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# Supreme Court of the United States

•	October TERM, 1969	LIBRAR Supreme Churchel State
In the Matter of:		THE PLAN
		Docket No. 72
JOHN HENRY COLEMAN A OTIS STEPHENS,	AND :	
	Petitioners, :	SUPRE MARS
vs.	:	O DAN
ALABAMA,	:	12 AM
	Respondent. :	AM '69

Place Washington, D. C.

Date November 18, 1969

# ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

300 Seventh Street, S. W.

Washington, D. C.

NA 8-2345

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5	Petitioners )	
6	vs ) No. 72	
7	ALABAMA,	
8	)	
9	Respondent ) )	
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900	Washington, D. C. November 18, 1969	
12	The above-entitled matter came on for argument	: at
23	11:43 o'clock a.m.	
14.	BEFORE :	••••
14.	WARREN E. BURGER; Chief Justice	
	WARREN E. BURGER; Chief Justice HUGO L. BLACK, Associate Justice WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, Associate Justice	
15	WARREN E. BURGER; Chief Justice HUGO L. BLACK, Associate Justice WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, Associate Justice JOHN M. HARLAN, Associate Justice WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR., Associate Justice	
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MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Number 72. Coleman and Stephens against Alabama.

PROCEEDINGS

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Mr. Tartar, you may proceed whenever you are ready. ORAL ARGUMENT BY CHARLES TARTER, ESQ.

### ON BEHALF OF PETITIONERS

MR. TARTAR: Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the Court: On July 24th, 1966 in the City of Birmingham, Albama, on a dimly lit highwayin Jefferson County, Alabama, several black individuals attacked a white man and his wife on the side of the road while they were fixing a flat on their car These black individuals fired a pistol twice into the body of the gentleman fixing the car. A passing car caused the individuals to flee from the scene and on September 29, 1969 -- 1966, I beg your pardon -- approximately two months later, they were arrested.

They were interrogated; they were placed in a lineup; they were taken before a Magistrate for a preliminary hearing. They were arraigned; they were tried; they were convicted; thus this case has sought its way to this Court.

The question is whether or not the preliminary hearing is a critical stage in the proceedings of a criminal case, requiring the presence of counsel.

However, the real case here -- the real issue here is in regard to a poor man being a defendant in the preliminary hearing.

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The Sixth Amendment says: "In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

And I suggest to you that were it not for the fact that these defendants are poor they would not be have today.

The Court has interpreted the Sixth Amendment to mean that Counsel is needed at the accusatory stage; at the interrogation; at the lineup; at the arraignment; at the trial; at the appeal; at the proration hearing. But it has excused and ignored the preliminary hearing, which is probably the single-most important phase of criminal procedure.

In my county these defendants could be tried at the Court Courthouse without a lawyer at the preliminary hearing. They could walk three blocks down the street and have a lawyer at the preliminary hearing at the Federal Court. To me that is not equal and exact justice.

Q You are going to tell us, I hope, in the course of your argument, just what is the function of a preliminary hearing in your state and what happens there?

A I'm getting to it in just a moment, if Your Honor please. I have listed 17 reasons in my brief.

The Court in the past has refused to call the preliminary hearing critical because a plea was not required. In White versus Maryland and once again, in Pointer versus

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Texas.

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Well, let me clear up one thing for my own 2 situation. At the time that the accused or a person, goes to 3 preliminary hearing in Alabama, is he then a defendant? Has 13. any charge been lodged against him? 53 A Yes, Your Honor. A warrant is obtained after his arrest. He is lodged in the city jail; a warrant is 2 obtained after his arrest; he is taken over to the county 3 jail; a bond is set by the Sheriff, with the exception of a 9 capital case and then he is taken forthwith within ten days 10 before a Magistrate -- usually within ten days before a 11 Magistrate and there a preliminary hearing is held, or semb-12 lance of a preliminary hearing, without a lawyer. 13 This is not the same animal that was before 0 14 the Court in Hamilton against Alabama. 15 That's a very confusing case. A 16 That was an arraignment; was it not? 0 17 They called is an arraignment and they they A 18 called it -- the Court talks about a preliminary hearing. 19 But it was, in fact, an arraignment after in-0 20 dictment; was it not? 21 It was an arraignment; yes, sir. A 22 After indictment. 0 23 A Yes, sir. 24 Or information. And this is quite different. 0 25

This is pre-indictment.

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A Yes, sir. This is the preliminary hearing, which after the preliminary hearing comes the --

Q He is probably charged ---

A -- then comes the indictment; then comes the arraignment; then comes the trial.

Q Now,/was the arraignment that was involved in Hamilton?

A Yes, sir.

Q Thank you.

A It's understandable however that the Hamilton case is confusing, because of it being called a preliminary hearing and it really is not; it's an arraignment where a plea is required.

Our statute is very similar to the statute in Pointer versus Texas, where the Court said the preliminary hearing is not a critical stage because a plea was not required. Almost the verbatim statement that was in the White case. However, the Court said, and I quote from the opinion: "Whether there might be other circumstances making a preliminary hearing so critical to the defendant as to call for appointment of counsel, at that stage we need not decide on this record and that question we reserve." It is the question in which you have decided -- in which you have reserved, in Pointer versus Texas, that we raise here.

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Q To answer Mr.Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Stewart we would offer these reasons as towhy preliminary hearing is important and encompasses more than simply probable cause or whether or not a plea is required.

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(1) It is the first opportunity the defendant has to be adequately informed by an allegedly impartial person for that with which he is charged.

(2) It is the first opportunity to be confronted by 'those who willtestify against him.

(3) It is the first opportunity to exa-ine those who will testify against him and have their testimony reduced to writing.

Q Let me ask you -- if I may interrupt you -+ do you say you examine the witnesses against him. Do you mean by that the witnesses who are produced at the hearing or all the witnesses who will be produced at the trial.

A All the witnesses produced at the hearing and all the witnesses subpoenaed by the defendant to testify on his own behalf. And any other witnesses that counsel can find to subpoena or to have present at the prelminary hearing.

Q In this respect, then, it's parallel to the Federal situation?

23 A Yes, Your Honor; in the sense that in the Federal 24 Court obviously the reason why preliminary hearings are not --25 numerous preliminary hearings are not held is because of the

liberal discovery rules in the Federal Court. However, in the State Court there are practically no discovery rules whatsoever. When a lawyer is appointed, as I was in this case, just before the arraignment, I knew alsolutely nothing about the case; nothing. As a matter of fact, I was appointed the day before the case was arraigned and this was a case with great publicity. They were out for two months before they were arrested; newspaper headlines for weeks and days and months until they were arrested; people were upset; money was solicited by groups to help pay for the hospital bill and this sort of thing of the victims. And it was a heinous and terrible crime.

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But the point is that I had nothing -- I couldn't even talk to the witness until the day the motions were tried by His Honor, Judge Gibson, on the direction of the District Attorney.

Q Well, are you suggesting that the Alabama statute contemplates that the preliminary hearing is a discovery mechanism?

20AIt says, if Your Honor please, that it is to21determine probable cause and to --

22 Q Probable cause for what -- a holding? 23 A To bind the defendant over to the grand jury. 24 Now, as Your Honor is well aware, "probable cause" 25 means more than just a brief statement by some individual that

an act occurred in a particular venue and jurisdiction. Q What's the difference between this preliminary hearing and the one that was before us in Hamilton and Alabama? A In Hamilton the case was an arraignment and not a preliminary hearing, if Your Honor please. Q Oh, I see. A It is contended. Q What is the arraignment stage; is it after the

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preliminary hearing?

A The arraignment comes after the preliminary hearing and subsequent to the indictment. Arraignment is where the indictment is read to the defendant and a plea is entered at that time.

But, no lawyer who has ever tried a criminal case, in Alabama or anywhere else in a state court where a preliminary hearing is offered, would dare testify that it is not important. It is probably the single-most critical stage of all the proceedings. It reduces a trial to a mere formality.

Q Let me ask you this question: Under your Alabama procedure, could the state have bypassed the preliminary hearing and have gone right before the grand jury?

A It could, if Your Honor please. It could do that, however we have introduced in our brief and into the trial of themotion before His Honor Judge Gibson that 95

percent of all cases tried in Jefferson County are taken by way of the preliminary hearing. Very, very few -- as a matter of fact, I can't even remember one since I have been practicing law which has been for five years, where a case was taken directly to the grand jury without going through a preliminary hearing. It's just a matter of procedure.

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Q It would be open to the state to do that? Even if you prevailed in this case.

A They could do it. But 11 they did, courts in a populous county such as Jefferson County, they might be there five years before they ever got to trial 11 every case had to go before the grand jury, upon which a warrant is sworn out and on a felony it's just not possible.

So that the preliminary hearing weeds the cases out, so to speak, before they get to the grand jury.

So, there are 17 reasons listed in my brief. You, of course, have a collective mind and you will read my brief. Three is really no need in my just reading out of my brief the 17 points that just first fame into my mind and on Page 11 and Page 12 and Page 13 of my brief, which list the many, many reasons for preliminary hearings.

Q On a selected basis, I read your 17 points. What do you lay the most emphasis on?

A Discovery is the most emphasis. The motion to suppress many times has been very favorable, and Mány cases

have been dismissed in the preliminary hearing as a result of a motion to suppress. Therefore, the man hasn't had to sit in jail and hasn't had his liberty restrained for the six months or nine months that it takes to get to the trial or the merits of the issue; not to mention the practical aspect of it: if you have a good motion to suppress then the state will let it pass for two years and then eventually maybe it will be dismissed. But your client -- and I have several of these, as many lawyers do, rather than the case just being dismissed.

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But it is the question reserved in Pointer versus Texas that we apply to this particular case. Now --

Q I'm reading the sections of your statute on Pages 3 and 4 of your brief and it talks about when the defendant must be discharged and that's Section 139 and then Section 140 it talks about what happens if probable cause is shown. He must be discharged on bail if he can make bail. But if sufficient bail is not given he must be committed to jail. Then what happens?

A Well, then he awaits the action of the grand jury. Then the grand jury acts then the indictment is presented; then an arraignment is held and counsel appointed, if necessary; and then a plea is entered and then a trial.

Q Yes. The grand jury might not indict him.
A Well, that's possible; it is possible.
Q And do you have any practice of charges brought

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by informations?

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A No. Just indictments. It's possible, of course, the grand jury wouldn't indict him, but I suggest to you that if the grand jury wouldn't indict him it would have been dismissed at the preliminary hearing.

Q Well, probably, but not always.

A Well, anything is possible, I guess. But in over the years in trying cases -- criminal cases before the preliminary hearing. Most of them that are dismissed are simply dismissed.

Q Don't your grand juries sometimes ignore it? A Our District Attorney controls the grand juries Your Honor and he's the only one --

Q Could you talk a little louder?

A The District Attorney controls the grand jury and he's the only one in the grand jury room and it's his witnesses that testify before the grand jury, so I would be shocked that if the case were dismissed by the preliminary hearing magistrate that the case would be picked up by the grand jury.

QNo, I mean at the opposite.The opposite.22AOh, just the opposite.Both of them would be-23QRoughly, what's the interval of time between24preliminary hearing and grand jury action?

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Anywhere from 30 to 90 days.

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Q And is the defendant entitled to bail during that period?

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A Well, that's another question. He is entitled to bail, of course, but my clients, due to the publicity of the case, had \$20,000 bond set on both of them at the preliminary hearing without a lawyer and they havebeen sitting in jail since July 29 -- ever since September 29, 1969. Of course they couldn't make a \$200 bond, but they had a \$20,000 bond on each of them.

Of course they had no counsel at the preliminary hearing. If they had counsel at the preliminary hearing this case very well could have been won, if you will read my brief carefully.

Q Can you tell me why the testimony at the preliminary hearing is transcribed and what is done with it after it goes to the --

A That's an unusual thing. Justice Black is probably aware of this. For over 75 years we have had a statute which requires that the testimony be transcribed, recorded and certified to the Circuit Court. It has never been done; ever.

Q As far as you know then it's never gone to the grand jury. And we, as defense lawyers, pay for a court reporter to go to the preliminary hearing and record the testimony and use it later on, in view of the statute.

Incidentally, this statute also calls for punishment for His Honor failing to record and transcribe this testimony and of course, I have never had courage enough to enforce it.

But, it is not only true in Alabama; it is true in many other states of things such as this being ignored and --

Q So, if you want the testimony you take it yourself.

A And if I had been appointed at the preliminary hearing I would have paid for it out of my own pocket and had one made in this case, as I did in another case. Now, I represent no group and I represent no organization; I represent my clients, period; from the beginning to the end in this costs me.

14 Q Does the transcript, when you make it at your
15 own instance, have official status?

A Yes, because I bring the court reporter in to testify to its validity, you see. It does not have official status in the sense that it's a part of the court record. Only when I introduce it in evidence and prove its validity and accuracy.

21 Q Is it done by the court reporter -- the official 22 court reporter?

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A Yes, it is.

Q Well, doesn't the state ever record these --A No, and they try to get mine -- my copy once I

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Non get it done. As a matter of fact, it's really ridiculous and it's a vicious circle, so to speak, but let me give you a prime example of a preliminary hearing which occurred three weeks ago with the permission of the Court. MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: We will hear that after lunch. (Whereupon, at 12:00 o'clock p.m. the above-entitled proceedings were recessed to be resumed at 12:30 o'clock p.m. this same day) 

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

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MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: You may proceed, Mr. Tartar.

MR. TARTAR: Mr. Chief Justice and Members of the Supreme Court: All bet three minutes of my time -- the first 20 minutes have expired and I haven't even gotten to the second point yet.

However, I was about to tell you of a case, and I will say this preliminary: the state contends that the preliminary hearing is not critical and counsel is not necessary. You will, however, note from my brief that the state always has counsel present at the preliminary hearing. They always have counsel present to represent them and to examine the witness at the preliminary hearing. Now, my clients did not have counsel.

Q They always do?

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A They always do; yes, sir.

How long has this custom been in effect?

A Ever since I can remember, if Your Honor please. Of course, I can't remember back when you were District Attorney, but Mr. Bellow informs me that it was during his time, as far as he can remember.

I will say this: this case was brought home to me. Q If you will pardon me, I think I established when I was Solicitor that having attorneys present in Birmingham at

preliminary trials ...

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A Defense lawyers, Mr. Justice?

Q I think ---

A Defense lawyers or solicitors?

Q Prosecuting attorneys.

A Prosecuting attorneys, yes. We have two fulltime prosecuting attorneys at the preliminary hearing in Birmingham now.

As I said, this case was brought home to me -- the importance of it was brought home to me three weeks ago. My clients in this case did not have counsel. Three weeks ago at a prelminary hearing which was held sometime subsequent to the trial I was present, examined the witnesses and we recorded and and transcribed the testimony. Two witnesses appeared against my client in that particular matter. We recorded it. Subsequent to that, nine months later when we got to trial of the case one of the witnesses for the state did not appear. He had a record and he did not appear to testify against the defendant.

One witness did but he had forgotten what he said at the preliminary hearing, but we had it transcribed and recorded. He got up and committed perjury on the witness stand in an effort to convict the defendants. This is clear; it's a matter of record. But with the transcript of the preliminary hearing, my client was found "not guilty."

This was only because of the transcript. Without the transcript he would have been in the penitentiary today. There is no doubt and no question about it whatsoever.

Three experienced lawyers in the City of Birmingham with about 60 or 70 years total experience between the three of them, testified that in their opinion the preliminary hearing was the critical stage in Alabama.

The Assistant Attorney General who argued the case before the Court of Appeals at Alabama admitted before the Court of Appeals that the preliminary hearing in the State of Alabama is a critical stage of the proceedings. He's no longer with the Attorney General's office.

Q This is not — at the preliminary hearings with which I am familiar in the jurisdiction where I used to live the — all the prosecution would do would be to make a prima facie case and the magistrate wouldn't even hear from the defense witnesses. I gather from your statute that yours is quite different; that it imposes the duty upon a magistrate — Section 138, "to examine all the witnesses having any knowledge of any facts relevant to such investigation, whether such witnesses were summoned in behalf of the state or the defendant."

But since you have already told us that at least some of these statutes are dead letters, I wonder what the actual practice is in your district.

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10.1 A The actual practice is to allow the defendant 2 to subpoena witnesses and to put them on for himself and 3 for the state. The state may put on one or two witnesses. 4 They may have a list of witnesses that they have subpoenaed. 5 But they don't put them on, I do, to examine them and to get 6 their statement down on a typewritten record. Most every 7 lawyer that I know of does it. This is true in many many 8 parts of the country that I have been in --9 Q Even your own witnesses? 10 Well, I may not put on my own witnesses, no; A I probably don't. 1 12 Q Well, this 138 says it's the duty of the 83 Magistrate to ---TA. A Well, he can call them if he wishes to, but I don't call them -- I don't subpoena, unless I have an excellent 15 case, if Your Honor please, I don't subpoena. 16 Q No; it wouldn't be tactically very wise. 17 It wouldn't be tactically very correct. I don't A 18 put on my witnesses, but I do put on their witnesses if they 19 don't. 20 Well, my time is up for the 20 minutes but I haven't 21 gotten to the identification question, but if you can visualize 22 in answer to your question, the courtroom there -- the judge, 23 or the magistrate, attempts when he doesn't have a lawyer to 20 try and convince him that he should waive for the grand jury, 25

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and not examine the witnesses. If you can visualize a magistrate with a prosecutor and the witnesses and a defendant who knows nothing about the law whatsoever. All he can think of is getting out of jail, so he sees if he goes to the grand jury he gets out that much quicker.

> ORAL ARGUMENT BY DAVID W. CLARK, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALABAMA, ON BEHALF

# OF THE RESPONDENT

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MR. CLARK: Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the Court. Only one matter has been discussed so far and that is the question of the preliminary hearings in Alabama. I would like to take issue with myopponent on that.

The preliminary hearing in Alabama is one of these things in which an accused may ask for a preliminary hearing. Now, when there is a preliminary hearing the magistrate looks into the matter first, to determine if an offense has been committed and then to he probable cause that the question there committed the offense. And then if that be so, then is it such a matter which is subject to bail.

Now, in the largest cities,/practically the only place the preliminary is used in Alabama. And the reason for that is that these accused want to get out on bail. That's their avenue to get bail in Alabama, is what it amounts to.

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24 Q Doesn't anybody get out on bail except in the 25 big cities?

1 Oh, if they want it they can request it. That's A 2 what I say, they may request a preliminary in any part of the 3 Q Well, in this case did the defendant ask for a 1 5 preliminary? 6 He didask for a preliminary. A 7 0 He asked for a preliminary. I think that is correct, sir. He asked for a 8 A preliminary hearing; it was had on October 14 of 1966. 9 The record will show that he asked for it? 10 0 A I think that is correct, sir. 100 Well, can't he get bail without having a pre-12 0 liminary hearing? 13 A You may; you could file for habeus corpus and 14 they would set bail. 15 Well, is it a rule that unless you have a pre-0 16 liminary hearing you cannot get bail? 17 It could be set by the judge or clerks of the A 18 courts sometimes in small matters: misdemeanors and so forth. 19 Q Well, what is the rule? You said that the reason 20 they had preliminary hearings was to get bail ---21 Is to get bail in a more serious offense. A 22 Why? Why is that so? Q 23 That's the only way they can get it. A 20. Q Why? 23

100 The law sets it out, sir. A 2 The law says that unless you have a preliminary 0 3 hearing, no bail? It sets out the -- Title 15, Section138 and 39 A A add 40, I think, sets out the ways of having a preliminary 5 hearing to set bail. 6 How about 140 on Page 4 of Petitioner's brief 7 0 is the one that imposes the duty to discharge him on bail. 8 I thought that was the case that the Sheriff 0 9 occasionally set bail. Is that just in minor offense? 10 A Very minor misdemeanor cases. 21 Q Well, what if the -- was it indicated a while 12 ago that a prosecutor could take his case directly to the 13 grand jury rather than have a prelminary hearing? 14 If the accused doesnot ask for a prelminary A 15 hearing then when the grand jury meets the matter may be 16 presented to the grand jury and an indictment returned and 17 then, of course, you have the arraignment and trial. 18 'But if the accused says, "I waive a preliminary 0 19 hearing," is he also waiving bail? 20 In a sense; yes. A 29 He is? 0 22 A Yes, Your Honor. 23 Can he secure bail after the indictment by Q 24 applying to the court? 25 21

2 Yes, sir. Usually on that when there is an A 2 indictment returned the judge sets bail on that. 3 Q At the time of the arraignment? A A At the time of the arraignment they are ready 5 to start trial then. The arraignment, sir is --6 Q Would he plead guilty or not guilty or inter-7 pose any other defenses in answer to an indictment and then the trial starts two minutes after that in your state? 3 A No, not that quickly, but at that time of 9 arraignment, of course, they could interpose any pleas they 10 want to put in there at the time. 11 Q Mr. Clark, is there some other reason for a 12 prelminary examination other than bail? 13 A Well, naturally, as Mr. Tartar pointed out, to 14 determine if that -- if this particular person who is accused 15 is the one who ---16 Q So there is something more than just bail? 17 A Oh, yes. I wanted to point out that that was 18 one of the things. 19 Q What about the section about reducing all of 20 this to writing? 21 A That is a matter, as Mr. Tartar pointed out 22 that is required in the code and there is a provision that if 23 it's not done the magistrate could be fined. Now, that is 24 sometimes done and sometimes it isn't, I mean as far as the --25

.week You mean that sometimes he's fined? 2 No, no, I mean the recording of the --A 3 Oh, I see. 13 What's the geenral policy in Birmingham where this 5 was? 6 I think it is just as Mr. Tartar pointed out. A 7 The defense attorneys have it done. I do have a case in the Birmincham area now in which a preliminary was had and was 8 recorded and they use that sometimes to, as Mr. Tartar said, 9 rely on that to impeach a witness. 10 But the state didn't provide it? 11 0 No. 12 Z Q Defendant paid for it. The poor defendant 13 couldn't pay for it; do you agree on that? SA. I don't know his financial status at that time. A 15 I think that Mr. Tartar said he was court-appointed, so I 16 assume the man didnot have money to pay for it. 87 Now, one of the contentions of Mr. Tartar in his 18 17 contentions he has got in his brief for the reasons he 19 should have an attorney is that this matter could be used at 20 the main trial. The evidence, had it been there. And I 21 would like to call the Court's attention to it that if 22 defendants were not represented by counsel at the preliminary 23 any statements made by them would be inadmissible at the trial, 24 Now, that's Appendix, Page 50 and 69 and the rest of 25

1 Page 74. That was determined three times in the motion 2 in which Mr. Tartar asked for these matters. Give methosepages again. 3 0 A A Appendix Page 50, 69 and then, if Your Honors want to use the big transcript of the record, Page 74. 5 6 Q Well, that was decided by this court in Pointer 7 against Texas. Yes, sir. That was one of the contentions, 8 A though, that Mr. Tartar pointed out. But what I am saying is 9 that the testimony at the preliminary is only used occasionally 10 to impeach a witness. 11 So, that's really the only purpose. 12 Now, I would like to point out that that would not 13 be in conflict with the Barber versus Page which Mr. Justice 1a Marshall wrote the opinion in that particular case. I think 25 they read some of the evidence from the preliminary into the 16 main trial. 17 I would like to call the Court's attention to 18 Pages 7 and 8 of my brief in which I actually quoted the Court 19 of Appeals there, because of the purpose of the preliminary. 20 I couldn't say it better; I think that covers it. 21 It tells whether an offense has been committed and 22 whether to hold ar release the accused and to determine bail 23 in the -- cases. That's the purpose of having the preliminary. 20. I would like now, if the Court has no further 25

questions, to go on this matter of lineup.

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This case occurred subsequent to the ruling in Stovall versus Dennowhich declared that any consultations after, I believe June the 12th of 1967 that the Wade and Gilbert decisions were not applicable as far as requiring an attorney. This happened prior to Wade or Gilbert.

Therefore, this would come up before the Court on the question of whether, at this pretrial lineup when the defendant did not have counsel, whether based on the totality of the circumstances the confrontation was such that, so suggestive as to cause misidentification.

Now, this gets on the totality of circumstances which to my way of thinking is just: does the evidence support it. Now, reading the case over, the transcript, I notice that the first 123 pages, and I think the Appendix cites those pages. Now, that bill with a motion to suppress any statements made by the defendants or any statements that the detectives who interrogated the defendants would tostify to, as well as any identification by Casey Frank Reynolds, the Prosecuting witness in this case.

Now, the state confessed the motion as to any confessions or statements made to the detective and any statements made by he defendants in this case. There were two defendants tried jointly, incidentally.

They confessed this motion so the only thing that the

Court overruled was the part about permitting Mr.Reynolds to testify as to the identification.

Now, the -- that brings us really to the merits of this case, which is in the record from Pages 143 to 240, in the large record which as I understand, the Court, in addition to the little appendix, will look at.

Briefly, this case was one in which a man and his wife had been to Coleman, Alabama on a Sunday -- I believe it was July 24, 1966. They were returning to their home in Bluff Park, which is a suburb of Birmingham. They had a flat tire and the man got out to change the tire. While he was crouched over changing the tire three men came across and fired a shot. The first one hit him in the neck. And then one grabbed his wife and he said that he was about three feet away from the man who grabbed his wife and he saw his face clearly.

That was John Henry Coleman. He identified him at the trial.

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Q What are you arguing now?

A Onthe merits of the case to show the lineup. was all right. I don't know any way to show the lineup was proper except in these ways. I want to show that the identification, included identification was based on something other than viewing the lineup.

Therefore, if the Court will indulge me for a minute

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I will go into this.

Now, he stated that about this time another car came by; the lights flashed and these three man ran across the road and this one was about ten feet away from him, facing him. He took the pistol and shot him. He said, "I recognized that man. He shot me," as Otis Stephens. "And I saw his face." That's in the record.

Now, Mr. Casey Frank Stephens was in the hospital for about eight or nine days. They took him to the hospital and fortunately his life was saved.

Now, on September, I believe, the 29th, the police brought in several suspects. They called Mr. Reynolds to come and look at the lineup. There is a little discussion about whether they told him that these were some of the people who had shot him or not. He said that he doesn't recall them telling him that, but that he assumed that that was the only the purpose would have for calling him. He had done nothing; no violation of the law on his part.

So, he went down there. They brought these men in the lineup and I understand the lineup in the Birmingham area is there is a stand about four feet high and the man used a peephole. He was there by himself. Incidentally, there were no other prosecuting witnesses there to compare notes and say "this one is the one," and what not. Casey Frank Reynolds looked. The first man he saw he said, "That's the man who

shot me." Identified Otis Stephens.

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Then they had the other ones line up; there were six of them. From thislineup he picked two of the men who had been in the assault with intent to murder the night of July the 24th.

Now, I would like to call the Court's attention to Appendix Pages 88 and 89. There were six men in this lineup. Otis Stephens, if you will notice, was six foot two and weighed 173 pounds. They had three men of approximately the six-foot variety and the same weight and size. Now,

Now, Coleman, on the other hand, was a short man five foot four and a half inches tall. They had three men of his approximate size. One was five-foot seven; one was fivefeet eight and of course, Coleman.

The reason I point out that, gentlemen, so many cases are reversed because you might have something like this: the prosecuting witness would say, "well, he was a bald-headed man,"so they bring in three or four and one is bald headed and the other three have a lot of hair, and he says, well, that's the one who did it.

What I'm pointing out here is that these were the same size and types of people. Now, there is only one possible flaw and I don't think that's a flaw in it. Coleman, one of the defendants, had on a hat.

Now, there was no testimony at the trial on the

motion to suppress as to the fact of who caused him to wear 2 this hat; did the police require him to? He wore a hat at the time of the assault, incidentally. Somewhere in the law we 3 have to give a problem common sense. What was his habit of B doing; did he wear a hat all the time? 5 Now, or did somebody require him to put it on. Now, S he testified on the motion to suppress. He testified again on 7 -- at the principal trial, I believe. Nowhere in there did he 3 say "they forced me to put on a hat." He had able counsel at 9 this point, I brought that out and they didn't bring it up. 10 So, it must be assumed that he wore a hat all the 100 time. 12 Where did this lineup take place? 0 13 In Birmingham. A 1A. Well, in Birmingham, but where in Birmingham? 0 15 In, I believe it was the city jail. A 16 Inside. 0 17 Yes, sir; it was inside. A 18 Four walls and a roof? 0 19 Yes, as I pointed out, there was a little stand A 20 about four feet high that they walked across the stage. .21 0 In a room inside? 22 In a room inside. A 23 What building did you say? 0 24 I think it was the Birmingham Jail. A 25

Q You mean in jail?
A Yes, Your Honor.
Q And does the record show what kind of a hat
this what that the man wore?
A No, sir; they didn't say whether it was felt,
straw or what. They just said, "a hat."
Q Did it show it was the same hat that he was
wearing at the time of the offense for which he was being charged?

A No, sir; never found out that. It just said he had a hat and Mr. Casey Reynolds said that he had the hat down on his face so he couldn't see his face and he asked him to move his hat back and forward, which he did and I think he took off and the identification was made. Mr. Reynolds said he thought that was the man to start with and to make the identification positive he had him remove his hat back so he could see his face.

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Q Move his hat down?

A You see he had it down first hiding most of his face. So they had him push it to the back of his head.

Q And at the time of the offense was it testified he had it down or up?

A Since you mentioned it, he said he saw his face at the time that Coleman grabbed Mr. Reynolds' wife, who he said he was three feet away from. He said, "I saw his face "

 So, I assume the hat was up chough so that he could see the man's face.
 Q From where were these men brought into the lineup room? From where were they brought?

A They were from the Birmingham area. I think their addresses are in the record.

Q Well, I mean directly -- they came into the lineup in this -- these -- they came into the lineup from where? From outside?

A I know that two or three of them were definitely arrested. Let's see, somewhere in the record there is evidence that I believe it was Coleman and Hodges were arrested on escape charges from the city, so they were brought in; they were arrested for that. Whether theother two or three were just people brought in -- I believe Robert Steele was also brought in in custody.

Q Well, I'm interested in your theory that this man just had a habit of wearing a hat 24 hours a day: lineup, outside, and I just wondered when they came into thelineup --

And where did he come from at that time? From

A He had a hat on.

Q outside?

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A He was in jail; inside.

24 Q Your suggestion is he just wears a hat all the 25 time; is it?

A Yes, sir; I realize that's unusual, but some people do have peculiar habits of wearing things. And as I point out, nowhere in there does he say, "They made me put a hat on." Now, he does say in the record, he said, "They made me say certain words." He says, "They made me say certain words; they made Otis Stephens say certain words and they made Hodges say certain words; "none of the others."

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Now, that is at variance with the testimony of Mr. Reynolds, the prosecuting witness. He said that he wanted him to say something and the police would not let any of those people say any words, thosepeople in the lineup so he couldn't identify them by the words "getting into he woods," or anything of that nature.

Now, I believe Lieutenant Hawk, a detective said that he thought all six of them did, but and then I believe another one -- detective stated that "yes, they : id it but it was after Mr. Reynolds had made the identification."

Now, we feel that this lineup was fair; that this prosecuting witness made the identification. He saw the people who had shot him or were involved in that that night. Now, when he came to trial --I willpoint this out, he made his identification and he said "those are the man. Stephens is the man that shot me and Coleman is the man that was three feet away from me and grabbed my wife. I saw both of the faces." So, what I'm pointing out is that the in-court

identification was not made from what he had seen in the lineup, but rather what he had seen at the time the assault was committed.

I feel that on the totality of the circumstances that is the real meat in the coconut, so to speak, is whether or not the identification was based oneither some pictures or somebody he saw in the lineup when he comes into court and makes an in-court identification or whether it was something separate and apart from the lineup. We maintain here it was something separate and apart from the lineup.

Q What broke up this attempted assault; alleged attempted assault?

A As I pointed out, Mr. Justice, there was a car coming onto this dark road and thelight flashed on these people and the threemen who were involved in the assault rushed across the road and got in their car and left. And the person who was driving by stopped and picked up this Casey Frank Reynolds and took him to the hospital. He was sho: once in the throat and once in the neck. There is a possibility he could have bled to death had somebody not stopped.

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Q Where did this occur, exactly?

A On the Green Springs Highway, which is, as I understand, just off of Higheway 31 going toward Bluff Park. This is not a well-lighted highway, as your Honor probably knows, in Jefferson County there.

Q In the trial of the case was there crossexamination of the complaining witness as to the source of his identification, whether he recalled the faces from the night of the attack and that typical cross-examination of --

A Yes, Your Monor, I think ---

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In other words, the defense attorney had every opportunity to cross-examine. The Court did not cut his cross-examination off.

I feel that just about covers the matter. My time is getting short here. If the Court would like to ask me any further questions I would be glad to answer.

> MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: I think not, Mr. Clark. MR. CLARK: Thank you very much.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you very much. REBUTTAL ARGUMENT BY CHARLES TARTAR, ESO.

## ON BEHALF OF PETITIONERS

MR. TARTAR: May it please the Court to answer the Chief Justice's question with regard to cross-examination of the eyewitness. The first time I ever had an opportunity oto see the man was on the witness stand. I was not allowed to talk tohim at any time before he got on he witness stand, at the direction of the District attorney.

Q I didn't quite hear you.

A I beg your pardon?

I said that was the first opportunity I ever had to

to see the man, /on the witness stand, or to talk to him in any fashion whatsoever, at the direction of the District Attorney. He would not talk to me under any circumstances. And I tried most vigorously.

Q But you did cross-examine him?

A I did cross-examine him but what did I crossexamine him with, if Your Bonor please. I had no transcript, I had no prior tetimony, no statements. Any defense lawyer goes into a criminal courtroom without a prior statement of the witness going to get on the witness stand, in my opinion is negligent and in my judgment, is incompetent to examine a witness on the witness stand.

But I could not do it because he did not have --

Q Of course many times they have to do it without having a prior statement.

A Yes, sir; unfortunately that's true, and many times some people are convicted and sentenced to jail as a result of it.

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Q Sometimes.

A Sometimes; yes, sir.

With regard to the totality of the circumstances the lineup being unnecessarily suggestive, let's look at that just a moment about the lineup and whether or not it was unecessarily suggestive.

This is in the record and I hope this Court will take

35.

, a careful look at the appendix and at the briefs in this particular case. On at least six different occasions prior to the lineup and after viewing mug shots from the Sheriff's office, the victim said, and I quote: "I don't believe I can identify the people." He told the Sheriff's deputies this.

Q Where did you say that was?

A It's in the appendix, if Your Honor please. I have had it cited numerous times in the general course of my brief.

Here is the description that he gave the Sheriff's deputies, not once but several times: "They were all black; they were about the same age and they were about the same height." Well, the only thing they had in common was the fact that they were black, because they were not the same age. One was 18, one was 28, a substantial difference in age. One was six-feet two-inches and the other one was five-feet four inches tall. I suggest that there is a substantial difference between six-two and five-four.

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Q Did you put your client on the stand?

A During the trial of the case? No, sir. The case was lost when the defendant walked into the courtroom so I didn't put him on -- put either one of them on the witness stand.

24 Ω Why was it lost when he walked into the court-25 room?

If Your Honor please, the publicity in this 2 case, the fact that I was unable to examine the eyewitness in 2 the case before getting into the courtroom, without any pre-3 paration whatsoever. All we could do was cross-examine the B. eyewitness. And that was about it. 5 We could not prepare any defense and in any way, 6 shape, fashion or form and as you very well know, of course, 7 it was a heinous crime. 2 What was the defense; not guilty? 0 9 A Not guilty. One of the defendants, John Henry 80 Coleman I am confident was not there that night. The other 11 one, Otis Stephens, was, in fact, there that night. 12 No alibi defense? 0 13 He was with his mother and with his sister. A 14 Did you put that on? 0 15 No, sir. I was going from and this A 16 point from the day that I got in on the case. I was bound by 17 the Supreme Court of the United States and I knew that that 18 was my defense, because to put two colored people on in a 19 case like this, a mother and a sister, saying, "Yes, he was 20 at home watching television," in this case would have been, to 21 say the least, "feeble." 22 Had I had a preliminary hearing and had I been at 23 the preliminary hearing I feel confident it would have been 24 substantially different, as it has in many cases. 25

Q Of course, the purpose of a preliminary hearing, to as I understand it, is/ascertain whether or not there is probable cause to think that an offense has been committed and that this is the man who committed it; is that right?

A Yes, Your Honor.

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Q And has this been an advantageous use by defense counsel that sprung up by defense counsel to take advantage of that for their own benefit. It isn't designed, really, for the purpose of later impeachment or discovery or particularly for the purposes of getting a transcript of those witneses to impeach them. It's purpose simply is just what I stated; is it not?

A To determine probable sause.

Q That an offense has been committed and that this is the man who has done it.

A That is correct. That is the --

Q And if so, then he's held for the grand jury and launched or not on bail in the meantime; right?

A That is the very purpose of it, if Your Honor please.

Q Now, it's the only purpose.

A Well, what does probably cause consist of, Your Honor, please. Probable cause in a motion to suppress, search and dealing with arrest or/seizure is an extremely complicated problem and I am sure Your Honor would not say that counsel

is not necessary in a probable cause situation on a motion or to suppress in a confession or in an arrest/in a certain procedure, probable cause, many times consists of far more than -- it consists of jurisdictional problems; it consists of venire problems, it consists of confessions, it consists of identification problems, or illegally-obtained evidence; all of these.

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Q But you can move on all of those things later; can't you? You can move following the preliminary hearing, motions on all of those subjects; can you not?

A Yes, sir, but my client remains in jail until we are able to --

Q Well, I have not understood your argument to be that if counsel had been there there would have been any possibility in the world that these men would not have been bound over to the grand jury. I understood your argument to be that if counsel had been there he could have arranged for a transcript of the testimony of the victims, the complaining witnesses, to be used later at the trial of these pacple; isn't that your argument?

A That is correct; it could be. But of course, it's also possible I suppose -- and I suppose anything is possible -- thatthey could have dismissed them. I don't know what this eyewitness would have said in the preliminary hearing ten days after they were arrested; that's what I'm saying.

2 I'm saying that six months to nine months latar the eyewitness said one thing. We aren't clairvoyant so we can't 2 3 say what would have happened at the preliminary hearing. 2 And you don't know what did happen; do you? 0 I don't know what did happen at the preliminary 5 A 6 hearing. There is no way to know. 2 If you prevail here there cannot possibly be 0 3 a retrial and another conviction, can there? Because we cannot turn back the clock; we cannot unring the bell; we cannot 9 now provide counsel at that preliminary hearing many years 10 11 ago. 12 That is correct. A So these people willhave to be discharged. 13 0 The same that is true in other cases before thi A 14 this Court. There is no other way. 15 Well, what do you say should be the result if 16 0 it were found he was entitled tohave a lawyer on the prelimin-17 ary hearing? 18 If he was entitled to have a lawyer at the A 19 preliminary hearing I assert that they should be turned loose. 20 Is that the only alternative thatyou can 0 21 suggest? 22 That's the only alternative I can see, if Your A 23 Honor please. There is no way to give us a new and fresh pre-20 liminary trial. If you could, I really would raher it would 25

be that way. I would give anything in the world it this 1 Court could give us a new, fresh, preliminary hearing. 2 But, of course it cannot do that. 3 Well, now, what -- I just suggested that it 0 A could not, but why do you think it could not? 5 Well, the testimony is now that the eyewitness A 6 is now committed, you see. He has now been -- well, we all 2 know as practicing lawyers that the District Attorney spends 8 a substantial time with a case like this on an eyewitness. 9 Now, I'm not saying he told him to say this, but the powerof 80 suggestion is a magnificent thing and I'm saving that in this 22 particular case this witness has said numerous times that he 12 could not identify this -- these people. That he did not 13 believe he could identify them. He gave a description tot-10. ally opposite from that of the defendants. 15 Q Did you offer that evidence? 16 Yes, sir; it's in the record. A 17 You offered that evidence to show the jury? 0 18 that he had made such statements? 19 A Yes, we did. 20 Was it admitted? 0 29 As best I recall it was. I think he denied it. A 22 He admitted it at the motion to suppress and denied it at the 23 trial, was my best judgment. 24 But the best example to you with regard to the state 25 41

believing in the confidence of the eyewitness, in answer to your question, is believing in the confidence of an eyewitness: They took a boy who was out there that night and granted him immunity and put him on the witness stand in order to support the testimony of the eyewitness which says to me that they didn't have the confidence in the eyewitness's testimony, either. But they put him on there and they had him just as much dead to right, so to speak on the identification, as they did the Petitioners.

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Q And did he identify both of these Petitioners as being his colleagues that night?

A He said that both of them were there and John Hollis, another individual who was in the lineup. Otis Stephens testified -- Otis Stephens, one of the defendants, testified at the trial that John Coleman was not there. He testified that Robert Steele, the prosecuting witness, granted immunity, was, in fact there. Those were the four that were there; not John Coleman. John Coleman was not there and Otis Stephens admitted that he was there.

So, John Coleman is the innocent party and I appreciate the indulgence of the Court.

Q Of course, if the state had taken this case before the grand jury you woul have had the benefit of anything before trial, would you?

A That's correct, if Your Honor please. They

don't do it 95 percent of the time.

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Q And you don't deny that they have a right to do that if they wish?

A I don't deny they have a right to do it and once again I will say they do it in 95 percent of the cases. I assume if it was decided that they were entitled to counsel they could, in fact, reverse and go take all the cases to the grand jury. If they did, then it would shock everyone, including me.

Q Could I ask you one more question: Apart from what you argue might have been done in aid of this man if the preliminary hearing had been held with counsel, can you point to any specific prejudice on the record that resulted from the preliminary hearing that was held?

In other words, what I'm asking you: assuming you prevail on your basic point, is there any margin for a harmless held rule in these cases?

A I don't think so, if Your Honor please. There was a question brought up by Mr. Justice Stewart just a moment ago with regard to the fact that Pointer versus Texas pointed out that if a statement was made at the preliminary hearing that it could not be used against him at the trial without a lawyer. But I suggest to you that here is the point that is fair to say: If a defendant without a lawyer makes a statement at the preliminary hearing before the magistrate,

granted it's not admissible but what if he says at the preliminary hearing: "Well, Iwas at home with my mother and my sister." And then, okay, that's not admissible. But then, let's say that he makes that statement at the trial of the case and the police take the fruits of that statement that he made at the preliminary hearing; the results of the statement he made at the preliminary hearing and goes out to his mama and his sister and says, "Was he there; what was he doing there and blah, blah"and a full statement. So they have taken the fruits of what they have said at the preliminary hearing and it would be prejudiced.

Q Well, your man wasn't called by the state in this preliminary hearing; was he?

A As I understand it the magistrate asked him -- asked both of them if they wished tomake a statement; asked both of them if they wished to testify.

Now, whether or not they realized they did not have to testify and that anything they said as a result of it could be used against them, and so on and so forth; I don't know.

Q Did they testify?

I believe that they did.

Q What?

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A I believe that they did. There is not anything in therecord to indicate. I wasn't there; there was no record, so I don't know, but they may not have testified; they may have

testified; I don't know whether they did ... or not. 1 That was my question: how do you have any idea 2 at all of what did happen at thepreliminary hearing? 3 A Just the admission by the state that there was A a preliminary hearing; that they were bound over to the grand 5 jury and ---6 There was no transcript made. 7 0 No transcript made. Idon't know what ---A 3 What judge conducted the preliminary? 0 9 Judge Robert W. Gwynn. If Your Honor recalls A 10 he used to be with Mr. Douglas. 22 Q Could he have been called at your earliest 12 stages and asked to testify as to what had taken place in the 13 preliminary hearing and was any effort made to get his testi-10 mony? 15 The Petitioners? A 16 0 The judge's testimony about what went on at the 17 preliminary hearing. To reconstruct it. 18 Here's what happened on that, Mr. Chief Justice. 73 19 I attempted to subpoena the judge and the record and the three 20 lawyers to prove what happened at the preliminary hearing; the 21 opinion as to the criticalness of the preliminary hearing. 22 Judge Gibson refused to allow me to go into it and I was 23 almost ---24 Q Refused to let you examine the judge? 25

A Refused to let me go intothis question of the lawyer appointment -- the critical stage of the --

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Q Well, did you call on the judge to attempt to prove by him what had been said or ---

A Yes, and Judge Gibson would not let me go into it. I sent a proffer --

Q Is that one of your basis of appeal?

A No, that's an evidentiary question and I can't that that question should be properly before this Court as to whether or not it's admissible or not admissible, but he did allow me to proffer what I would have offered if he would have allowed it. That is what happened. I just made a statement in the record that I would have offered the testimon of statistics to show that 95 percent of all criminal cases coming to the preliminary hearing before going to the grand jury, that there was a preliminary hearing held and they were bound over to the grand jury.

Q This is not the question that we have been pointing at; at least that I have.

The question was: did anyone prevent you from calling the judge who held the preliminary hearing to have that that judge testify in the hearing as to what had taken place?

A Yes.

Q Just that one thing.

A Yes, to answer your question in a simple word;

1 Where is that? 2 They would not let me go into anything --3 Where is that in the record. That you 0 18 summoned the judge and had him there and offered to prove by 5 him what had happened on the preliminary trial. 6 Did you subpoena him? 0 7 No, Your Honor, I didn't subpoena him. A Ś You didn't have him in the courtroom, did you? 0 9 A No; neither did I have the three lawyers there. 10 And in your offer of proof you didn't say you Q 11 would have proved from the judge anything? 12 To be honest with you, I don't recall. A 13 0 I read that part of the transcript, counsel. 14 You offered to prove by lawyers the importance and the value 15 of the presence of a lawyer at the preliminary hearing and 16 I do not recall that you had anything in your proffer 17 relating to what the judge would say. 18 I don't recall, if Your Honor please. I A 19 remember Judge Gwynn was there earlier that morning when we 20 were in the motion and Judge Gibson informed me in his office 21 he would not let me go into it and would let me make a state-22 ment the following morning about this. Now, whether or not I 23 did, I -- to say specifically that I did, I cannot trecall. 24 I made a long statement in the record of what I had hoped to the 25

prove if it had been allowed. But I do not recall specifically. I know that Judge Gwynn was on the same floor where this was held; I know that he was there the morning before; but I do not recall whether or not I actually or specifically made the statement in the record.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: If you find anything, in examining this record, anything that shed light on this you are at liberty to call our attention to a specific part of the record in which it appears. And of course, send your friend a copy of whatever you send us.

> MR. TARTAR: About the judge testifying, Your Honor? MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Right.

Now, Mr. Tartar, you acted at the appointment of the Court and we thank you for accepting this appointment and for your assistance. Thank you gentlemen. The case is submitted.

(Whereupon, at 1:21 o'clock p.m. the argument in the above-entitled matter was concluded)

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