Rule 81(a)(2) of those rules, which provide  
2 simply: These rules are applicable to proceedings for  
3 admission to citizenship, habeas corpus, and quo warrento to  
4 the extent that the practice in such proceedings is not set  
5 forth in statutes of the United States and as heretofore con-  
6 formed in the practice in civil actions. This imposes two  
7 conditions. And we will argue later that neither of these  
8 conditions can be met.

9 Before I reach that argument, however, I would like  
10 to present some remarks with respect to what I feel this  
11 evidences as to the purpose of the original framers of these  
12 rules back in 1938. First of all, I believe we can discern,  
13 it makes it perfectly apparent, that the framers of the rules  
14 recognized that procedures with respect to habeas corpus are  
15 set forth in the statute.

16 Secondly, it expresses a clear intention that pro-  
17 cedures with respect to habeas corpus are to be controlled by  
18 statutory changes as well. That is, in the event that a  
19 statutory change occurred with respect to procedure, that is  
20 to control.

21 And, finally, with respect to that second condition  
22 about conforming to the practice prior to 1938, that evidences  
23 a clear intention not to change existing practice in habeas  
24 corpus. A clear intention to maintain, if you werek status  
25 quo with respect to habeas practice as it existed in 1938 and

1 not to freeze it there but to leave any changes that are to occur  
2 to Congress through the statutory changes that it sees fit  
3 to make.

4 Now, certainly Congress has since that time effected  
5 changes with respect to habeas procedure. The most recent  
6 evidence of that can be found in Section 2241 an enactment  
7 there in 1966 and enactment in 2254 in 1966, enactments  
8 which significantly effect procedure with respect to habeas  
9 proceedings.

10 I believe that ---

11 Q What are the changes in 2241 and 2254?

12 A 2241 relates essentially to jurisdiction and  
13 provides that when you have a state with more than one Federal  
14 Judicial District that a habeas petition can be entertained  
15 either in the district within which the petitioner is confined  
16 or the district within which his state criminal conviction and  
17 sentence occurred.

18 2254 provides significant changes with respect to the  
19 presumption of correctness which is to attend a state factual  
20 determination reached after a hearing and reflected by written  
21 indicia or findings.

22 Q And both those amendments were made in the 1960's?

23 A 1966, yes, Your Honor.

24 Now I believe that this policy decision reflected  
25 in Rule 81(a)(2) as of 1938 is a very sound one. That it was

1 sound when made and remains sound today.

2 First of all, pleading procedures in habeas corpus  
3 is completely inconsistent with pleading procedure as it exists  
4 now under the conventional rules of practice for civil litigation.  
5 And a habeas petitioner is required to allege with particularity  
6 those facts upon which he relies and which if established would  
7 justify him to relief.

8 When Congress introduced the discovery procedure through  
9 the Civil Rules in 1938 it affected what this Court referred to  
10 as one of the most significant innovations of those rules. Yet  
11 those rules came in along with substantial changes with respect  
12 to pleading in civil actions as well, simplified pleading,  
13 and part of the justification for the change in pleading exists  
14 in the fact that discovery techniques are afforded to the  
15 parties to be exercised by the parties for the purposes of  
16 defining issues for fact revelation and such similar purposes.

17 Now the justification with this discovery procedure  
18 lies certainly, in part, in these pleading changes which occurred  
19 as well, simplified pleadings, streamline pleadings. Yet  
20 these pleading changes have no pertinence whatsoever with  
21 respect to a habeas proceeding.

22 Now I believe a second sound reason why the framers  
23 thought that not to extend these civil rules with respect to the  
24 discovery mechanism or habeas proceeding is this: it is completely  
25 inconsistent with the summary nature of a habeas proceeding. Now

1 when I say "summary," certainly I am talking in terms of  
2 quick relief to a petitioner. But I am talking about other  
3 reasons as well. Such factors as minimizing the impact on a  
4 state rehabilitative process, such factors as minimizing the  
5 impact of the burden of habeas applications upon the Federal  
6 Courts as well.

7 There are techniques for resolving these petitions,  
8 for disposing of them, without proceeding through hearing.  
9 Certainly if petitioner has failed to allege the specific facts  
0 and has asserted only conclusory allegations in stating his  
1 claim for relief he is not entitled to a hearing. The petition  
2 is entitled to be dismissed.

3 Another sound policy consideration, I think, that  
4 existed in 1938 and certainly that continues today is the  
5 fact that in no criminal discovery system that has been  
6 initiated within any state or in the Federal system does anything  
7 akin to this civil discovery mechanism exist; nothing that even  
8 approximates it.

9 Now, certainly California, in the field of criminal  
0 discovery, has gone as far as anyone has. Perhaps much farther.  
1 We afford to a defendant copies of any statements that he has  
2 made, copies of other witnesses, copies relating to physical  
3 tests, copies relating to examination of scientific evidence,  
4 factors such as these. For a long time we have given him copies  
5 of the Grand Jury transcript that he has been indicted. He is

1 afforded a copy of the transcript of the preliminary hearing.  
2 If he is held, they answer through the information process.

3 Yet California has specifically rejected efforts to  
4 utilize depositions for purposes of discovery or interrogatories  
5 for purposes of discovery. It is a system which is simply  
6 foreign to the procedure that has been recognized as such and  
7 has been rejected. And I submit that it is just as foreign  
8 with the context of a habeas proceeding.

9 Q Just as a matter of interest, do you know give  
10 them a list of witnesses? Does the State give the defendant  
11 a list of witnesses?

12 A Yes, Your Honor, usually it is done informally.  
13 Frequently it is done pursuant to the order of the Court.

14 Q It isn't done automatically in every case?

15 A No, Your Honor.

16 Discovery in criminal practice in California  
17 is not a creature of the statute. It is a creature of judicial  
18 decision and is not recognized by statute. But the Court  
19 appropriately recognized that the provisions with respect to  
20 civil discovery have no applicability to criminal cases.

21 Finally, I believe that this policy decision made  
22 back in 1938 was sound and remains sound for a further reason.  
23 When I balance the potential for abuse which exists here against  
24 the value potential of the procedure to petitioners, I think  
25 it becomes perfectly apparent that the increase in litigation,  
increased burden on State's attorneys, the danger of harassment

1 with respect to witnesses, arresting officers, prosecuting  
2 attorneys, perhaps even defense attorneys, should the procedure  
3 be made available, indicates a sound reason for not extending  
4 civil discovery to habeas proceedings.

5 I would like to turn now for a moment to the specific  
6 conditions set forth in Section 81(a)(2). And I will argue that  
7 the first condition cannot be met; that is, there cannot be  
8 a showing that practice is not controlled by statute. Practice  
9 with respect to depositions and interrogatories is controlled  
10 by statute within the habeas act. Section 2246 accomplishes  
11 this. Depositions may be utilized for evidence.

12 Judicially in the 9th Circuit, and I refer now to  
13 Wilson versus Weigel, the Court has indicated that depositions  
14 as the term is used in 2246 includes also depositions on written  
15 interrogatories. Now that is not an acceptance of the  
16 applicability of the civil rules. It is simply a recognition  
17 that one appropriate way of taking a deposition is by written  
18 interrogatories. Of course this follows a procedure very much  
19 akin to that set out in Section 31 of the Federal Civil Rules.

20 But in any event 2246 limits depositions to evidentiary  
21 purposes.

22 In Wilson versus Weigel the 9th Circuit was asked to  
23 extend or to reconsider the decision that is now here before  
24 this Court in Wilson versus Harris and change its mind. But  
25 it did not. It said depositions can be taken under Section 2246.

1 They cannot be taken under Rule 26(a) of the Federal Civil  
2 Rules for purposes of discovery. And if objections are to be  
3 made to specific questions, then this was the appropriate  
4 matter, the appropriate approach to take.

5 But, nevertheless, it refused to extend the Federal  
6 Civil Rules to a habeas proceeding. It adhered to the decision  
7 it had entered earlier in this case of the hearing issue.

8 I think it is extremely significant the manner in  
9 which Section 2246 regulates deposition and interrogatory  
10 practice. And, in fact, that this was enacted, 2246 was added  
11 in 1948, a full ten years after the Federal Civil Rules had  
12 been adopted. Yet not only do we have the inconsistency  
13 between Rule 26 through 37 of the Federal Civil Rules and 2246  
14 of the habeas act that depositions, interrogatories and so  
15 forth are not permitted for discovery in habeas actions, but we  
16 also have inconsistencies with respect to the use which may be  
17 made of depositions taken or interrogatories, if you will, for  
18 purposes of evidence at a trial.

19 Under 2246, the section provides simply depositions  
20 may be taken for use as evidence, may be utilized in taking  
21 evidence at the habeas proceeding.

22 Rule 26(a), on the other hand, provides a number  
23 of conditions with respect to the utilization which can be made  
24 at the trial of depositions taken pursuant to it. Again, when  
25 Congress added 2246 in 1948, I submit, it specifically rejected



1 any suggestion that discovery techniques such as those found  
2 in Civil Rules should be applicable in a habeas proceeding.

3 Q Is there anything in the legislative history that  
4 indicates that apart from the language of the statute?

5 A The legislative history which we encountered  
6 with respect to 2246 deals solely with the techniques in taking  
7 evidence. There is no discussion that we have been able to  
8 find with respect to discovery. It does make the point that  
9 the use of written interrogatories under 2246, as it appears  
10 there, is limited to offering something akin to cross-examination  
11 of one who has presented an affidavit. That is, under the section,  
12 literally, written interrogatories can be used only against an  
13 individual who has presented an affidavit for use in evidence.  
14 It is a technique of testing the evidence given that way.

15 Finally, turning to the second condition with respect  
16 to former practice, there simply can be no showing made that  
17 anything even approaching the discovery mechanism found in the  
18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedures existed in the habeas pro-  
19 ceedings prior to 1938.

20 I would submit there can be no showing that any dis-  
21 covery practice existed in habeas prior to 1938. The purpose  
22 expressed in maintaining status quo certainly militates against  
23 any finding that the second condition can be met.

24 Q Mr. Granberg, does your brief have any legislative  
25 history of 2246?

1 A Yes, Your Honor.

2 Q You said it was put in in 1948. Can you refer  
3 to it? Don't spend your time on it.

4 A Your Honor, it should be found starting at about  
5 page 19.

6 Q Thank you very much.

7 A Now, I would submit that this absence of authority  
8 to make any showing prior to discovery practice in a habeas  
9 proceeding, prior to 1938 that is, is extremely significant.

10 Certainly this absence of authority was viewed as one  
11 of the factors which led this Court to conclude in Minor versus  
12 Atlas that there was no traditional inherent power, if you  
13 were, to order depositions or to authorize deposition for  
14 discovery purposes and in admiralty proceedings. This Court  
15 noted specifically that there was no indication of traditional  
16 practice in this regard.

17 Turning to the argument, apart from the Civil Rules,  
18 the Court has some sort of inherent power to authorize and  
19 implement and sanction and fashion, if you were, a discovery  
20 procedure akin to that found in the Civil Rules, I submit that  
21 this is not an appropriate area for an exercise of inherent  
22 power.

23 One of the justifications that has been offered to  
24 this Court by petitioner is that such a power can be found  
25 within the habeas statutes themselves, the hearing requirement

1 imposed by Section 2243 to be heard and resolved. I submit  
2 that that affords no basis for implementing or for permitting  
3 District Courts to implement, if you were, discovery practice  
4 akin to this.

5 Now, certainly 2246 within the habeas statutes affords  
6 no basis for implementing a discovery practice akin to this.  
7 The time provisions found in 2243, the time requirements, are  
8 completely at odds with implementing a discovery procedure  
9 akin to that found in the Federal Civil rules.

10 We have argued earlier the pleading requirements with  
11 respect to habeas are completely inconsistent with implementing  
12 a discovery procedure. An applicant is required to plead and  
13 assert with particularity those factual matters upon which he  
14 would rely in seeking relief. It is also significant to note that  
15 the habeas statutes do deal with the production of records,  
16 documents, and that this offers one additional reason for  
17 finding no real necessity for civil discovery techniques in a  
18 habeas proceeding.

19 One of the requirements with respect to a habeas  
20 applicant in the Federal Courts is that he have exhausted  
21 State remedies before he reaches the Federal Courts or before  
22 the Federal Courts at least assume jurisdiction.

23 2254 of the habeas statutes now provides when a  
24 factual determination has been made by a State Court, that has  
25 been made after a hearing on the merits, it is entitled to a

1 presumption of correctness. If an issue passes through the  
2 State Courts and reaches the Federal Courts and those records  
3 become significant, 2254 also provides a means whereby those  
4 records, court records and materials relating to that factual  
5 determination, can be brought before the Federal Court and  
6 can be relied upon in resolving a petition.

7           Insofar as any suggestion that an inherent power may  
8 be found apart from the habeas statute is kind of a vague,  
9 general inherent power, I would suggest that this is not an  
10 area which is appropriate for the exercise of inherent power.

11           Traditionally, as I understand the concept, inherent  
12 power may be relied upon by a Court which has a particular duty  
13 imposed on it; that is, if the Court has been, say, required  
14 by statute to conduct hearings with respect to a certain matter,  
15 it does have inherent power necessary to it to carry out its  
16 jurisdictional obligations. That is, the procedure has not been  
17 provided which is absolutely necessary to the exercise of  
18 its power and through inherent power it can resolve a procedure  
19 to meet the problem. But discovery just doesn't come within  
20 that.

21           Civil discovery practice, not by any stretch of the  
22 imagination, can be characterized as something that is  
23 necessary to a habeas court to carry out its responsibilities  
24 under the statute. The civil discovery mechanism is simply  
25 foreign to the habeas practice.

1 I think it is also significant in this regard that  
2 Congress has never seen fit to extend civil discovery practice  
3 to habeas proceedings. That suggests to me, as well, that this  
4 is an area which is simply inappropriate for an exercise of  
5 inherent power.

6 Q Your position is that even if a prisoner in  
7 a habeas proceeding should make some sort of a case and by  
8 affidavit, let us say, and a credible case, and then he comes  
9 to the Judge and asks the Judge, in the exercise of his inherent  
10 power, discretionary power under all writs and what not, to  
11 authorize him to serve written interrogatories on named people,  
12 that the Court would not have such power; is that your position?

13 A Well, Wilson versus Weigel does suggest that  
14 in a situation in which it would be appropriate to take a  
15 deposition for purposes of evidence, that that deposition  
16 can be taken by utilizing written interrogatories, cross  
17 written interrogatories and so forth. Now that is a procedure  
18 which authorizes the use of written interrogatories as a  
19 technique for taking an evidentiary deposition.

20 Q Those are pretty confusing concepts unless they  
21 are particularized. Just take the case that I put to you.  
22 A prisoner makes out a prima-facie case by affidavit. The  
23 Judge is persuaded that it is a prima-facie case. The prisoner  
24 says, "In order to prove this out, I have got to engage in  
25 some discovery. So please permit me to serve written

1 interrogatories on certain persons."

2 Now, is it your position that the Court does not  
3 have power to do it, or is it your position that the Court  
4 could do it under the habeas statute, 2240, whatever it is?

5 A Initially, and I want to be perfectly clear on  
6 this point, that Court would have no power even within the  
7 Federal Civil Rules or apart from the Federal Civil Rules to  
8 authorize written interrogatories for purposes of discovery  
9 or to authorize depositions for purposes of discovery.

10 Q I don't care what you call this. I don't know  
11 whether the case I put to you would properly be called discovery  
12 or evidence. But I put factually a case to you. If a person  
13 makes out a prima-facie case by affidavit and he asks the  
14 Judge to see to it that the persons were supplied to written  
15 interrogatories so that he can perfect the case which he has  
16 made out on a prima-facie basis, what I want to know from you  
17 is whether your theory, if we adopt it, means that we would be  
18 ruling that the Judge on the present state of the law has no  
19 power, no power, to do so?

20 A Let me, if I may, posture the case initially  
21 before I answer your question.

22 Now, before the District Judge orders an evidentiary  
23 hearing, he must have determined on the basis of the petition  
24 submitted by the applicant and additionally the traverse sub-  
25 mitted by the applicant, balancing that against the return to the

1 order to show cause submitted by the respondent warden, that  
2 there are certain factual questions raised, that there have  
3 been certain factual questions raised with particularity  
4 by the allegation of the petitioner that if proven to be true  
5 will, in effect, compel that he be released from custody.

6 Now, the petitioner has already spelled out all  
7 of that facts that he needs to know if he is to be ordered  
8 released from custody. I don't believe that discovery serves  
9 any function under those circumstances.

10 Q What is your answer, yes or no?

11 A I would answer, no. He does not have the power  
12 to authorize or to permit the use of discovery interrogatories  
13 or discovery depositions.

14 Q And in the case I put to you, your answer is  
15 that the Judge, even though he is persuaded that the prisoner  
16 has made out a prima-facie case, the Judge does not have the  
17 power to provide a procedure by which he may go further?

18 A The procedure already exists. It exists within  
19 the existing framework of the habeas statute. If he concludes  
20 that the petitioner has stated a meritorious claim, he orders  
21 the evidentiary hearing and we proceed with the hearing.

22 Q Suppose the prisoner says -- an evidentiary  
23 hearing is the final ultimate object here. The prisoner says,  
24 "I made out my prima-facie case. I need more evidence. I want  
25 you to authorize written interrogatories." I am trying to say

1 that just as clearly as I can, and I guess I had better quit  
2 because I have asked you the question just as clearly as I can  
3 put it.

4 I would like to know what your answer is, because  
5 I want to know what your theory would lead us to in terms of  
6 affirmance or denial of the Judge's power in that situation.

7 A Well, affirmance of the 9th Circuit opinion would  
8 be no more than this: It would be a recognition that there  
9 is now power existent in the District Court, either under the  
10 Federal Civil Rules or apart from them to authorize the type of  
11 discovery procedures set out in the civil rules.

12 Q I understand that. I am asking you about your  
13 theory. Are you contending for a ruling by this Court which  
14 would say that in the case I put to you the District Judge has  
15 no power to authorize written interrogatories? I think either  
16 your theory does or doesn't involve that. Maybe I am over-  
17 simplifying it, but I really don't believe so.

18 A Well, before the Judge has determined that an  
19 evidentiary hearing is appropriate, he has determined that there  
20 is more than a prima-facie case stated. He has determined that  
21 there are more than conclusory allegations reflected in the  
22 petition and in the traverse. That the specific facts which,  
23 if proven, would authorize release from custody.

24 Q You are telling me to work it out for myself.

25 A No, I am not, Your Honor. I am simply trying



1 to demonstrate that the nature of the habeas proceeding is  
2 one that does not lend itself to this discovery procedure nor  
3 does it require it. Because other procedures are already  
4 provided which afford a sufficient basis for the kind of factual  
5 exploration that is necessary in a habeas proceeding.

6 Q Mr. Granberg, the habeas corpus procedure is  
7 civil, right?

8 A Oh, yes.

9 Q And it is just as much a search for the truth  
10 as any other civil case?

11 A Certainly.

12 Q And, therefore, should have all of the necessary  
13 procedures to insure truth? I am sure you want to be with  
14 that last one.

15 A Certainly to insure truth, Your Honor. And I  
16 would submit that the habeas statute, as it exists now, affords  
17 all of the procedures necessary for that procedure.

18 Q Is the procedure of written interrogatories  
19 another procedure to get closer to the truth?

20 A The question you are really asking me ---

21 Q Isn't it?

22 A It is a technique which is utilized to ascertain  
23 facts, to clarify issues. It is utilized between the parties  
24 in conventional civil litigation. But I would submit that  
25 the discovery mechanism of the Federal Civil Rules was never

1 intended by the framers of the rules to be applicable to a  
2 habeas proceeding and they indicated that very clearly with the  
3 exceptions set forth in Section 81(a)(2).

4 Q But you still admit that it would help to get  
5 to the truth?

6 A The question you are really posing is this:  
7 As a matter of policy should we have some sort of discovery  
8 mechanism in a habeas proceeding? And that question is one  
9 which ---

10 Q That is your question. That is not mine.

11 A And that question is one which is appropriately  
12 left either to the legislative or certainly to the rule-making  
13 process.

14 Q That is your question.

15 A But I would submit that it is not a matter  
16 appropriate for a Federal District Court to make its own  
17 individual determination whether or not a particular rule  
18 should be applied because it would be good to have it there.

19 Q My question is it has been recognized that in  
20 all other civil actions this is good, but it is not good for  
21 habeas corpus.

22 A That is a policy determination originally made  
23 by the framers of the rules.

24 Q But you say that is what the law is?

25 A What I am suggesting is that any decision that

1 this Court makes ---

2 Q You think that it is less important to determine  
3 whether a man is in jail for his life unconstitutionally than  
4 it is to find out whether a man has been overcharged \$10,000  
5 and one cent?

6 A No, I don't. But what I do submit is that the  
7 procedure existent and set up with respect to habeas corpus  
8 affords a more than adequate basis to make the nature of the  
9 inquiry called for by the statute.

10 Q Your idea is that habeas corpus is an entirely  
11 different type of civil action?

12 A It certainly is.

13 Q Entirely different?

14 A It certainly is. It is completely foreign to  
15 conventional civil litigation.

16 Q You have a petitioner, don't you, and a  
17 respondent?

18 A Yes, sir, you do.

19 Q What is the measure of proof? The same?

20 A I have never encountered that question.

21 Q Is the burden of proof the same? What makes it  
22 so different?

23 A A conventional civil action is initiated by the  
24 filing of a complaint ---

25 Q Go right ahead and answer the question.

1           A     By the filing of a complaint. The full panoply  
2 of the discovery mechanism of the civil rules, then, becomes  
3 available to the individual who has filed that complaint.  
4 And he can state his action in conformity with the simplified  
5 rules of the Federal Civil Rules with respect to pleading,  
6 just generally indicate the nature of his case. Then he proceeds  
7 into discovery. A habeas petitioner doesn't start his case that  
8 way. He starts his case by submitting a petition which has to  
9 allege with particularity to specific facts and upon which he  
10 is going to rely. And he is entitled to no hearing or no  
11 relief from the Court unless he does that and unless he poses  
12 the kind of factual allegations which, if proven, would entitle  
13 him to relief.

14           Q     Does that seem to point to the fact that dis-  
15 covery would help him because his burden is tougher?

16           A     It might very well help him to have some sort  
17 of discovery mechanism available. But the question before this  
18 Court now is whether you are going to allow the full discovery  
19 mechanism of the Federal Civil Rules to be applied in a habeas  
20 proceeding. And I would submit that the framers of the rules  
21 never intended that, and that the very nature of a habeas pro-  
22 ceeding is not appropriate to that sort of discovery mechanism.

23           Q     He can always summon the witness, can't he?

24           A     Certainly he can. That is what I am suggesting.  
25 For once he has stated a basis for relief and the Court has

1 ordered an evidentiary hearing he can subpoena witnesses. He  
2 can call in anyone to substantiate the allegation that he  
3 has made in his petition and he has to carry the burden of  
4 proving this. And he can do it under the existing procedure.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Feit.

7 ARGUMENT OF JEROME M. FEIT, ESQ.

8 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT

9 MR. FEIT: Mr. Chief Justice, may it please the Court:

10 The Government's interest, Federal Government's  
11 interest in this case is substantial, since we are concerned  
12 that any ruling as to the automatic applicability of the civil  
13 rules of discovery of habeas would, as a matter of course, it  
14 would seem to us, require the conclusion that they apply  
15 equally to proceedings under 2255, the statutory counterpart  
16 of habeas corpus.

17 Q I gather 2255 in terms, at least, speaks of the  
18 case, of the case to which the petitioner is addressing his  
19 petition. It is a criminal court case, isn't it? Apart from  
20 Hayman and the others, I take it, on the face of 2255 it is  
21 only another step in the criminal court. Well, isn't it? On  
22 the face of 2255 it is just another step in the criminal court  
23 itself, isn't it?

24 A Well, it is on the face of 2255 another step  
25 in the criminal court.

1 Q But you don't argue that in your brief, do you?  
2 Any reason why not?

3 A What we think 2255 essentially is, basically  
4 this Court has suggested in Hayman ---

5 Q You certainly can't read it from the first word  
6 to the last without recognizing it as a little different from  
7 certain problems of the state prisoners.

8 A This is quite true. But, of course, the last  
9 part of 2255 does suggest that ---

10 Q I am just surprised. I should think that is a  
11 rather strong argument in favor of the Government, at least  
12 where your interest primarily lies, which is in 2255 proceedings.  
13 I gather you had very few actual habeas corpus cases and why  
14 don't you argue that whatever may be true of Federal habeas  
15 is a remedy for the state prisoner clearly enough for the  
16 Federal prisoner. You are just dealing with another step  
17 in the criminal court itself. So you don't have a civil  
18 pleading.

19 A Well, principally because we are concerned of the  
20 problem of suggesting that a state applicant might get dis-  
21 covery with, as Minor and Atlas points out, this is a substantial  
22 rather than procedural rule to say that a 2255 applicant  
23 is an entirely different situation. I agree with you, Your  
24 Honor, that the specifics of 2255---

25 Q Incidentally, as between the habeas applications

1 of state prisoners and the 2255 applications of Federal  
2 prisoners, what is the current statistical data? Which is  
3 the greater in number?

4 A I believe the state is still the greater number.  
5 We set it out in page 12 of our brief. I have found some  
6 additional figures for the Court with respect to 2255  
7 applications. In fiscal 1967, the administrative office of  
8 the Court advises me, that 932 2255 applications were disposed  
9 of. It is not clear when they were instituted. About 90 percent  
10 or a little more, 842, of those were disposed pre-trial; six  
11 were terminated after a pre-trial conference; and 19 were with-  
12 drawn. 65 were given hearings. Now, I was unable to get  
13 specific details of the percentage of actual denials and grants,  
14 what happened at the hearing.

15 Q That is only 2255?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you have comparable statistics for the state?

18 A I wasn't able to get comparable statistics as  
19 to the state material, nor was I able to get an actual break-  
20 down. I gather this had been done at the time of Brown and  
21 Allen. Mr. Justice Frankfurter had asked the administrative  
22 officer of the Court to do this at the prior argument in that  
23 case.

24 Q Well, I take it the number of filings, let  
25 me put it that way, of state prisoners for Federal habeas

1 relief must be many times the number of filings of Federal  
2 prisoners. It would have to be, wouldn't it?

3 A Yes. I think this is quite clear. Even the  
4 figures in our brief on page 12 point this out. I would like,  
5 also, to note, initially, that Government's view is not that the  
6 sentencing Judge under 2255 is without power, wholly apart from  
7 the Federal Civil Rules to permit discovery fact finding in the  
8 rare and unusual case.

9 Essentially, our position is that the civil rules  
10 of discovery in depositions do not apply in 2255 proceedings.  
11 If one looks at the statute, as Mr. Justice Brennan points  
12 out, the claimant has the obligation to set forth facts which  
13 were raised in issue. Most significantly the sentencing Court  
14 is then to examine the motion, the files and the records of  
15 the case to see if these documents conclusively show that the  
16 prisoner is not entitled to any relief. If he so concludes,  
17 he shall dismiss or deny the application; if not, he can notify  
18 the U. S. Attorney and schedule a hearing, determine the issues  
19 and make findings of fact and conclusions of law.

20 Moreover, whenever a hearing is to be held it is  
21 required that it be held promptly. It is at such a hearing that  
22 the issues are to be explored and it is based upon the facts  
23 adduced at such hearing that the sentencing Judge is to make  
24 his findings of fact and conclusions of law.

25 What Congress has done, perhaps extended the practice



1 in a criminal case, but in effect under 2255 it has set up a  
2 pleading method of evaluating the claim. And perhaps this is  
3 the same way of saying it, Mr. Justice Brennan, which takes  
4 in account quite clearly of the fact that the sentencing Judge  
5 is not operating on a clean slate but against the background  
6 of a criminal conviction which might have fully resolved  
7 the issue so it can be related in 2255.

8 And, finally, it is recognized at the hearing the  
9 sentencing Judge and no one else has the obligation to determine  
10 if the restraint alleged is unconstitutional. On the other  
11 hand, the crucial thrust of the deposition-interrogatory  
12 practice under the civil rules is just the other way. In large  
13 measure its purpose is to supplant the pleading and trial  
14 development of fact ---

15 Q Mr. Feit, are you getting to the point now where  
16 you don't need counsel in these proceedings, because you make  
17 them very criminal?

18 A Well, we are ---

19 Q You make it an extension of the criminal pro-  
20 ceeding; am I right?

21 A I think the statute, though, put the primary  
22 focus on the examination of the files and records. If they  
23 conclusively show the prisoner is entitled to no relief, the  
24 Judge must dismiss the motion. Now, if that is inappropriate,  
25 then, normally, he would hold the hearing and presumably would

1 appoint counsel.

2 We don't think that 2255 is simply an extension of  
3 the criminal case per se. What we think it is is a particularized  
4 method by which Congress sought to permit attack collaterally  
5 upon convictions. Because 2255 still provides that if the  
6 relief is insufficient or unavailable that the habeas corpus  
7 might provide a proper remedy.

8 Now, this Court has pointed out on more than one  
9 occasion that the relief under 2255 is the substantial  
10 equivalent of the relief under habeas corpus. I think it might  
11 be a serious problem to consider 2255 simply an extension of the  
12 criminal case. Then I presume it could be argued that relief  
13 under the habeas statutes would still be available.

14 Q The whole point was, I didn't think you had to  
15 go that far.

16 A I agree. I think that 2255 is a particularized  
17 method set up by Congress to deal with post-conviction alleged  
18 constitutional defects.

19 In civil discovery the vital developments of the  
20 facts that stem from the pre-trial examination are primarily  
21 to afford a wait-out perhaps for an out-of-court settlement  
22 either by agreement of the parties or through summary judgment.  
23 Alternatively, if the case need go to trial discovery provides  
24 a way to assure that no relevant facts in either party's case  
25 are hidden at the trial.

1 In other words, civil litigation wholly unrelated  
2 to a pre-existing criminal conviction, the benefits thus derived  
3 are deemed to outweigh the time expended in such deposition and  
4 cross-deposition practice. But such practice is wholly at odds  
5 with the scheme and definite present situation of Section 2255.  
6 And it raises the danger of embarking upon time-consuming,  
7 possibly irrelevant investigation, better spent at a hearing.

8 Perhaps most significantly from our point of view is  
9 the automatic adoption of the deposition and interrogatory  
10 rules of civil discovery in collateral proceedings would, we  
11 think, remove from the sentencing Judge, or tend to remove from  
12 the sentencing Judge, direct and immediate control of the  
13 proceedings. We think the emphasis of Townsend and Sain,  
14 Fay and Noia and the Sanders case is that the habeas judge,  
15 sentencing Judge is to exercise close control over the pro-  
16 ceedings.

17 Deposition discovery under the civil rules is  
18 governed by entirely different criteria. It is partly focused  
19 with the Judge settling the dispute as to the particulars of the  
20 discovery after the fact. It is only after a notice of  
21 deposition or written interrogatories is served that he may  
22 decide to limit the fact-finding on a showing of good cause.  
23 Indeed, in most instances under the Federal Civil Rules,  
24 depositions and discovery may be sought without leave of the  
25 Court as we read the rules. The Government's control is

1 essentially as a referee.

2 We think to grant such broad range discovery  
3 proceedings as automatic attribute in 2255 is to create  
4 a real danger of possible abuse of the writ. It is thus not  
5 unreasonable to forecast that even the most conclusory allega-  
6 tions would be followed by wide demands for interrogatories and  
7 deposition, Government prosecutors and investigators, et cetera.

8 Of course, the Court may prevent this procedure. But  
9 only after the delay and harassment which, it seems to us,  
10 wholly at odds with the prompt resolution of the question of  
11 unconstitutional restraint that 2255 talks to.

12 In short, whatever benefit may be derived from the  
13 deposition and discovery in a particular case, these benefits,  
14 we think, are wholly disproportionate to the delay, opportunity  
15 for harassment, collateral investigation, uncertainty and loss  
16 of direct control by the sentencing Judge over the proceedings.

17 If testimonial facts need development they can  
18 appropriately be developed at the hearing or by the evidentiary  
19 deposition route. Any change in this regard, we think, should  
20 come from the rule-makers or principally from Congress.

21 I would like to add a word as to our view on the  
22 question of power independent from the rules.

23 We do not think that question is necessarily raised  
24 in this case by virtue of the 9th Circuit, as we read the  
25 opinion, essentially finding that there was no authority under

1 the Federal Civil Rules and no specific authority under 2246.  
2 The opinion did not touch beyond that. Nevertheless, since  
3 the issue has been argued and briefed and we have indicated in  
4 our brief that we have a position on this, we believe such a  
5 power does exist.

6 I would summarily like to state our views in this  
7 regard. We think this power is part of the equity power of  
8 the sentencing or habeas judge that this Court has recognized  
9 in Fay and Noia and Brown against Allen and in the language  
10 that this Court has used in recent decisions in Sanders and  
11 Townsend against Sain, that the Judge is "Free to adopt any  
12 appropriate means through inquiry into the legality of the  
13 prisoner's detention and the power of inquiry on Federal  
14 habeas is plenary."

15 In answering your question, Mr. Justice Fortas, the  
16 Government's position is that the power exists, however, we  
17 think that the power should be used quite sparingly only in  
18 the rarest of circumstances, since the 2255 route provides the  
19 basic framework for resolving these issues.

20 An illustration of a possible fact-finding situation,  
21 I think, is Machabroda, where the facts, 368 U.S., where the  
22 facts were that claim was made that a defendant had spoken to  
23 Government counsel on three occasions in prison. The Government  
24 counsel, in effect, coerced the plea of guilty. And the question  
25 rose whether the prisoner was needed to be present at a hearing.

1 And Mr. Justice Stewart pointed out that the sentencing Judge  
2 could use his common sense. That was the kind of thing where  
3 the facts were not in dispute, were outside the record but  
4 easily available and the prisoner would not need to be at  
5 such a hearing.

6 This is the kind of fact-finding, I think, that exists  
7 in the sentencing Judge under 2255. For example, there might  
8 be a case where some very extensive scientific records or  
9 examinations, physical examinations, on a claim of mental  
10 incompetency. And the sentencing Judge may feel that, while  
11 these may be or not in the actual record, he may feel that the  
12 opportunity of defense counsel to examine them prior to the  
13 actual hearing might be appropriate to advance the purposes  
14 of the hearing.

15 What we are really saying is, yes, there is power  
16 sparingly to be employed, very sparingly to be utilized and  
17 under the direct control of the sentencing Judge. I might  
18 emphasize that we recognize the dangers of extensive deposition  
19 and other interrogatory pre-trial proceedings. And we do  
20 not think that the Judge, as a matter of course, should take  
21 this route.

22 On the contrary, we think it should be the rare,  
23 very unusual instance. We also think that the basic way the  
24 facts are to be developed is at the 2255 hearing that is spelled  
25 out in the statute.

1 Q How about this case with respect to the point  
2 you are now making? After all, we are dealing here with a  
3 concrete case. You say that you would submit that there is some  
4 kind of inherent power because of the broad discretion generally  
5 in this sort of a collateral proceeding, but that power should  
6 be very sparingly exercised. To what result would that  
7 lead you in this case?

8 A I think in this case, as I read the record, the  
9 District Judge did not exercise any power except the automatic  
10 application of the rules.

11 Q How do we know?

12 A The only argument made by the Government in the  
13 record, I believe it is at page 38, the only response by the  
14 Government, by the State of California, was that the Court  
15 had no power under rule 81(a)(2) -- I am looking for the point  
16 in the record -- had no power under rule 81(a)(2) to grant  
17 discovery. There was no discussion at all concerning any  
18 additional power and there is no indication -- it is true,  
19 the District Judge didn't indicate upon what he based his  
20 decision. There is no indication that there was any suggestion  
21 the Court was exercising discretion in this case.

22 Q Well, except by the act of granting the  
23 interrogatories the Court was exercising his discretion. It  
24 says he was fully advised of the premises and he ordered the  
25 interrogatories.

1           A     But the argument was that the civil rules of  
2 discovery do not apply at all. Petitioner deposed as if the  
3 rules automatically applied, presumably if the rules automatically  
4 apply the Judge would have very little discretion. And it would  
5 seem to me that it is hard to tell on this record precisely  
6 what he did.

7           But the suggestions seem to go that he relied on the  
8 automatic application.

9           Q     Well, whatever the District Judge thought he  
10 was doing in this case, I don't know that I have gotten the  
11 answer to my question.

12          A     The answer is I think this is the kind of case  
13 where this can be very fairly developed at hearing. As you  
14 pointed out, Mr. Justice Stewart, this is the kind of information  
15 that would be perhaps available to the officer who made the  
16 arrest. He could be called as a witness at the hearing.

17          Q     So it is your submission that the judgment of  
18 the Court of Appeals in this case should be affirmed?

19          A     Yes.

20          Q     That is what I thought.

21          A     Thank you.

22          Q     Why are we limited to that ground or that reason?  
23 I don't quite get that.

24          A     I don't quite get your question, Mr. Justice.

25          Q     Well, what you are saying is we have power, the



1 Court has power, the Court has power, we have power, inherent  
2 power to do this. You say they asked him to do it under a  
3 statute and the Court simply held that they couldn't do it  
4 under that statute. What has been held is that they couldn't  
5 do it, isn't it?

6 A The effect is that it has been held that they  
7 couldn't do it. All I was suggesting is that the issue of  
8 inherent power as opposed to the question of statutory power  
9 was not fully developed below. This is essentially what I am  
10 directing my argument to.

11 And in response to the second part of Justice  
12 Stewart's question, I said that in this case it seemed to me  
13 that it would be appropriate to determine these facts at a  
14 hearing. I find difficulty in finding that the District Judge  
15 or the Court of Appeals really dealt with the question of  
16 inherent power at all. Sure, the order determination indicated  
17 that we had power, the District Court had power. But the  
18 District Court never really indicated that it was exercising  
19 any inherent power.

20 Q You are just asking us to exercise self-restraint  
21 We have plenty of power, but don't do it?

22 A I think that -- no ---

23 Q If one takes that up, if we have the power, why  
24 isn't it our duty to do it if it is a good thing to do?

25 A I think that the power does exist. I do think,

1 however, that there is specific statutory procedures which  
2 provide the normal and traditional way of resolving these  
3 issues.

4 I have talked to 2255 which deals in terms with these  
5 procedrues. All I am suggesting is that, as opinions of this  
6 Court has repeatedly suggested in Brown against Allen and  
7 Fay and Noia, Townsend and Sain, that in the last analysis  
8 the habeas or the sentencing Judge must exercise equitable  
9 discretion in the premise. All I am suggesting is ---

10 Q That is about what kind of rules you will  
11 have for taking evidence. I have seen a lot of rules on this,  
12 a lot of statutes. They cover many pages in very great  
13 detail as to who will do it and as to how it shall be done.  
14 Is that what you say we have power to do?

15 A I view it said that the power exists. I think  
16 the power exists to be used very sparingly in light of the  
17 existence of these detailed and specific statutes setting forth  
18 procedures.

19 Q You mean there is such power in addition to what-  
20 ever may be the scope of 2246?

21 A I would have to say, yes, it would be some power.

22 Q But doesn't the Government also argue that in  
23 any event the extent of any power of the premise is that which  
24 is granted by 2246? Does the Government argue that?

25 A The Federal Government argues essentially that

1 the statutory scheme set forth in 2255 provides the traditional  
2 normal way of dealing with 2255 proceedings.

3 Q Any bearing of 2246; is it all on 2255?

4 A I think 2246 further supports the view that  
5 there is very narrow use to be made of any power outside of the  
6 statutory scheme.

7 Q Let's take just the State prisoner, then, where  
8 we are dealing with only 2246. You say as to the State  
9 prisoner there is a power in the Federal habeas Court in  
10 addition to any powers under 2246?

11 A I would have to say that the power, yes, does  
12 exist.

13 Q And that is the inherent power?

14 A I think I would rather talk in terms of the  
15 equitable power necessary to ---

16 Q In any event, whatever it is, it doesn't have  
17 a statutory source? It is something in addition?

18 You don't suppose it could be argued here, speaking  
19 now for the moment only for the State prisoner, that Congress  
20 has set the limits in 2246 and having set the limits there  
21 is no room for any additional power in the Court?

22 A It could be argued ---

23 Q But you don't argue?

24 A And the State has argued ---

25 Q The state has, but the Federal Government itself?

1 A The Federal Government doesn't argue it.

2 Q I think that the Federal Government has a very  
3 big stake in this. After all, these Federal habeas proceedings  
4 of State prisoners, as you pointed out, are in the thousands  
5 a year now. And that is a burden on the Federal District  
6 Judge, isn't it?

7 A Yes, it is.

8 Q Yet you don't share with California the view  
9 that 2246 is the limit of any power to premise?

10 A No.

11 Q But the fact is ---

12 A May I add, in response to the question, that  
13 this is, we say that the power is spelled out in the statute  
14 that essentially there should be a hearing as provided by the  
15 statute. All we are suggesting is that there may be a case  
16 where a sentencing Judge or a habeas Judge deems it appropriate  
17 for that particular case, in the interest of justice, and finds  
18 it essential to hold some pre-trial discovery.

19 Q Beyond anything that is authorized by 2246?

20 A Beyond anything that is authorized.

21 Q That is what I thought you said.

22 Q But 2255 doesn't have to prescribe any pro-  
23 cedures to the extent that is prescribed for a state habeas.  
24 And there is a cross-reference to the habeas corpus procedure  
25 for some purposes, but not for others. There is no cross-

1 reference, no general statement that the procedure on 2255 shall  
2 be as prescribed for habeas petitions. And I would assume  
3 that there may be some room for arguing that there is some  
4 flexibility in the 2255 procedure which is not present from the  
5 state habeas.

6 A Yes. Essentially our argument is directed to  
7 a 2255. It could be argued that the provisions dealing with  
8 habeas corpus are more detailed and set forth the complete  
9 power and don't permit the exercise of inherent power.

10 Q Certainly the limitation is on a Federal Court  
11 to grant state habeas that are contained in the statutes with  
12 respect to habeas corpus, which are not applicable at all.

13 A I agree, there are problems of federalism  
14 and a host of other problems that aren't applicable to 2255.

15 Now, perhaps I overspoke in terms of the Government's  
16 interest as essentially the 2255, and basically the 2255---

17 Q I am really surprised at that, Mr. Feit. I would  
18 think that, really, that the Government's interest is as great  
19 or greater in the procedures that govern state prisoner  
20 applications in Federal Courts. Certainly in terms of a burden  
21 of collateral proceedings on Federal District Courts is much  
22 larger in the area of the state prisoner than it is of the  
23 Federal prisoner under 2255. You told us that at the outset.

24 A Yes. And all I am suggesting is that this is  
25 further reason not to utilize any of this additional existing

1 power.

2 Q If one prisoner should have it, why shouldn't  
3 all of them have it if it is needed?

4 A Well, to the extent that the statute ---

5 Q That is what I don't understand about your  
6 argument. That is approaching a denial of equal protection of  
7 the law. The laws are supposed to be general to provide all  
8 a like circumstance, all these prisoners in jail. Are you going  
9 to say that some of them, at a Judge's discretion, can get it;  
10 others, if a Judge has a different discretion, can't?

11 A I am suggesting that 2255 spells out certain  
12 procedures under the habeas corpus statutes other than 2255  
13 spells out more detailed procedures.

14 Essentially my argument is that there is an equitable  
15 power beyond the language of the statutes to be sparingly  
16 exercised. But our essential focus is on 2255. We think  
17 perhaps the answer is the ---

18 Q Are you saying that none should get it under  
19 2255?

20 A I would think it would have to depend upon  
21 the particular case and the particular needs faced by the  
22 sentencing Judge. I cannot say that none should get it under  
23 2255.

24 Q Needs faced by the Judge or the needs faced by  
25 the prisoner?

1 A Needs that the Judge deems appropriate to resolve  
2 the issue of unconstitutional restraint.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Pottinger?

5 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF J. STANLEY POTTINGER

6 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER

7 MR. POTTINGER: May I first correct Mr. Feit in  
8 his assertion that there is nothing in the record, at least  
9 that he has seen, to indicate that the inherent power authority  
10 was raised below. In fact, it was raised and cited in the  
11 brief of respondent below, that is Judge Harris below, and it was  
12 so interpreted by the State and in the second part of their  
13 brief in the 9th Circuit, their supplemental brief, they have  
14 dealt with the issue by citing the statement that an examination  
15 of all authorities other than the rule indicates that there  
16 was not appropriate power. So the issue is presently and  
17 properly before this Court.

18 The respondent has suggested that there is a need  
19 for the special Congressional authorization for the use of  
20 discovery techniques in habeas corpus. But I think he fails  
21 to recognize that Congress has already dealt with the subject.

22 He tends to argue, I read his argument to say that  
23 there is no room for any application of any of the rules of  
24 civil procedure to habeas corpus, that this was the intent of  
25 the framers that

1           Of course Rule 81(a)(2) on its face shows very clearly  
2 that at least some of the rules are to apply because very  
3 clearly it says to the extent that certain conditions are met  
4 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are to apply to habeas  
5 corpus.

6           The question is not whether any of the rules are to  
7 apply or not to apply, but which rules are to apply. And that  
8 is the test that we have addressed ourselves to here and in our  
9 briefs.

10           Secondly, I think it is important to note that Congress  
11 has never attempted to regulate the whole of habeas corpus by  
12 statute.

13           On the contrary, Sections 2241 through 54, that the  
14 habeas corpus statutory scheme has a very skeletal framework.  
15 Essentially it codified the common law procedure which was a  
16 very widespread and well developed procedure in habeas corpus.

17           But it does not pretend to regulate all the procedures.  
18 If it did and if respondent's position were adopted this Court  
19 would have to find, for instance, that the appointment of  
20 counsel in habeas corpus is no longer permitted, because there  
21 is nothing in Congressional authority to suggest that counsel  
22 can be appointed in habeas corpus. That has been done through  
23 the traditional exercise of the Court's power.

24           There are similar other exercises that the Court has  
25 taken traditionally in habeas corpus to facilitate the ultimate



1 resolution of fact issues. In interrogatories, appropriate  
2 interrogatories such as the ones in this case, are really no  
3 different in quality or in burden from those procedures that  
4 the Court has been permitted to adopt without controversy for  
5 many years.

6 Finally, respondent relies on the case of Miner  
7 against Atlas for the proposition that this Court should look  
8 strictly to Congressional authority because in that case the  
9 Court looked to Congressional authority before extending the  
10 use of discovery depositions in admiralty proceedings. Yet  
11 it is perfectly clear from the face of Miner against Atlas  
12 that there was in admiralty proceedings a blanket exclusion  
13 adopted in the rules, that is to say a blanket exclusion of all  
14 of the Federal rules to admiralty proceedings.

15 On the contrary, in habeas corpus such a blanket  
16 exclusion was considered by Congress, by the framers of the  
17 rules and explicitly rejected. And we have put in our addendum  
18 to our reply brief the indication that this was the case. And  
19 in place of this blanket exclusion Congress did adopt 81(a) (2)  
20 which clearly does extend appropriate Federal rules to habeas  
21 corpus proceedings.

22 There are other reasons why this Court in Miner and  
23 Atlas decided that it could not use discovery in admiralty  
24 proceedings which do not apply in the present case. One of which  
25 was in the Congressional adoption of the certain Federal rules

1 to be included in the general admiralty rules, Congress  
2 considered discovery and explicitly rejected discovery. And for  
3 that reason this Court noted in Miner against Atlas that there  
4 was an explicit rejection of discovery in admiralty which  
5 was tantamount to a Congressional expression of will. There  
6 is no expression of will in habeas corpus.

7 On the contrary, as I have just mentioned, it is  
8 clear that 81(a)(2) does extend certain of the Federal Rules  
9 of Civil Procedure.

10 Finally, I think it is important to note that we  
11 consider this case of the utmost importance to habeas corpus  
12 proceedings and petitioners throughout the country. For if it is  
13 clear that Townsend against Sain and the other decisions of  
14 this Court which have interpreted the common law practice  
15 and the skeletal framework that Congress has set forth require  
16 a Court to develop issues of fact, it is clear that interrogatories  
17 should be permitted in this case and appropriately in other  
18 cases as well.

19 I would like to close by pointing out that in this  
20 particular case there is no doubt that the evidentiary hearing  
21 that Mr. Walker will ultimately come to will turn greatly upon  
22 the information that we have requested in these interrogatories.  
23 Without this information it will be virtually impossible for  
24 counsel to know what witnesses to call at that hearing. It would  
25 be impossible for him to know how to resolve the conflicting

1 testimony that took place in the preliminary examination and in  
2 the trial which led to a finding of probable cause, but which  
3 since that trial has indicated that it was incorrectly stated.

4 Q What I have difficulty with, Mr. Pottinger,  
5 is this: Why can't you get all that right at the hearing?  
6 You have to make, as has been pointed out, explicit allegations  
7 of the denial of the basic constitutional rights in your  
8 habeas corpus application. And the District Court, as I  
9 understand it, has already granted your motion for an evidentiary  
10 hearing.

11 A Yes, that is correct.

12 Q Why do you need to get all of this in advance  
13 of the hearing? Why isn't the hearing the place for that  
14 under the provisions of 2246?

15 A The short answer to that, Mr. Justice, is that  
16 we need the information for all the reasons that civil litigants  
17 need discovery to prepare a trial in a civil case.

18 Q The issue here, as I understand it, is whether  
19 or not there was probable cause for a search of a hotel room  
20 across the bay, across San Francisco Bay?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q Whether or not one Francis somebody or other  
23 was a reliable informant.

24 A Right.

25 Q And that issue can be developed right there in

1 the hearing, can't it?

2 A No, I don't believe it can for this reason.

3 And it is important to look at the reasons that exist in this  
4 case and which were argued to the District Court, because Chief  
5 Judge Harris asked precisely the question you are asking  
6 now and was convinced that interrogatories were essential.

7 The reasons are these: The preliminary hearing for  
8 Mr. Walker, there was testimony by the arresting officer  
9 that they had 20 prior arrests and convictions and on that ground  
10 and explicitly on that ground the Court found reliability and  
11 therefore found probable cause. At the petitioner's trial that  
12 same officer could only testify to two such occasions. One  
13 of those occasions turned out to be a lack of conviction. In  
14 fact, it indicates that perhaps the information was unreliable  
15 that was given by Miss Jenkins. The other occasion Miss Jenkins  
16 herself has sworn under penalty of perjury she did not give  
17 information to the police on it.

18 Now we have this direct conflict. And for that  
19 reason the Court saw that it very well may be that the informant  
20 who now contends, in effect, that she was not reliable to  
21 the same extent that the police contend the Court find that  
22 that issue must be resolved. If we have to wait until the  
23 police officer is called at that hearing, which is the last  
24 chance for Mr. Walker, and ask him at that time for the first  
25 time the same questions which we asked in those interrogatories,

1 we are simply going to have to take his answer. If he says,  
2 "I can't remember" or if he distorted or embellished the  
3 testimony on the first occasion, I am simply going to have  
4 to take that answer. I will have no way to know how to rebut  
5 it. I will have no way to know how to impeach him if necessary,  
6 I will have no way to know what other witnesses he should call  
7 or I should call.

8 Q I would suggest that you are even going to be  
9 more limited on your interrogatories because when you are asking  
10 the Warden these questions, the honest answer to your questions  
11 is, "I don't know."

12 A Perhaps if that defect, or that technicality  
13 is controlling, we will have to resolve it by addressing the  
14 interrogatories directly to the state under the theory that  
15 the state is the real party in interest. And for that reason  
16 we will nonetheless secure these answers directly from the  
17 police officer.

18 But I consider the law to take care of that particular  
19 question at the present time because the real party in interest  
20 theory would seem to us to allow us to get behind the Warden  
21 to the real party in interest under present standards.

22 Q When was the rule of discovery authorized in  
23 civil cases?

24 A In civil cases?

25 Q Yes.

1           A     There was a type of discovery available, as the  
2 Court is aware under equity Rule 58.

3           Q     That is right, equity; but I am talking about  
4 civil cases, just the general rule like you have now.

5           A     I believe in 1938 ---

6           Q     Where you can notify a man one day in Maine  
7 to meet you out in California the next day. When was that  
8 rule adopted? What I am getting at is that was a serious question  
9 of policy, wasn't it?

10          A     Yes.

11          Q     I may say that I don't mean to usher in this,  
12 but I have heard more criticism of the indignity of the  
13 suffering under that rule of discovery than any other civil  
14 rule that has been adopted. It is a question of policy,  
15 isn't it?

16          A     I believe in the initial instance it was.

17          Q     You don't think it is now?

18          A     Well, I believe that the policy question has  
19 been answered with regard to habeas corpus.

20          Q     It has been answered in reference to those it  
21 has been answered in reference to, yes.

22          A     Which includes habeas corpus.

23          Q     Well, you say then that the rule applies?

24          A     That is correct.

25          Q     That is your argument that the rule applies

1 and we don't have to make up any out of our inherent power  
2 to legislate?

3 A We don't believe so, Mr. Justice Black, but we  
4 believe that in the event that the Court is of a different  
5 mind that certainly inherent power is a second alternative,  
6 one that is undisputed and one which flows not only from  
7 ex parte Peterson, but from the explicit nature, the implications  
8 of Townsend against Sain, which was to command the Court to  
9 inquire into issues of fact and to give the petitioner a  
10 full and fair hearing.

11 And we believe that in this case, as I have just  
12 explained, and in other cases, it will be impossible to give  
13 him a full and fair hearing without appropriate discovery.

14 Now, I believe that ---

15 Q You have made a good argument for him.

16 A I believe with regard to the civil rules, however,  
17 to answer your question directly, that the policy decision was  
18 made in 1938 when rule 81(a)(2) was adopted and that decision  
19 did include not only an application of the Federal Rules to  
20 general civil proceedings, but also to habeas corpus. And,  
21 properly interpreted, the language of Rule 81(a)(2) would  
22 lead the Court to that conclusion.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Pottinger, before  
25 you sit down, I would like to say to you that on behalf of the

1 Court we appreciate your acceptance of the assignment by this  
2 Court to represent this indigent defendant. We consider that  
3 a public service of real magnitude. We always appreciate  
4 it when lawyers appear in that sense.

5 This has been an important case and with an important  
6 issue, albeit an opaque one. But it has been very well argued  
7 on both sides in this case. We appreciate what you have done.  
8 And we appreciate, Mr. Granberg, your diligent and fair  
9 representation of the interest of the State. And, Mr. Feit,  
10 we also appreciate your interest in representing the interest  
11 of the Government.

12 MR. POTTINGER: Thank you, Your Honor. The honor  
13 is mine.

14 (Whereupon, at 2:00 p.m., the hearing in the  
15 above-entitled matter was concluded.)  
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