

RE: DEATH PENALTY: Ruled UNCONSTITUTIONAL: (POST)

I'VE FOLLOWED THE DEBATE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SINCE IT WAS REINSTATED IN 1978. ONE OF THE REASONS THAT I FOLLOWED IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS A PRIME CANDIDATE TO BE SENTENCED TO DEATH MYSELF IN 1984, BUT THE ONLY REASON IT WAS NOT SOUGHT BY THE PROSECUTION WAS FOR TWO IMPORTANT REASONS. THE FIRST WAS BECAUSE THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY CHARGE ATTACHED TO THE MURDER. THAT CONSPIRACY INVOLVED A WHITE GIRL CAROL OSWALD WHO WOULD LATER TESTIFY AGAINST ME AND LIE TO SAVE HERSELF FROM BEING CHARGED WITH MURDER.

OF COURSE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COULDN'T PURSUE THE DEATH PENALTY FOR ME BECAUSE THEY WOULD ALSO HAVE TO CHARGE THE CO-CONSPIRATOR AS WELL.

THE SECOND REASON WAS THAT IF I HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, I WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A MUCH BETTER APPOINTED ATTORNEY THAN THE COURT APPOINTED TONY CHRISTENSEN WHO WAS HELPING THE PROSECUTION CONVICT ME. HIS LACK OF EFFECTIVENESS WOULD HAVE OVERTURNED MY CONVICTION, AND THE APPELLATE ATTORNEYS WOULD HAVE HEARD THE RECORDED STATEMENTS OF THE WITNESSES WHO ORIGINALLY TOLD POLICE THAT I WAS NOT AT THE CRIME SCENE THAT NIGHT. BUT WHO LATER SWORE AT TRIAL THAT I WAS THE ASSAILANT.

ALL THIS WOULD OF COME OUT. BUT IT WOULD OF TAKEN MANY YEARS BEFORE I WAS HEARD, AS MANY DEATH ROW INMATES SIT ON THE SHELF YEARS WAITING TO BE APPOINTED AN ATTORNEY. BEFORE THEIR CASE IS EVEN LOOKED AT THEN MANY MORE YEARS WHILE THE CASE IS TAKEN BEFORE THE STATE AND FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM.

DISTRICT COURT

THE RULING RECENTLY BY THE ~~UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA~~ IS JUST THE FIRST STEP IN SHUTTING DOWN THE DEATH SENTENCE, WHICH IS BEING DEBATED IN THE NEWS NOT FOR ITS FLAWS BUT TO SAVE MONEY.

MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FEEL THAT THE STATE DRAGS DEATH SENTENCES TOO LONG, 20 TO 30 YEARS BEFORE A MAN IS PUT TO DEATH, AND WANT EXECUTIONS TO BE PUT ON A FAST TRACK.

MANY BELIEVE A PERSON ONCE CONVICTED AND HAS HIS CASE APPEALED SHOULD BE EXECUTED ONCE HIS APPEAL IS DENIED.

THEY ARGUE THIS EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE SEEN MANY DEATH ROW PRISONERS EXONERATED AND AFTER MANY YEARS OF WAITING TO BE EXECUTED ARE TOLD THEY WERE IN FACT INNOCENT.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST FEEL LIKE TO ON DEATH ROW WONDERING HOW MUCH LONGER I WILL WAKE UP EACH MORNING TO ANOTHER DAY OF WAITING TO DIE, EVEN THOUGH MY INNOCENCE, OR LACK OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION CAN AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE SEEN BY AN APPELLATE ATTORNEY. BUT CAN ONE IMAGINE THE TOLL THAT WAITING GAME MUST PUT ON THOSE SITTING ON THE SHELF. WAITING...

IN MY CASE I WANTED THE DEATH SENTENCE RATHER THAN A LIFE SENTENCE, BECAUSE OF THE APPOINTED COUNSEL THAT THE STATE PROVIDES. WHO ARE USUALLY MUCH BETTER THAN THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OR COURT APPOINTED LAWYERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT MOST DEFENDANTS.

BUT CALIFORNIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN CORRUPT AND OVER RUN WITH SCANDAL FOR DECADES, THERE HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATIONS UPON INVESTIGATIONS SHOWING THAT PROSECUTORS INTENTIONALLY LIED, FABRICATE EVIDENCE, USE FALSE TESTIMONY, AND WITHHOLD AND LOSE EVIDENCE ALL IN ORDER TO GAIN A CONVICTION.

RACISM IS RAMPAANT THROUGHOUT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, AND MANY ATTORNEYS KNOW THIS, BUT NO ONE WILL STAND UP AND SAY IT. THEY SEE HOW DEFENDANTS OF COLOR ARE TREATED, BUT IT'S NOTHING TO THEM. THEY HAVE NO STAKE IN THE CASES THEY HANDLE. FOR THEM ITS JUST A PAY CHECK FOR FILING SOME MOTIONS, OR PETITIONS, AND APPEALS. MOST THAT THEY PHOTOCOPY FROM PRIOR SIMILAR CASES THEY REPRESENTED. I'VE SEEN MOTIONS FILED THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MY CASE, THE ARGUMENT WAS WAY OFF BASE FOR MY CASES.

SOME OF THOSE PRISONERS SHOULD NOT BE ON DEATH ROW, BUT IF THEIR CASE IS NOT ARGUED PROPERLY THEY WILL BE RAILROADED STRAIGHT TO THE SHELF BECAUSE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS SEEKING RE-ELECTION, OR THE CASE IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

IN THE ARTICLE I JUST READ IT STATES THAT IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER THE CALIF. ATTORNEY GENERAL KHAMALA HARRIS WILL APPEAL THE LATEST RULING, BUT ITS HER JOB TO REPRESENT THE STATE'S INTERESTS, AND UNDOUBTEDLY SHE WILL APPEAL, ITS NOT HER PERSONAL FEELINGS THATS BEING APPEALED, BUT THAT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. HER JOB IS TO FOLLOW THE LAWS OF THE STATE. IM NOT SAYING ITS RIGHT ONLY THAT ITS WHAT STATE OFFICIALS WANT.

I HAVE FRIENDS ON DEATH ROW AND I WISH THEY'D ABOLISH IT SO THEY COULD COME OFF THE ROW. I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM AGAIN.