

DR. RENE HARDRE, ADMITTED AS BEING A MEDICAL EXPERT SPECIALIZING IN PATHOLOGY, TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MITCHELL:

10 My name is Rene Hardre. In August of 1954 I was Assistant Pathologist at Rex Hospital. In this capacity I went to Woman's Prison in August of 1954. I had occasion to examine the body of Eleanor Rush which came to us from Woman's Prison. On the date of August 21, 1954, I performed an autopsy on this body which had been previously embalmed. The autopsy revealed that the cause of death was a discoloration of the neck with compression of the spinal cord. I didn't have an occasion to talk with any of the prison officials. I never talked with Mr. Hinton, Miss Reinhardt or any of the guards. The autopsy was performed at the request of the coroner of Wake County and was performed at Rex Hospital. No one assisted me in performing the autopsy. The written summary which I prepared following the autopsy is as follows:

"The absence of extensive reaction in the cord at the site of compression suggests that death occurred quickly, for had death not occurred quickly the body would have had time to respond to the injury by hemorrhage of local edema. This allows two sets of theories as to the course of events. First, the neck was dislocated while the prisoner was being gagged and compression of the cord occurred immediately resulting in rapid death. In this case those handling the prisoner should have been aware of the injury and death. The second possibility is, the neck was dislocated while the prisoner was being gagged but the dislocation was not advanced enough to put pressure on the cord, depending on a number of factors. The prisoner and those handling her may or may not have been aware of the injury. Subsequent to the dislocation it would require less force to increase the dislocation and cause fatal compression of the cord. Such a force would have been applied by the prisoner pushing and rubbing her face against the wall in an attempt to roll the gag out of her mouth. Such a force would be applied in the same direction as a force which had caused the original dislocation." That is how I summarized the case at the time of the autopsy.

11 In my opinion it would not have been possible for the prisoner to have self-inflicted the type of injury which I found caused her death. The other signs on the body were the bruising of the left corner of the mouth, affecting the