Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1970

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Docket No. 205

In the Matter of:

JOHN HARRY BRUNO,

Petitioner,

VS.

PENNSYLVANIA

Respondent.

SUPREME COURT, U.S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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Place Washington, D. C.

Date December 14, 1970

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

300 Seventh Street, S. W.

Washington, D. C.

NA 8-2345

gu	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	OCTOBER TERM, 1970
3	C10
4	JOHN HARRY BRUNO,
5	Petitioner :
6	
7	vs. No. 205
8	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
	PENNSYLVANIA, :
9	Respondent :
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Cara C	Washington, D.C.
12	Monday, December 14, 1970
13	The above entitled matter came on for discussion at 1:20 o'clock p.m.
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15	BEFORE:
16	WARREN E. BURGER, Chief Justice
17	HUGO L. BLACK, Associate pustice WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS, Associate Justice
18	JOHN M. HARLAN, Associate Justice WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR., Associate pustice
19	POTTER STEWART, Associate Justice BYRON R. WHITE, Associate Justice
20	THURGOOD MARSHALL, Associate Justice HENRY BLACKMUN, Associate Justice
21	
22	APPEARANCES:
23	DANIEL L. QUINLAN, ESQ. Norristown, Pennsylvania
24	On Behalf of Petitioner
25	

Ç	CONTENTS	
2	ARGUMENT OF:	PAGE
3	DANIEL L. QUINLAN, ESQ.	4
4	On Behalf of Petitioner	
5	MILTON O. MOSS, ESQ. On Behalf of Respondent	18
6		
7	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF:	
8	DANIEL L. QUINLAN, ESQ. On Behalf of Petitioner	33
9		
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12		
13		
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APPEARANCES, (continued)

MILTON C. MOSS, ESQ. District Attorney Norristown, Pennsylvania On Behalf of Respondent

q

PROCEEDINGS

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: We'll hear arguments next in
No. 205, Bruno against the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Quinlan?

ARGUMENT OF MR. DANIEL L. QUINLAN, ESQ.

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

MR. QUINLAN: Mr. Chief Justice, and if the Court please. John Harry Bruno was born and raised in the bourough of Norristown which is about 20 miles west of Philadelphia. Now the records in this case show that he attended public school, it was elicited through the various hearings, habeas coupus hearings, supression hearings, sanity hearings that he had never been in trouble.

Low and behold he was drafted by the United States Army, in November of 1961, and at some point during his basic training, abbreviated though it was, it was determined that John was unlike the other draftees. That he was sick and he was transferred to Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado, where he was in a psychiatric ward.

He was discharged by the United States Army in May of 1961 and sent home by himself.

Now prior to that, a murder had taken place in October of 1961, in Norristwon, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Husband and wife were killed. Subsequent to Johns discharge from the army, he held jobs in Norristown, and was not in any trouble that anybody knows of, although the reocod does show that subsequent to December of 1963, when two other people were murdered, John

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1	was interrogated by the County detectives and/or the District
2	Attorney's Office, and now its 1964, and given a lie detector
3	test.
4	Q. Mr. Quinlan, how is this background relevant to the
5	question of whether he can be held in custody pending trial
6	A. Well, Mr. Chief Justice
7	Q while he is under a finding that he is incompetent
8	to be tried. That's the real issue in the case, isn't it?
9	A. Yes, sir. From the very beginning, Mr. Chief Justice,
0	I entered my appearance within a week or ten days the District
11	Attorney petetioned for a sanity commission, alleging that John
12	was insane.
3	And not competent to stand trial
4	Q. Against his background wasn't that almost imperative?
5	A. No, sir. All they had to base their petition on was
16	the confession that they elicited from John Bruno when they
7	held him for 26 hours
8	Q. Didn't they
19	Awithout a lawyer.
20	Q. Didn't they know his medical history?
1	A. No sir, they did not. They subpoened his medical
22	Q. Does the record show that they didn't know it?
23	A. At that point they didn't know it.
24	Q. Does the record show it?
25	A I helieve it does. Mr. Chief Justice, ves. The record

of his medical records were not brought into the picture until
the sanity commission actually sat in 1967. And they subpoened
them. The record will also show that one judge practically signed
all the orders in thic case.

Now I resisted the appointment of the samity commission, at the same time I filed a petition for a habeas corpus hearing to find out what they did have against John Bruno. As Mr. Justice Roberts said, at the first appeal in the State Supreme Court, how in the world can they take an illegal confession and hold it here and say if John Bruno did these terrible things, for the reasons that he gave for doing them, then he must be crazy.

Now if the confession is inadmissable im a courtroom, it should not have been used for them to determine that they should proceed for a samity commission.

- Q. In order to maintain that position you would in fact be saying that a psychiartist confronted with the statement that he did, or may have committed these crimes and that this was his explanation, that the psychiartist would not say that this man should not be subject to further psychiatric examination?
 - A. Yes, Mr. Chief Justice, and that't just what they did.
 - Q. Shouldn't they have done so?
- A. Not in my opinion. This man was arrested, indicted, and held on open charges for having killed five people. I think that the plea of insanity is up to him, we never entered a plea of

insanity in this case, and all the psychiatrist had at the hear-2 ing was John's confession and the army medical records. And the 3 army medical records were November and December of 1960, and January, February, April, and March of 1961. The samity commission hearings were not held until 1967, and I was there and the record will show that the sanity commission hearing consisted 7 of all the police, the county police, detectives, state police, two police departments, municipalities, saying we were in there, there was a total of 12 - 15 policemen interrogating John, and 10 he admitted doing these things and he gave as his reason for The same doing it that his father told him that there people had put 12 the evil eye on him.

- Q Mr. Quinlan, standing alone, wouldn't that alert any doctor, even if he were not a psychiatrist, to at least a strong suspicion that there was something mentally wrong with this man?
- A Yes, Mr. Chief Justice, except the test for the man's competency to stand trial in Pennsylvania is whether or not he -understands the nature of the proceedings against him, and does he have the ability to confer with counsel.
- Q Doesn't that put them on notice that they should make that further inquiry? about his capacity to cooperate in his own defense? If it doesn't then the laws of all the other 49 states are wrong, Mr. Quinlan.
- A. Well, I don't think that it can be used to commit him to an institution for the criminal insane.

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Q Mr. Quinlan, how long have you had this sanity commission procedure in Pennsylvania? Is this a long established routine in criminal cases?

A. The act, I believe, is 1951. The act, since then, has been repealed. I initially contended that the District Attorney was not a person under that act entitled to initiate the proceedings. The trial court overruled me, the State Supreme Court said the issue was interlocutory, and on appeal, if Your Honors please, this case was argued in the Pennsylvania State Srpreme Court in January of 1968.

Before an opinion came down, Justice Musminel died. The Chief Justice, Chief Justice Bell ordered it back on the argument list, and Justrice Primary, who had been appointed in Justice Musminels place sat with the court--

- Q. Let me follow through on my inquiry. You say you've had it since 1951. To what extent---well, let me ask this. Do you have a procedure for civil commitment---
 - A. Yes, sir.

- Q. ---in Pennsylvania?
- A. Yes, Your Honor.
- Q. How do the two procedures differ?
- A. I won't profess to be an expert on it, but basically in a civil proceding all you---up until recently all you needed was a certification by two doctors. Now in Pennsylvania, there must be a hearing in front of Commonplace Judge, for a civil

commitment. This was a civil procedure, the Mental Health Act.

And they had sections in it basically which said that if a man who's in custody, or in prison, or serving time was found to be imcompetent he could be transferred to an institution for the criminal insane.

There were no cases, Mr. Justice Blackmun, in Pennsylnvnia, where this had ever been done before.

- Q. Well, do I understand that the sanity hearing and the civil commitment procedure are or are not different in Pennsylvania?
 - A. Well, basically now they'd be the same.
 - Q. At the time. Were they the same at the time?
 - A. No, they were different.
- Q One further question. Would he be likely to end up -in a different institution under the sanity hearing then he would if he were civilly committed?
- A. The net result would probably be the same, and that's why I presented the arguments of the District Attorneys and I think Mr. Chief Justice Bell, and I know the trial judge, Jadge Honeyman has said that I am taking advantage of this fellow, whereas I'm not, because the realities of the situation is that all they have is the confession they have a gun that they can't use and if we went to trial based on over twenty years of experience I don't think they would get beyond a demurr, but if they did get beyond a demurr, and John was convicted, what would

he get? He would not get the electric chair because the reality of the situation is that once the man was convicted I'd put him on the stand, and nobody would sentence him to the electric chair so the most he would get would be life.

Now he's already been condemned to life in an institution for the criminal insane which is far worse. They can call it a hospital, but it's an institution for the criminal insane.

- Q Wwll was he likely to end there had he been civilly committed, in the same institution?
- A. Under present law, yes, sir. The institution could transfer him and there would n't be a thing I could do about it but at least he would have had his trial.
- Q. Now one further question and then I'll stop. Are you familiar with the federal procedure under 18USC 4244?
 - A. No, I'm not, sir.
- Q. Well, my question is, and I'd be interested in your reaction ulitmately, whereer if you prevail here, the federal system is placed in jeopardy, constitutionally.
- A But I can't answer that question because I'm not familiar with---
- Q. Could I just ask you I take it that when your client was committed here that the commission that was conveded found that not only was he unfit to stand trial but that he had criminal tendencies, is that right?
 - A. Yes, sir.

The same

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Case .	Q Let's assume that the state dropped the criminal
2	charges against your client right now. Would they have to re-
3	lease him?
4	A Yes, sir. There's a procedure and he'd be committed
5	to Norristown State Hospital.
6	Q Well, you mean the commissionenough has already
7	happend in terms of procedings and findings to warrant this
8	confinement even if there were no criminal charges against him?
9	A Yes, sir.
10	Q And so your claim really is narrowed down to whe-
took took	ther or not you can prevent a person from having a trial.
12	A Yes, sir. You see, that's been my issue right from
13	the very begining and I suppose
14	Q Well, if he were tried and found innocent he stays
15	exactly where he is.
16	A No. No sie. If he were tried and found innocent they
17	would have to commit him to an ordinary state hospital. Here
18	he's in an institution for the criminal insane. That's the only
19	people who go there. Men who are
20	Q Well I just asked you a minute ago that if the state
21	dropped its charges against him whether he would stay exactly
22	where he is, and you said yes.
23	A I interpreted your
24	Q He gave the same answer to the question I asked.
25	A I misunderstoodby stay in the same place, I mean

900 he would be confined. 2 Now if he was tried ---Q There are enough findings already made to justify 3 1 his confinement somewhere---5 That's right. But one's a criminal institution and A the other's just a state hospital. Now---6 7 Q Can no one who is committed by civil procedings end up in the institution that he is now in? 8 A I suppose it's possible if the---9 Q If they find he has criminal tendencies. 10 33 A Yes, sir. Q But the commission here found he had criminal ten-12 dencies. 13 A I know, Mr. Justice White, but they did it on the 14 basis of an illegal confession where he says that ---15 Q Well, they didn't just rest, as I understand it on 16 the fact that he was charged with this crime. 17 A And his armymmedical record, he didn't answer any 13 questions, because I didn't let him. He drew some figures, they 19 asked him to draw some squarea and blocks. I dont know what ---20 Q What's the basis for the commissions finding that he 21 had criminal tendencies? 22 A The confession where he said he killed five prople 23 because they had put the evil eye on his parents. And the army 21 medical record whichssais that he was a schizophrenic. 25

Q Were you permitted to put in evidence before the consission?

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A No, sir, but---

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2 But you could have.

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A I could have, but my evidence would have necessitated putting John Bruno on the stand.

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Now subsequent to the adoption of the sanity commissions report, Judge Honeyman, who was the judge who appointed the commission said that under the act I had a right to a hearing.

And I didn't ask for a hearing because I would have had the hearing in front of a judge and I would have had to put John

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on the stand.

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recommendation. Now he had two psychiatrists, the judge did,

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and a lawyer, a very distinguished senior member of our bar, but

So I simply filed exceptions to the sanity commission

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he doesn't practice criminal law and he hasn't for at least

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fifteen years, and that lawyer recieved an order, this is on the

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record from the judge, you admit John's army medical record.

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By order of the court. Thay's all they had to decide - the army

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said he's schizophrenic, and Jphn days he killed five prople -

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he must have criminal tendencies.

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offered to swear to it, that in my opinion as a lawyer, John did

And the record will also show that I said, and that I

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understand the nature of the procedings against him, he knows

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very well that he's been charged with killing five people, and

that he could confer with counsel. And they said, well we're 2 not interested ---3 Q Did you indertake to have him examined by an indep-4 endent psychiatrist, and have the psychiatrist testify to those same facts? I had him examined, Mr. Chief Justice, but I didn't 7 have the psychiatrist testify. I had him examined to find out primarily if John is telling the truth and I'm still not sure tisay if John killed these five people or his father did. 10 His father is---Q Wouldn't this have been the occasion for you to have 17 the psychiatrist at least to indicate the objective factors to 12 would show capacity to understand the nature of the charges and 13 cooperate with coulsel in defense? 14 15 A Mr. Chief Justice, I didn't want to do it. I did not think I had to do it ---16 Q Well, it's done every day in the week in a great 17 many places. 18 A I know, but there were no statutes in Pennsylvania 19 that required that I do it that way and I felt that if John 20 had been arrested and indicted and charged with five murder 21 shat he had a right to stand trial. 22 I realize the state Supreme Court had narrowdd the issues. 23 The late Judtice Collins said this case raises the question of 24 the rights of an incompetent. Who decides whether he stands 25

trial? Two psychiatrists? Or his lawyer? 2 Where is the sanity commissions report? Is that in 3 the record? Yes, sir. A In the record? 6 Sir? Well, they didn't print the record. They sent 7 down all the --- this is formal corpus. 8 Then it's your position then, I take it, that in 9 examinations such as went on here, connected with a criminal 10 charge, to see if he's competent to stand trial, that you were 2 7 privelidged not to have him testify. 12 A Yes, sir. I mean before the commission. 13 Yes, sir. 14 A O Whereas you wouldn't have had in the civil commit-15 16 ment (inaudible). Yes, sir. Now the Pennsylvania cases do say that 17 sanity commission procedings are not criminal nature. I say 13 they are in this case, because they committed him to an insti-19 tution for the criminal insame. They've sentenced him. 20 Q You mean your position is thay you can stop the 21 psychiatrist from talking to your client in order to decide 22 whether he's competent to stand trial? 23 Yes, Mr. Justice White. Now the fact of the matter 24 is when they asked him to draw pictures and squares and blocks 25

3	I let him do it and they showed him pictures and asked him what
2	this means to you and I let him do that, but I would not let
3	them ask him any questions about the alleged five murders,
4	which obviously they wanted to do.
5	Q Are there procedures in Pennsylvania whereyou can
6	test his present condition if you wish?
7	A Right Now? Yes, sir.
8	Q Have you dont that since he was committed
9	A No, sir.
10	Qor attempted to?
11	A No, sir. It would be done by the psychiatrist at
12	the institution.
13	Q You haven't requested that or made any procedings
14	for it, have you ?
15	A And I might add that I have never denied in any of
16	the hearings, to any of the judges or justices, that John's
7	menatlly sick. I've never denied that.
18	Q Well, if you went to trial, as you requested, would
19	it not be the absolute duty of the court against all of this
20	background to see to it that he had a psychiatric examination
21	before he went to trial?
22	A Mr. Chief Justice, that's what they say, and that's
23	the way they ruled and I disagree with them.
24	Q Well, do you take the position that the court would
250	have no obligations?

A I think his competency, whether or not he is going to plead insanity is personal to him. I don't see how on the one hand as Mr. Justice Roberts said in his dissenting opinion, his most recent one, how can the Commonwealth arrest someone, imprison him, this man has been confined now since April of 1966, say that he signed this confession, and they're the prosecutor.

And on the next hand as soon as they realize, well we have a confession that we can't use, we have a gun that we can't use, now they're his benefactor. I don't see how thay can be both. And that's what they've done.

And as I said in my brief, I think it's frightening that they can arrest a person and hold him for 25 - 26 hours, and then say he signed this confession, he said he killed five people, and to do it for the reason he said he did it, he must be crazy, and especially since we can't proove it, because we can't use this confession we're going to ship him off to (inaudible).

And that's just what they did. And the record will show that I fought every inch of the way simply to protect the record and about the only round I won I guess so far is when this honorable Court granted the Writ of Certiorari.

Q Your claim, basically, and as I understand it your sole claim, Mr. Quinlan, is this, and you tell me if I'm wrong. That until or unless you bring to the attention, you or the defendant, as his coulsel, bring to the attention of the trial court, that your client is or may be mentally incompetent, then

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the trial court, under the condtitution, has an absolute duty to give your client a speedy public trial.

- A Yes, sie, that's my position.
- Q And can do nothing else.
- A Yes, sir.

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- Q That's it.
- A That's it. Tha c you.
- Q Thakk you, Mr. Quinlan. Mr. Moss?

 ARGUMENT OF MILTON O. MOSS, ESQ.

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS

MR. MOSS: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court. I think there are certain factors that have been presented to the Court by my opponent that should be clarified.

I think that Your Honors will accurately find within the record a complate safeguard of every constitutional right of this defendant in the procedures that were taken against him by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the District Attorneys office of Montgomery County.

We have heard from Mr. Quinlan that the only piece of evidence that the Commonwealth had in the prosecution for give murder cases was in fact an alleged illegally obtained confession. It should be noted, Your Honors, that this defendant was arrested in April of 1966.On approximately May 13, 1966, one month prior to the Miranda decision that negated the validity and admissibility of confession, the District Attorney of the

knowledge, not only of the defendants present state of mind and incompetence, but also his prior psychiatric background.

As a result of his knowledge, and I suggest to the Court his obligation to the Court, and there generally and as a quasi-judicial officer, it was his obligation to protect---

- Q The prosecuting attorney?
- A I beg your pardon?
- Q Who is the "he" you're talking about? The prosecuting attorney?

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- A The District Attorney.
- The District Attorney, is that---
- A The District Attorney, yes, sir, petitioned the Court on his own motion as I felt he was required to do, to impanel a sanity commission under the Mental Health Act at that time. And this was opposed by Defense Coulsel.

Previous to that issue, Your Honors will find in the docket entries of this case, that a suppression hearing was in fact held, evidence presented to the Court, and a rule given as to the admisibility of evidence other than the confession. Namely the admisibility of the gun that was located and found pursuant to a valid search warrant issued by the Court, at the room occupied by the defendant.

Subsequent to the obtaining of the gun, by the police, the

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- confession was obtained from the defendant, setting forth his involvement with the five murders starting in 1961, and ending in 1966.
 - Q How was that gun linked up to the defendant?
- A The gun was stolen from a Sears & Roebuck store,
 Your Honor, back in 1960 or 1961. It was found in a drawer secreted under a table, in a box that was obtained by the defendant, and retained in that box, were various shells for use.
 - Q Did ballistics tests---
 - A Ballistically---
 - Q ---help any?
- A Ballistically it would bear bear out the fact that this gun in fact was used to kill, as I recall at least three of the defendants.

Now in addition to the gun, Your Honors, there was additional evidence that was introduced by the Commonwealth to the sanity commission. And that was a list of seven names that had been retained by the defendant during these prior years to 1966, of seven names that he alleged and held responsible for the psychotic condition of his mother, and it was his purpose in life to murder and annihilate all sevem persons on that list, in order to relieve the "evil eye, hex voodoo, and witch-craft" that these individuals, all of whom were friendly with the defendants family had imposed upon her and subjected her to this type of life.

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- Q Now Mr. Moss, in addition to that, the confessions were introduced---
 - A Yes, sir.

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o --- and there was a sanity hearing, as I understand it, the Petitioner doesn't quarrel with the procedural due process aspect of that hearing. But his claim is that once his client was indicted, until and unless he raised the issue of his clients' insanity or incompetence it was your absolute and constitutional duty to bring him to trial in a criminal court.

A speedy and a public trial. That's the issue, here, isn't it?

- A Now, Mr. Justice---
- Q And the only one, as I understand the case as submitted by the Petitioner.
- A Mr. Justice Stewart I think that that is the pinhead of this case. It's the essence of the legal issue, that brings us before this honorable Court. And I think that this, as the Court has held in previous cases, is not ab absolute right.

We cannot subject an incompetent individual to a speedy trial when he is incapable and unable to confer meaningfully with his counsel, to exercise all of the constitutional rights that he must do personally in the course of the trial, when he is ubable to do so.

Q Well, his point is that our procedure in this country

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and in Pennsylvania and in each of the other 49 states under the federal system that our procedure, for better or for worse, is an adversary procedure, and an adversary system, so that until or unless he as the defendant raises the issue of incompetence or insanity, you have a single constitutional duty.

Having indicted him, having chosen to proceed criminally against this man, having charged whm with murder and indicted him for it, and required him to plead, that you have an absolute constitutional duty to bring him to trial.

- A I think that is---
- Q You're on one side of the case, and he's on the other. And it's an adversary proceding.
 - A I think there are certain---
- Q That it's not your duty to look out for his rights.

 it's his duty to assert them if he wants to.

A We are aware of his position, Mr. Justice Stewart, and we have opposed that for numerous reasons. I think that the Court can readily agree that there are numerous issues that would violate the individuals rights himself. Not necessarily, sir. He would be subjected to the same type of disposition if he were convicted, acquitted, acquitted on the grounds of insanity, or committed pursuant to a civil commitment procedure provided for in the very same act of the preceding one.

Q Let me ask you, let's assume you tried him and he was acquitted, now what constitutional rights of his would have

been violated during the trial?

good .

- A During the trial?
- Q By the trial.

A I think this Court, Your Honor, has stated frequently that the right to participate and actually decide intelligently on the various issues at the trial---

Q Well, if he were acquitted he must have done pretty well.

A Not necessarily. We have a valid, bona fide criminal charge against him. In contrast to what Mr. Quinlan has advised the Court, we have sufficient evidence to proceed and convict this man.

Q He wants to say, well if you can convict me, maybe your conviction will be no good, but I may be innocent.

A Well, I think the law over the years has generally encouraged useful acts. If we are going to permit this defendant to order society to subject him to trial, when he is unable to comprehend the nature of the charges, the defense itself or cooperate with his counsel in any type of intelligent or meaningful fashion, we will override the protection that society has afforded in the past, and that is that he just cannot meaningfully participate. And why subject him to a trial on the merits and thereafter allow him to raise the incompetency issue?

Q Mr. Moss, how does Pennsylvania define competency to stand trial, by statute?

By statute, Your Honor. It's under the (inaudible) 9 What arethe standards? 2 The standard is this. It uses the term "mental dis-3 ability". It says mental disability means any mental illmess, mental impairment, mental retardation, or mental defficiency 13 which so lessens the capacity of a person to use his customary 6 self control, judgement, and descretion in the conduct of his 27 affairs and social relations as to make it necessary or advisible for him to be under care as provided in this Act". Is that competency to stand trial or for a commit-10 ment? 11 I'm sorry I didn't hear you. 12 Is that the standard for judging competency to stand 13 trial, or is that the standard for commitment under a civil pro-10 ceding? 15 That is the standard for commitment. It is bolstered 16 further by psychiatric reports and evaluations ---17 But I'm getting just at the standard. Does Pennsyl-18 vania have a statute comparable to that in the federal statutes 19 describing, or does it have it by common law---20 It has---21 describing what the man's condition must be in order 0 22 to permit him to go to triel? 23 The standard that is used, Your Honor, is the com-24 mon law standard of ability to comprehend the nature and conse-25 21

quences of his act and of the charges to cooperate meaningfully and intelligently with his counselor, and to comprehend the course of the trial and his rights. That's by common law and 3 case law. The procedure that I read to you, Your Honor, is solay the method and the standard by which a commitment may be pursued 6 either for a civil commitment or after a criminal charge. Q The competency standard could not be sufficient in 7 the civil procedings to confine a man? I would not think so, Mr. Justice Black. 10 But you are confining him --- what nore than just that competency standard was found here? 99 A His criminal tendencies, his lack of self control, 12 his assertions---13 O Why did they go on and make those findings? 90 I'm sorry---15 Why did they go on and make those findings about 16 criminal tendencies here? 17 Because they were part of the testimony and evidence 18 that was introduced and actually was in fact the criminal charge 19 triggered the attention of the public to this mans conduct, and 20 in competency. 21 O Mr. Moss, why has he not been civilly committed in 22 the meantime? 23 I think there's been no definite determination on 24

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that issue, Mr. Justice Blackmun, because of the tendency of

these various procedings.

Q Let me then ask you the same question I asked Mr.

Quinlan. Is the ultimate result the same, to wit, incarceration,

if we can call it that, anyway, placement in the same type of

institution, whether the route followed is that of civil commit
ment or that of a sanity hearing?

A The eventual place of commitment, Your Honor, will be the very same. His course of treatment will be the very same. This is not, as it has been referred a confinement facility.

This is a hospital. Part of the hospital system of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And he will be there primarily because of the maximin security type of protection for society that is necessary from this individual.

Q Then your answer to my first question would not be to wit, there is no civil commitment procedure because it would be useless - he's already where he would end up.

A He would end up here, Mr. Justice Blackmun, under any circumstances imaginable. Either as a result of criminal trials and the verdices that would be rendered by that jury, or through civil commitment.

One last question. Is the release standard the same under confinement because of the sanity commission and the Courts determination, as it would be after civil commitment?

A No. Under a sanity commissiton, this defendant has a right to pursue a writ of habsas corpus at any stage of the

procedings when he is, or at least represents, that he is com
petent to be released, remanded back to the trial level, to stand

trial on the charges. This has not been pursued, and as a matter

of fact there is a level of the defendants (inaudible) status.

He is evaluated periodically to determine his competency to

stand trial and answer the criminal charges.

This has not been pursued in the last three and a half

years, since his commitment by order.

Q But if he went to the Common Pleas Court with a writ of habeas corpus he would have to sustain some of the burden of showing what you contend he cannot show, and therefore the Common Pleas Court would likely be somewhat influenced by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's holding, would they not?

A I don't think so, Mr. Chief Justice. This defendant has a right not only to pursue the matter on a writ of habeab corpus, but can be examined by his wan physician, unrelated to the institution where he is committed, and present evidence on his own behalf as to his competency.

Q But counsel has indicated that he did not elect to follow that course, originally. Is there any reason to believe that on a habeas corpus proceding that he would be any more inclined to put in the testimony of a psychiatrist?

A If the contentsoof this defendants psychiatric reports, periodic reports and evaluations by Farview State Hospital are as they are as of September 28, 1970, he would not

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have any success, in any release. This man is convinced of his dedication in life to annihilate the seven on his list and in the event this brings no relief to his psychotic mother he will find and search out other people in the community whom he feels is responsible for his mothers condition. And this is so stated in the record.

Q Perhaps you've already said it, did the findings that the commission made satisfy civil commitment standards?

A Yes, sir.

Q What does a civil commitment have to conclude to confine a person?

abled and in need of care or treatment by reason of such mental disability and examination of such person has been made by a psysician or physicians or for any reason the examination of such person cannot be made, a petition may be presented to the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the person resides or is for his immediate examination or commitment, to an appropriate facility for examination, observation, and diagnosis. And they thereafter adopt the same type of mental disability standard by which the individual would be committed.

Q So under the civil procedings he wouldn'teven have to be found to have criminal tendencies?

A That is correct, Mr. Justice White.

We have an exaggerated case here of an individual who is

terribly psychotic, has in fact murdered five people, and is dest timed to murder others if released upon society. 3 O Of course if he's psychotic he didn't murder them. Killedthem, maybe, but he's not guilty of murder. 12 5 That is true, Your Honor, I think the Commonwealth 6 in any proceding would acknowledge the defendants incompetency 7 and insanity. 8 The records ---O So then it's not really murder, if the facts you state are correct. 10 And if we were to do this, sir, and a court would 11 proceed the trial regardless of the verdict that would be entered. 12 And this defendant would be committed to Farview State Hospital 13 for treatment and rehabilitation and/or release. 14 If this man were brought to trial, as he urges, in 15 your view would it be the obligation of the prosecutor to bring 16 his medical history to the attention of the Court if he failed 17 to do so on his own behalf? 18 Mr. Chief Justice I've weighed that very problem and 19 I have kicked it around in my own mind as to whether or not it 20

A Mr. Chief Justice I've weighed that very problem and I have kicked it around in my own mind as to whether or not it is my obligation. I suggest to your Honor that this would be my obligation in the event that the defense counsel gabe no indication of raising an insanity defense.

Q I think the American Bar Association standards for the prosecution, the conduct of the prosecution would say that

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you have an absolute duty to do so.

A I'm glad that I think my inclination was consistent with the standard of ethics, but I feel that it is the obligation of the prosecution to interpose any favorable type of evidence that is in our possession.

As a matter of fact, as in the possession of the defendant as well. And at no time, other than today, have I been aware of Mr. Quinlan's assertion of his knowledge of an insanity defense. I think we have a counsel for the defendant in this case who may not be counsel throughout the entire procedings on this case, and we are not assured of the defendants full protection by his being speeded to trial when he is unable to really comprehend the charges.

And it would only take a moment to---

- Would you still be making the same argument if all the commission had found was that he's incapable of understanding the situation with which he's faced and is incapable of cooperating with counsel, and if the commission had not gone on and found that he had criminal tendencies?
 - A And that was the only finding that was made?
- Q Yes, but it was sufficient to satisfy the incompetent to stand trial standard in Pennsylvania.
- A It would depend on what other information we would have available to us in evaluating whether we should proceed.
 - Q Because that seems to be a more interesting question

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1	which is perhaps unreachable because the commission also found
2	the criminal tendencies. But would you say Pennsylvania could
3	continue to hold a person for the rest of his life without a
4	trial just because you found he was incompetent to stand trial,
5	and that he would never get any better?
6	A I don't think so, Mr. Justice White
7	Q What would you do
8	A I think there'd have to be a lot more
9	Q What would you do if Pennsylvania you'd have to
10	civilly commit him if you wanted to hold him.
g qua	A If we wanted to do that or if we were not satis-
12	fied with the validity of those findings, we would proceed to
13	trial
14	Q Let's say that everybody conceeds that the findings
15	are valid, both defense and prosecution, that he's incompetent
16	to stand trial. That it's not found that he's a danger to him-
17	self or abybody else. Would you say you could continue to hold
18	him just because you had a charge against him?
19	A We would probably proceed to trial.
20	Q But you couldn't. He's incompetent to stand trial.
21	A If those were the only findings, we would not.
22	Q Then what would you do?
23	A He would just proceed on his character
24	Q Stay where he is?
25	A Yes, sir.

Q Without any more findings of---

A Eventually I could tell you by practice, Your Honor, what the Commonwealth does, is relieve the defendant at some time of criminal charges by nol. prossing the charges against him. and when we---

Q And then that would bring up whether or not there should be a civil commitment.

A That normally is in conjunction with the findings, recommendations, and reports that are submitted to us periodically by the institution itself.

Q How did you get (inaudible) ---

A Unfortunatley, Mr. Justice Black, he was not apprehended by the police until 1966 after his fifth murder.

Q Oh, he was not caught.

A That's correct. And it was at that time that we preceded with our action.

Q In Pennsylvania practice is the prosecutor in a position to institute a civil commitment proceding?

A Yes, sir. We suggest to the Court that we do have a conflict between the right of his fair trial and the right of a speedy trial. There are numerous reasons why we would not want to subject the defendant to the speedy trial. The court has definitely held that to proceed and prosecute a defendant who is incompetent violates due process, and we are not violating the right to a speedy trial. We are merely defering it until such

time that the defendant can exercise, in conjunction with his counsel, the personal constitutional rights that he must decide upon during the course of the trial. We feel that the standards by which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania proceeds in matters of this type afford him every protection, and we therefore suggest to this Court that this defendant is not competent and not able to proceed to trial in spite of the recommendations or assertions of his defense counsel. Thank you.

Q Thank you, Mr. Moss. Mr. Quinlan, do you have anything further?

A Yes, Mr. Chief Justice, I reserved ten minutes in rebuttal.

I'm afraid I'm not making my point here. I say by what right does the Commonwealth arrest a man, indict him, and then say no, we're not going to put him to trial because the sanity commission says he has criminal tendencies, and the only thing in the record before the sanity commission for them to conclude that he had criminal tendencies, was the illegal confession.

Q But Mr. Quinlap, the basic finding that they made was that he was not competent to stand trial. That he cannot understand and cooperate, doesn't understand the nature of the charges. That's why he is being held, not because of his confession.

A Well, the only criminal tendencies --- the only thing they had in front of then was that he said he killed five people

1 for these crazy reasons and they had no right to conclude that 2 he could not confer with counsel and did not understand the na-3 ture of the procedings because I was there and as his lawyer I 0 said he does understand them, and he has conferred with me, and 5 I'll swear to it. Now---7 Q Mr. Quinlan, why didn't somebody have a right to conclude that five killings was enough? 8 A Mr. Justice Black, this man, and the record shows 10 this, was taken into custody with his father, held for 24 hours, before the Justice of the Peace said his rights having been ex-77 plained to him. Three times, and this is in the record, the 12 then District Attorney swore under oath, and all this is in the 13 Appendix, that John Brunos rights were explained to him, and 14 he undersoted what he was being held for. 15 16

He swore to all this when he filed answers to my motions to suppress answers to my petitions to dismiss the sanity conmission, he said John Brunos constitutional rights had not been offended because we explained everything to him, and he understood it.

Now they can't have it both ways---

- Q But perhaps, Counsel, you're trying to have it both ways---
 - A Yes, sir, and---
 - Q If you had taken the stand in this hearing, and tes-

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tified to all that you have been sutgesting to us, outside of the record, about his capacity and his understanding, perhaps that commission would have found that he was competent to stand . trial and we wouldn't be here.

I offered to do that. That's in the record. I offered to take the stand and ---

Did you have an associate counsel there who could have conducted the examination?

A No, sir, as I say, I'm sort of a valunteer in this case, but the case, and I think the transcript of the docket entries will show, it sort of deteriorated into whether or not Mr. Quinlan was going to force a trial in this case, or whether the District Attorney was going to be able to sweep under the rug, the fact that he had announced publically that five murders had been solved, he solved them, with his staff, but now I'm not going to put them on trial.

Now three times under oath, the District Attorney says I explained all his rights to him. Now how could he do that? This confession was illegal under Escobito. We didn't need Miranda for this.

- Mr. Quinlan, how do you account for the fact that he's still there, they haven't released him---
- Mr. Justice Marshall, they'll never release him.
- If he is insane and if he wever gets sane, they will not release him ..

No, they won't. 2 That's right. But the independent body which is the 3 hospital, I assume, has found that he's insane. The reason I say that is because he's still there. And is it not true that if they find him sane they will release him? A They're supposed to certify him for trial. 6 Well, that's what I mean. But they haven't done that. 7 I don't get any information from them. This is a 8 A state institution. Under the auspices ---9 But state institutions aren't illegal---10 No, I don't mean that---11 Just because they're state institutions. 12 But they don't send me reports. Ive never seen a re-13 port since he's been there. He - 1 the June of 1967. And I also understand you haven't tried to get one. 15 You said that. 16 No, I didn't. 17 Didn't somebody on this Court ask you if you tried to 0 18 get---19 No, I said I did not try to get one. 20 You did not? 21 No, this case has been in litigation up through 1969. 22 Well, assume now that this Court grants you the re-23 lief you want. And he's brought back in. Where's he going to 24 be brought? To the criminal court? 25

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Sec. If I get the relief that I've asked for, yes, they'd 2 have to put him on trial. And I'll defend him. 3 And suppose he's obviously insane in the courtroom. 1 Then what happens? If it's obvious that he's insane? 6 Yes. Six psychiatrists testify that---7 Well, it wouldn't happen that way. If they bring him to trial---8 9 How do you know? Well, I'd---10 A You're not a psychiatrist, are you? 77 No, Mr. Justice Marshall. 12 Well there, do you see? How do you know whether he's 13 14 sane or not? Because I---15 (inaudible) --- a defense of insanity, isn't that it? 16 I have never pleaded a defense of insanity. 17 And until or unless you do, there'll be no psy-18 chiatrist amound. 19 Exactly. 20 Prosecution may put the psychiatric testimony on---21 Well, Mr. Chief Justice, there is a very easy sol-22 uzion to this whole case, which I propose under our rules. That 23 a jury could have been impaneled and the Commonwealth could have 24 put a psychiatrist on the stand, and without any other testimony 25

the trial judge could have said I declare this man not guilty by reason of insanity and this fellow would have been committed to an Army hospital in Coatsville, Pennsylvania with maximum security.

Now before I sit down I'd like to suggest by analogy one frightening thing that could happen because of this type of procedure. There's a youngster who lives in my community who's now 20 or 21. He's mentally unbalanced. He's constantly talking about girls, and I would like a girl, and this and that. The neighbors complain. He's never been in trouble. When and if there's a sex crime in this community he's going to be the first boy the police pick up, he's going to sign anything they want him to sign, which is just what happened to John Bruno, because the record shows, if you sign this John, we'll take care of you, and taking care of him meant sending him to a hospital.

a confession, that he committed all these terrible crimes, and if he did it he's obviously mentally incompetent, and ship him off to Farwiew. And if they can do this to John Bruno, I respectfully submit that they can do it to anybody.

Q Mr. Quinlan, as I understand it the relief you're requesting is an order requiring that he be put to trial.

A Yes, sir.

Q Suppose that this relief were granted and the state moved as Mr. Moss said he had the power to move, for a civil

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1	committment. Would you oppose this?		
2	A Not if they first directed a verdict of not guilty		
3	by reason of insanity. I don't want this hanging over his head		
4	for the rest of his life.		
5	for the rest of his life. Q Well, do they have to do this?		
6	A Either that or put him on trial.		
7	Q Back to my question. Suppose they started the mack-		
8	inery moving for a civil commitment. What would be your response		
9	as his counsel?		
10	A I would object to it because they would have him		
11	civilly committed to an ordinary mental hospital, and then		
12	through their inter-hospital procedures they would transfer him		
13	back to Farview.		
14	Q So that he would end up exactly where he is now.		
15	A Yes, sir.		
16	Q How can you prevent that?		
17	A Well, I guess just file more petitions for writs of		
18	habeas corpus, that's the way I've been doing it so far, although		
19	I haven't been too sucessful. I just think it's terrible		
20	Q Mr. Quinlan, suppose		
21	A That they can do		
22	Q Instead		
23	A such a thing.		
24	Q Instead of that route, as Mr. Justice Blackmun sug-		
25	gested, suppose the state now decides to give up, and they bring		
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your man into the Common Pleas Court for trial, against this background have you any doubt that the Common Pleas Judge is going to first conduct a hearing to determine for himself whether your client is competent to stand trial by the standards of common law? Isn't that what he's going to do?

A Yes, sir.

Q Well, then if he decides that he's not competent to stand trial, he's right back where he is now residing, isn't he?

A Yes, sir. Except for this, though. The Common Law as outlined in the (inaudible), and this is in all the dissenting opinions of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, that's why I didn't cite any cases in my brief.

I rely on the Constitution , and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania reviewed all the cases on this subject---

Q Yes, but you just have the dissenters on your side.

A Well, that's been my role in this whole case. We've lost all time---as I say, if they can do this to John Bruno, they can do it to me on my way home, when I cross the county line they can pick me up, hold me for 24 hours, come on televiation the next day. They can announce to the press "Quinlan committed sex crimes, and he did it because he hates his mother is crazy. And knowing that they can't proove it, they ship me off to Farview.

8 Now maybe this has happened a lot of times, I don't know. 2 I just sort of stumbled into this case. 3 Q The record seems to show that he's stated a number 1 of times that an evil eye is on him. Do you know that or not? 5 They say that in the confession he---A 6 Do you know---0 7 Do I know it? A Q Do you know whether or not he thinks an evil eye is on him? Yes, sir, I do know it. 10 Q Well, do you not think it's your duty instead of 11 trying to get him tried by the Court to tell the Court that you 12 think he's insame? 13 90 A Well, I don't think he ought to have five indictments becuase I know Bruno, and I know his father, and his father be-15 lieves the same thing, I don't know who killed these five people. 16 I don't think the District Attorneys office does. 17 I dont mean who killed them. Do you not believe that 18 a man who thinks there's an evil eye chasing him around over the 19 area is insane? Should be committed? 20 A Yes, and I made arrangements through the Department 21 of the Army to have him committed to Coatsville maximum security 22 building. 23 Q Well, why do you want him tried? 24 A Because the Army will not so commit him as long as 25

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- there's a pending criminal charge against him.
 - Q You want to get him committed to another place.
 - A Yes, sir.

- Q And that's all it's about?
- A If you put him out on the street, no, its not all that it's about All that it's about is that can they deny my man a right to a trial?
- A You want to get these criminal charges disposed of, because until they are, the Army will not takehim, isn't that right?
 - A That's correct.
- Q That's the reason you're making this claim in this case.
 - A One of them, yes.
- Q You would be satisfied if they didn't try him, they just nol. prossed the charges.
 - A Yes, sir.
 - Q He'd still stay where he is.
- A Well, I don't think so. I think I could have him transferred to the Army. I have a letter saying so. They'd put him in a Veterans Hospotal, with maximum security. And some psychiatric help which he's not going to get in Farview.
- Q You don't think Pennsylvania has gone through enough procedings already to hold him except during the pendancy of the criminal Charge?

A Well, of course, they've held him for going on five years, now. I think that if they nol. pros, the indictments through a petition for writ of habeas corpus I would prevail, and have him confined to a veterans hospital.

Q You think he's not guilty on the grounds of insanity
I guess.

A No, Mr. Justice Black, I---

end?

Q They just can't proove the charge?

A They just can't proove it. And I'm not sure in my own mind whether John killed these five people or his father did.

- Q They can't proove he's insane?
- A How are they going to proove he's insane? I'n not going to put him on the--
 - Q I understood you to---
 - A The realities of it is what---
- Q I understood you to say that an evil eye was chasing him all around---

A Well, really the problem here is that John Bruno and his lawyer Quinlan win no matter what happens, because if they convict him in front of a jury, I then put him on the stand, or put on a psychiatrist and no one will send him to the electric chair. He's going to get life. Which is what he's got now, without a trial.

Q Hav you tried to arrange with the prosecuting at-

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7	torne	or t	he judge to do something with the case that would
2	permi	t the	Army to put him in as an insane man? I understood
3	you to	say	that's what you want.
A,		A	I did that, Mr. Justice Black. I Tried, through the
5	former	c Dist	rict Attorney and the judge, to bring him to trial,
6	empanel a jury		
7		Q	But you don't have to bring him to trial, do you?
8		A	Well, either that or nol. pros. the indictments.
9		Q	Suppose the government would agree to take him?
10		A	They won't, Your Honor.
der der		Q	Have you tried it?
12		A	Yes, sir.
13		4	I have correspondence saying we won't take him while
14	there	are o	pen criminal charges against him.
15		Q	Has the District Attorney agreed to help you on
16	that,	or no	t?
17		Α .	No. they flatly said no. Not this District Attorney
18	his p	redece	ssor.
19		Q	I think your time is up, Mr. Quinlan, thank you.
20	Thank	you g	entlemen, the case is submitted.
21			(Whereupon, at 2:20 o'clock p.m., argument in the
22	above	entit	led matter was concluded.)
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24			
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