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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1969

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 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, :
 :
 Petitioner; :
 :
 vs. : No. 387
 :
 JOHN ANTHONY GREEN, :
 :
 Respondent. :
 :
 -----x

Washington, D. C.
April 20, 1970

The above-entitled matter came on for argument at
10:45 a.m.

BEFORE:

- 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
- POTTER STEWART, Associate Justice
- BYRON R. WHITE, Associate Justice
- THURGOOD MARSHALL, Associate Justice

APPEARANCES:

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: The first case on today's
3 calendar for argument is N. 387, California against John
4 Anthony Green.

5 Mr. James, you may proceed whenever you are ready.

6 ARGUMENT OF WILLIAM E. JAMES

7 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

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

10 This matter is before this Court on the petition
11 of the State of California intending that the Supreme Court of
12 the State of California improperly and incorrectly interpreted
13 the rulings of this Court on the question of the confrontation
14 clause of the Sixth Amendment and that, pursuant to that
15 misinterpretation of that confrontation clause, the Supreme
16 Court of California held unconstitutional a state statute
17 that would have permitted the admission for the truth of the
18 matters asserted, prior inconsistent statements of a witness
19 who was present at trial and subject to cross-examination.

20 It was only a few weeks back, I believe, that this
21 Court had occasion to view another aspect of the confrontation
22 clause and in Illinois vs. Allen held that a defendant could
23 deprive himself of the right by his conduct to be present in
24 court. The Court emphasized that one of the rights included
25 in the confrontation clause of the Sixth Amendment was the

1 right to be present in court. How else could you confront your
2 accuser?

3 This Court has been consistent in holding that the
4 Sixth Amendment right is a right at trial, a right to conduct
5 cross-examination of the accusers, of the witnesses against
6 the particular defendants.

7 In the first case where this Court held that the
8 confrontation clause was obligatory on the states, *Pointer vs.*
9 *Texas*, this Court said: "As has been pointed out, a major
10 reason underlying the constitutional right of confrontation is
11 to give a defendant charged with crime an opportunity to
12 cross-examine the witnesses against him."

13 This Court followed that with the case of *Barber vs.*
14 *Page*, emphasizing that the right to confrontation is basically
15 a trial right. It includes both the opportunity to cross-
16 examine and the occasion for the jury to weigh the demeanor of
17 the witness.

18 In a companion case to *Pointer*, *Douglas vs. Alabama*,
19 this Court used these terms: "Our cases construing the clause
20 (referring to the confrontation clause) hold that a primary
21 interest secured by it is the right of cross-examination. An
22 adequate opportunity for cross-examination may satisfy the
23 clause even in the absence of physical confrontation."

24 In that particular case the defendant Douglas had a
25 co-defendant who was separately tried, one Loyd. Loyd was

1 convicted and took an appeal. At the trial of Douglas the
2 prosecution called Loyd. Loyd, since he had an appeal pending,
3 decided to exercise his privilege against self-incrimination
4 and refused to answer questions. So the prosecutor commenced
5 to read his confession which implicated Douglas to him. The
6 prosecutor asked the witness Loyd at each sentence if he had
7 made this statement, and he refused to answer on the ground of
8 self-incrimination.

9 This Court held that the defendant Douglas had been
10 denied the effective right of confrontation, because he had no
11 opportunity to cross-examine the witness who was exercising the
12 privilege against self-incrimination.

13 In Bruton, a more recent case, discussing the aspects
14 of confrontation, this Court said, in reference to the Douglas
15 Case: "We held that Douglas' inability to cross-examine Loyd
16 denied Douglas the right of cross-examination secured by the
17 confrontation clause. We noted that effective confrontation of
18 Loyd was possible only if Loyd affirmed the statement as his.
19 However, Loyd did not do so but relied on his privilege to
20 refuse to answer."

21 The California Legislature in 1965 adopted the
22 Evidence Code of California, incorporating in that code the
23 other provisions contained relating to evidence in the Code of
24 Civil Procedures and other codes and abandoned by the adoption
25 of that code the so-called "orthodox" view as to impeachment,

1 the use of impeaching prior inconsistent statements. And it
2 adopted what has been referred to as the "academic" view. That
3 is that prior inconsistent statements of a witness, present in
4 court and subject to cross-examination, would be admissible as
5 substantive evidence. They enacted Evidence Code Section 1235,
6 which is the statute involved in this case and made it effective
7 in California on January 1, 1967.

8 The factual basis upon which this case arises ---

9 Q Before you conclude the facts of this case,
10 General James, is there any available evidence showing the
11 legislative history of this amendment of the California Code?
12 Is there anything that you know of that shows why the state
13 legislature did this?

14 A Yes, Your Honor. The code commissioners, when
15 the Evidence Code was being considered by the legislature, made
16 comments. The comments of the code commissioners are contained
17 in the code. I believe they were quoted in our petition for
18 certiorari and also in our brief file for the petitioner herein.
19 The code commissioners' notes were also referred to in the notes
20 of the committee for the adoption of the rules of evidence for
21 the federal courts and magistrates.

22 Q These notes indicate what? That this was a
23 response to some sort of a felt need or was just this the
24 academic rule and these commissioners were academic people and
25 they thought they better put in that rule, or what was it?

1 A It was a conclusion of the commissioners that
2 this was the better rule of evidence. There was no reason why
3 these statements shouldn't be used as had been suggested by
4 Wigmore in his latest work and as expressed by McCormack in his
5 work on evidence.

6 I think in our petitioner's opening brief, at pages
7 36 and 37 where we are discussing the reasons by the advisory
8 committee for the proposed rules of evidence for the federal
9 courts and magistrates, they adopted a portion of the code
10 commissioners' notes, and it is contained therein. It generally
11 states that Section 1235 admits inconsistent statements of
12 witnesses, because the dangers against which the hearsay rule is
13 designed to protect are largely non-existent.

14 Then it continues, and it concludes by citing McCormack
15 and his code in evidence. And then the advisory committee for
16 the federal rules states: "The advisory committee finds these
17 views more convincing than those expressed in People vs. Johnson,
18 which was a predecessor of the Green Case. Moreover, the
19 requirement that the statement be inconsistent with the testi-
20 mony given assures a thorough explanation of both versions while
21 the witness is on the stand and bars any general and indiscrim-
22 inate use of previously prepared statements."

23 The commissioners' notes are contained in the number
24 of volumes which preceded the action by the state legislature
25 in adopting the Evidence Code.

1 Q Is the availability of the primary speaker in
2 the courtroom one of the conditions of the California statute
3 as it is under the proposed federal rules?

4 A Yes, it is Your Honor. The section provides:
5 "Evidence of a statement made by a witness is not made
6 inadmissible by the hearsay rule if his statement is inconsis-
7 tent with his testimony at the hearing and is offered in
8 compliance with section 770 of the Evidence Code." So it
9 contemplates the presence of a witness in court who is subject
10 to cross-examination and whose demeanor may be viewed by the
11 trier of fact.

12 Q You do not see this as in conflict with any
13 prior decision of this Court?

14 A I don't know of any prior decision of this Court
15 that it conflicts with. The cases to which I have been referr-
16 ing all relate to situations where the defendant was effectively
17 denied confrontation by lack of thorough cross-examination at
18 the trial. Either the declarant wasn't there, or he made
19 himself unavailable by an exercise of a privilege. Or as in
20 Smith vs. Illinois, the defendant was precluded from some
21 effective interrogation.

22 Q In the Douglas Case this Court equated the
23 assertion of the Fifth Amendment right as being the same as not
24 being present, not being available.

25 A It effectively denied cross-examination to the

1 defendant, and he wasn't able to examine the witness or the
2 declarant in court. This Court pointed out that it would have
3 been different had he been able in Douglas to cross-examine
4 Loyd, which he was not.

5 We submit that this is a basic and fundamental factor.
6 I think that the confrontation clause and the rules of evidence,
7 the hearsay rules of evidence, are sometimes deemed to be co-
8 existent. But, I think, a commentator has noted that there are
9 fundamental differences. The right of confrontation secures to
10 the defendant the right to be present in court to confront his
11 accusers, to cross-examine those accusers, to probe into their
12 story, and to have the privilege of having the accusers in court
13 subject to the view, scrutiny of the trier of fact. That is
14 what the confrontation clause is.

15 The rules of evidence concern themselves with the
16 reliability of out-of-court statements of declarants who may
17 or may not be in court and do not concern directly the confron-
18 tation right, which was granted to the accused in the Green Case
19 and would be granted under the state statute and, we submit --
20 I am sure the solicitor will submit --, under the proposed rules
21 for the federal courts and magistrates.

22 Q How is a prior inconsistent statement actually
23 proved?

24 A In this case it was proved first by the reading
25 of a preliminary hearing transcript and also by a statement made

1 to an officer of the juvenile court by the officer himself,
2 who testified concerning the statement of the defendant.

3 Q You have here two types of prior statements:
4 one, a statement under oath at a preliminary hearing of which
5 a transcript was made in a magistrate's proceeding; then,
6 additionally, an unsworn statement made in no judicial proceed-
7 ing, but made to an officer of the juvenile court.

8 A That is correct, Your Honor.

9 Q Unsworn?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And there may or may not be a difference with
12 respect to the two?

13 A We submit that there is no difference under the
14 rule of confrontation, at least, and that perhaps judicial
15 policy or policy of a legislature in adopting one rule or
16 another where the various conflicts arise. Judge Stone in the
17 Minnesota Case gave very eloquent reasons why the orthodox rules
18 should be adopted.

19 Q You did, in the California Supreme Court, confess
20 error with respect to the latter?

21 A Only as it pertained to the state court ruling
22 which we were bound by at that time.

23 Q Because of a previous state court decision?

24 A That is right. At that time we had pending a
25 petition for certiorari in Johnson in this Court, which was not

1 denied until January 20, 1969.

2 Q So the fact is that you did confess error but
3 submitted that the error was harmless, wasn't that it?

4 A Yes. We made no intention of conceding the
5 issue. We were bound at that time by a final state court
6 decision which we were contesting unsuccessfully. Our heads
7 were bloodied but unbowed at that time.

8 The factual context where this case arises is the
9 fact that a minor, in the early part of January 1967, came into
10 possession of a quantity of narcotics, marijuana, and ulti-
11 mately, on January 10, sold it to an undercover officer.

12 Further investigation -- including an arrangement for
13 a meeting between the officer and the defendant Green -- resulted
14 in Green's arrest and a preliminary hearing which was held on
15 February 8, 1967. He was held to answer and information was
16 filed, and he was charged with violation of California Health
17 and Safety Code, Section 11532, "Furnishing to a Minor a
18 Narcotic." He came to trial on this charge on April 5-6, 1967.

19 At this trial the people introduced the first witness,
20 the minor himself, one Melvin Porter. He was placed on the
21 stand, and he was asked some questions. He related that in the
22 early part of January, sometime between the first and the tenth
23 of January 1967, he received a telephone call from the defen-
24 dant. The defendant told him that he had some stuff for to
25 him to sell. But the minor witness testified that he couldn't

1 remember what happened because he was under the influence of
2 LSD.

3 At that point the people introduced, pursuant to
4 Evidence Code Section 1235, a portion of the direct examination
5 of this witness in which he related that the conversation over
6 the telephone with the defendant Green related to a sale, the
7 selling by Porter of a kilo of marijuana.

8 The preliminary testimony was that the marijuana came
9 in 29 "baggies" in a large shopping bag. The witness at the
10 trial was asked if this was his recollection as to what occurred,
11 and if that was the way he testified, and if he believed he was
12 telling the truth when he testified at the preliminary. And
13 he said, "Yes, I believe it to be at that time, yes."

14 He was then asked how he came into possession of this
15 marijuana, a portion of which he had ultimately sold to this
16 undercover police officer. He said that he couldn't recall
17 who he got it from or where he found it.

18 So again the people, pursuant to Evidence Code Section
19 1235, referred this time to the cross-examination of the minor
20 witness at the preliminary hearing, in which he acknowledged
21 that the marijuana was pointed out to him by the defendant Green,
22 apparently at the defendant Green's father's home. And that
23 after the defendant had pointed it out to him, the boy went and
24 got it, and thereafter consumed part of it, sold 6 or 7 "baggies",
25 including one sale to the undercover officer, and the rest

1 supposedly was stolen from his closet.

2 He was asked at the trial concerning this statement
3 that he had made, the testimony that he had given at the
4 preliminary investigation. He was asked this particular question,
5 "All right, now with your recollection refreshed, would you
6 tell us of your own knowledge, where did you get that bag of
7 marijuana?" And he said, "Well, I guess I got it from his back
8 yard." He was then queried whose back yard, and he said, "John,"
9 referring to the defendant.

10 The question by the prosecutor at the trial: "Did you
11 get any money for selling this marijuana, the bags that you
12 managed to sell?" Answer: "Yes." Question: "What did you
13 do with the money?" Answer: "I gave it to John, I think."
14 Question: "To the defendant?" Answer: "Yes, I guess." This
15 is page 23 of the appendix.

16 Q Is this testimony he was giving at the trial or
17 is this ---

18 A This is testimony he was giving at the trial
19 following the reading of his cross-examination at the preliminary
20 hearing. The trial was on April 5th and 6th; the preliminary
21 hearing had been on February 8th.

22 Thereafter, the people also put on the witness stand
23 the juvenile narcotics officer, Officer Wade. They asked him
24 if he had had a conversation with the minor Porter, and he
25 related that he had. He testified that this conversation took

1 place on January 31, and that at this conversation Porter had
2 told him that he had obtained this marijuana, grass, or stuff,
3 as he referred to it, from the defendant Green, and that Green
4 had brought it over to his house. It consisted of 29 wax paper
5 bags in a large shopping bag.

6 The witness was cross-examined by counsel for the
7 defendant. And subsequently, when the minor witness Porter
8 was recalled as part of the defendant's case in chief for further
9 cross-examination, counsel questioned the minor regarding his
10 statement to the police officer. He was asked if he had made
11 this statement, and then, "Do you recall what you told him at
12 that time?" Answer: "Let's see. Well, it had to do with
13 buying it from John, yes sir. I mean I couldn't say exactly
14 what went on or not." Question: "Well, do you remember telling
15 the officer that Mr. Green phoned you up and told you that he,
16 Mr. Green, had some marijuana and wanted to bring it over and
17 leave it at your house?" Answer: "I might have said that,
18 yeah." Question: "Do you remember telling him that Mr. John
19 Green had brought the marijuana over to your house that day,
20 the day that you had the conversation with Mr. Green." Answer:
21 "I think, let's see, yes, I think so."

22 And then he was questioned -- this is pages 59-60--
23 whether he believed he was telling the truth when he made this
24 statement to the police officer on January 31, and he said, "Yes,
25 sir." And both asked if he believed he was telling the truth

1 when he testified at the preliminary hearing on February 8th,
2 and he answered, "Yes." And he was also asked if he was testi-
3 fying truthfully in court, and he also replied in the affirmative.

4 We submit that in the context of this particular
5 case, with particular reference to these facts, it is clearly
6 demonstrated that this defendant was not denied confrontation
7 as has been explained in this Court's opinions. The numerous
8 opinions that have proceeded since Pointer vs. Texas have all
9 pointed out that there was in the particular case a lack of ade-
10 quate cross-examination at the trial. Not within one of the
11 exceptions, or there had been no diligent effort made to secure
12 the presence of the defendant in court, to subject him to ---
13 to get the witness in court, the declarant present in court,
14 to subject him to cross-examination, and to permit the trier
15 of fact to view him when he testified, and to determine whether
16 his testimony was worth anything.

17 Q Excuse me, was the defendant represented by a
18 lawyer at the preliminary hearing?

19 A Yes, Your Honor. He was represented by the same
20 attorney who represented him at the trial.

21 Q Do you think that makes any difference?

22 A No, I don't. But I think in this particular
23 case it clearly demonstrates that this man had the opportunity
24 to confront the declarant at the time the earlier statement was
25 made and further cross-examination, the important aspect of

1 confrontation, the presence before the ultimate trier of fact.
2 And he had the attorney. The attorney did a good job in both
3 questioning the witnesses at the preliminary hearing and then
4 following it up with an examination of the minor witness, the
5 officers, and the other witnesses at the trial.

6 Q What is the object of a preliminary trial in
7 California?

8 A Primarily to determine whether there is probable
9 cause to hold the defendant to answer.

10 Q And if it is found, what is done?

11 A An information is filed within a period of 15
12 days in the superior court. The defendant is thereafter
13 arraigned in the superior court and the date is set for trial.

14 Q Held for the purpose of determining whether or
15 not there will be a warrant?

16 A An information file, an accusation file against
17 him.

18 Q You don't have any grand jury investigation?

19 A Yes, we have both the grand jury and the prelim-
20 inary hearing in California.

21 Q Well, this one was not a grand jury investigation?

22 A This was not grand jury. This proceeded by
23 information. The Johnson case that had been decided earlier and
24 that has been referred to was a grand jury proceeding, at which
25 the witnesses testified under oath but not subject to

1 cross-examination.

2 Q Suppose the court had decided on preliminary
3 trial there was no probable cause?

4 A The man would not be held to answer.

5 Q He would be released?

6 A He would be released, and the complaint would
7 be dismissed.

8 Q What is the difference in the procedures when
9 you try him for preliminary trial and actually try the case?

10 A Well, actually ---

11 Q Do you put on witnesses?

12 A At the grand jury proceeding?

13 Q At the preliminary?

14 A At the preliminary, oh, yes.

15 Q Can the defendant put on witnesses?

16 A Ordinarily not. He would be there to merely
17 cross-examine.

18 Q He cannot put on witnesses?

19 A He may put on witnesses; he ordinarily does not.
20 Because the question there is, is there probable cause to hold
21 the defendant to answer. If there is, that question will be
22 determined in the superior court.

23 Q And if he wants to have a lawyer and put on
24 witnesses, he has a right to do both?

25 A Yes. He has a right to a lawyer at the

1 preliminary, and in California would be furnished a lawyer at
2 the preliminary hearing, if he was unable to afford one.

3 Q What is the reason suggested why that is not a
4 kind of a trial or proceeding where you could use the evidence
5 from it, if you could use it from any other place?

6 A I would submit that there should be a right to
7 use this preliminary examination evidence at a later time.

8 Q But there is a suggestion why you shouldn't and
9 that is the confrontation clause of the Sixth Amendment, in
10 answer to Justice Black's question.

11 A That is right.

12 Q Can California proceed --- Were you finished Mr.
13 Justice? Can California proceed by way of information or
14 indictment by grand jury without any preliminary hearing at all
15 if they want to?

16 A They can proceed by grand jury indictment with-
17 out a preliminary hearing.

18 Q But not by information?

19 A Not by information, unless the defendant waives
20 a preliminary hearing.

21 Q Do we have that clear? The preliminary hearing
22 is an absolute right if proceeded by a charge by information,
23 but not so by grand jury indictment.

24 A That is right, Your Honor.

25 If I may defer right now to the Solicitor and reserve

1 a few minutes.

2 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Very well. Thank you,
3 General.

4 Mr. Solicitor General.

5 ARGUMENT OF ERWIN N. GRISWOLD

6 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

7 MR. GRISWOLD: May it please the Court:

8 As Mr. James has said, there are two pieces of
9 evidence involved here, both prior inconsistent statements.
10 First is the testimony at the preliminary examination where,
11 I may point out, there was confrontation in a physical sense.
12 That is, the defendant was himself present and saw the witness
13 who testified. The second piece of evidence is the statement
14 made to Officer Wade.

15 Both Porter, the witness who testified at the prelim-
16 inary examination, and Wade, the officer to whom the statement
17 was made, were present at the trial and subject to cross-
18 examination. And the testimony at the preliminary investigation
19 was, of course, an official record.

20 I think I may point out, too, that in this particular
21 case, the trial was before the court without a jury, because
22 the defendant had waived a jury. But we do not believe that
23 this should lead to any difference in the result.

24 There is a note by Professor Kenneth Davis in the
25 current April issue of the Harvard Law Review making a

1 contention that the rules should be different in trials
2 without a jury and in trials with a jury. But I find hard to
3 make that applicable in a criminal case. Because it seems to
4 me odd that the defendant's counsel should be put to the choice
5 of trying to decide whether we shall waive a jury or not,
6 depending upon what evidence can or cannot come in. It seems
7 to me that in a criminal case the rules of evidence should be
8 the same either way.

9 Now our submission here is against the decision below
10 by the California Supreme Court, which deals in effect only
11 with the evidence taken at the preliminary examination. And it
12 is also against the decision of the California Supreme Court in
13 California against Johnson, decided a couple of years ago in
14 which this Court denied the State's petition for certiorari,
15 which deals with a prior statement like that made to Officer
16 Wade, unsworn and not subject to cross-examination.

17 We think that both decisions are wrong, and that
18 they are not required either by the Constitution or by decisions
19 of this Court. If we are wrong as to Johnson, however, we would
20 urge that the decision below, with respect to the evidence at
21 the preliminary examination, is nevertheless wrong and should
22 be reversed.

23 Q On your brief premise, Mr. Solicitor General,
24 it doesn't make any difference whether there was counsel at the
25 preliminary hearing or not?

1 A No, Mr. Justice, our position is that ---

2 Q The confrontation is satisfied by the presence
3 of the witness at the trial?

4 A At the trial, itself.

5 Q It doesn't make any difference whether there is
6 counsel there, or it doesn't make any difference whether the
7 defendant was there.

8 A All of those things go to the weight of the
9 evidence but not to its admissibility. This leads directly to
10 the first point of my argument which is that this case is not
11 a Sixth Amendment case. This case does not deal with the right
12 of confrontation, because the right of confrontation was fully
13 vindicated.

14 The witness Porter was present and sworn and subjected
15 to cross-examination. The trier of the facts had full oppor-
16 tunity to see and hear him, to observe his demeanor, and to
17 form a conclusion about his honesty and trustworthiness.

18 That conclusion might well have been that he was a
19 very devious person who probably spoke the truth shortly after
20 the event but, for one reason or another, found it convenient
21 to be forgetful and evasive at the trial.

22 And similarly with respect to the other item. The
23 witness Wade was present, sworn, and subject to cross-examin-
24 ation. He testified fully, and his personality and demeanor
25 could be evaluated by the trier of the fact.

1 Thus, every objective and requirement of confrontation
2 was met. This is not a case like Pointer against Texas or
3 Douglas against Alabama or, more recently, Barber against Page,
4 where the person whose out-of-court statement was sought to be
5 used was not present or available and particularly where the
6 prosecutor was at fault in not having the declarant available.

7 Here the key fact is that the witnesses were present
8 at the trial, were sworn, and were subject to cross-examination.
9 So that the defendant had full opportunity to show what he could
10 to the trier of the fact by way of impeachment, explanation,
11 contradiction, or otherwise.

12 Some 40 years ago Judge Learned Hand dealt with this
13 problem in a case which was cited in our brief, though this
14 quotation is not there. This is DiCarlo against the United
15 States in 6 F. 2d. And I quote from Judge Hand: "He is present
16 before the jury, and they may gather the truth from his whole
17 conduct and bearing, even if it be in respect to contradictory
18 answers he may have made at other times. If, from all that the
19 jury see of the witness, they conclude that what he says now
20 is not the truth but what he said before, they are, nonetheless,
21 deciding from what they see and hear of that person and in court."

22 Indeed, this Court, of course, held that prior
23 statements may be introduced even though the declarant is not
24 present at the trial in cases of necessity. The leading case
25 is Maddox against the United States in its two separate

1 appearances in this Court, where both dying declarations and
2 testimony taken at a previous trial -- where the witness was
3 now deceased -- were held admissible. And the Maddox Case was
4 specifically referred in the recent decisions of this Court as
5 a decision which was not affected by those decisions.

6 There are other illustrations as in the case of book
7 entries, ancient documents which might be used to prove the
8 title to land in a charge of trespass in a criminal case, and
9 other established exceptions to the hearsay rule.

10 In this situation where the witnesses were present
11 and were cross-examined in court, it seems to me that the only
12 case which is troublesome is Bridges against Wixon in 326 U. S.
13 Whatever may be said about that case -- it was a deportation
14 case rather than a criminal case, but I don't think that is of
15 any particular importance -- it is clearly distinguishable.

16 There the declarant took the stand as here. He
17 admitted that he made a statement as here. But at that point
18 the two situations diverge. In the Bridges Case the witness
19 denied at the trial that he had said anything in his statements
20 about Bridges' Communist activities. Here the witness admitted
21 that he had made the statement and testified that he apparently
22 thought that it was the truth when he made it. I don't want
23 to overstate what he said at the trial, because he was very
24 devious. But he specifically admitted that he had made both of
25 the statements, and one of them, of course, was a public record.

1 Q What case did you say that was, Richards?

2 A I am talking about Bridges against Wixon in
3 326 U. S. But as we see it, the Court need not examine Bridges
4 now. It need say only that it is inapplicable in a case where,
5 as here, the declarant witness testifies under oath and subject
6 to cross-examination, that he made the statement and that he
7 believed it was true when he made it.

8 There are, of course, a number of decisions of the
9 Court which support the conclusion that such evidence is
10 admissible. There is the well-known Bruton Case, involving the
11 use of a co-defendant's confession in a joint trial, implicating
12 another defendant, where the Court quoted from the leading
13 Maddox Case these words: "Hence, effective confrontation of
14 Loyd (who had made the statement) was possible only if Loyd
15 affirmed the statement as his." And here the witness did
16 affirm the statement as his.

17 On the basis of this passage, this quotation of
18 Maddox in the Bruton opinion, a number of lower courts have
19 held that in the Bruton situation the confession of the co-
20 defendant is admissible, when he does, in fact, appear at the
21 trial, is sworn and is subject to cross-examination there.
22 This Court has several times denied certiorari from such
23 decisions.

24 There is another case of this Court that seems
25 relevant and interesting. It is Stovall and Denno in 388 U. S.,

1 and it is not cited in our brief. That was the case which was
2 decided on the same day as the Wade Case. In the Stovall-Denno
3 Case the only witness to the crime, or a witness to the crime,
4 was the wife of the deceased, who was seriously injured and was
5 in the hospital. The defendant was taken to the bedside, and
6 the wife identified him then as the perpetrator of the crime.

7 It so developed that the wife recovered, and she was
8 a witness at the trial, and she was sworn, and subject to
9 cross-examination. This Court held that the evidence of her
10 prior identification was admissible, not merely her testimony
11 at the trial but her inclusion in the trial of her prior
12 identification, without violation of the due process clause.

13 Now, I point that out, because the Court held that
14 since Wade was not retroactive, the confrontation clause was
15 not before it. But as I think this case is really a due
16 process case and not a confrontation case, it does seem to me
17 that Stovall and Denno is directly in point. There the prior
18 statement, the prior evidence, was consistent not inconsistent,
19 but the same questions would seem to me to be applicable in
20 determining its admissibility. Of course, in that case, as in
21 the sequelae to the Bruton Case, the prior statement is not
22 sworn and was not subject to cross-examination.

23 Now I turn to my second approach to this case.

24 Q Mr. Solicitor General, are you suggesting that
25 the rule would be different if the witness denies having made

1 the prior statement, but you put on witnesses to show that he
2 did?

3 A I am suggesting, Mr. Justice, that if we had that
4 case, then we would have to deal with Bridges against Wixon
5 head on, which I would prefer not to do and think I don't have
6 to here, or that that would be a harder case. My own view would
7 be that it ought to make no difference. That Bridges and Wixon
8 was in its application, at least in this case, wrong. That
9 that ought to be a matter for the evaluation of the trier of the
10 fact at the trial, since the witness is before him and under
11 oath at the trial.

12 Q And you put on testimony to show that he did
13 make this prior statement?

14 A That he did make the prior statement, that is
15 correct. But I feel a little happier, or quite a bit happier,
16 that I can distinguish Bridges against Wixon rather than having
17 to meet it head on.

18 Now, if in accordance with our submission, this is not
19 a Sixth Amendment case, then our contention is that there is
20 nothing in the due process clause which should prevent the
21 admission of the evidence below.

22 Let me say, before going further, that, in my opinion,
23 this is a poor case. I am not representing the State of
24 California here, and Mr. James will speak up for the State.
25 They are, in no sense, bound by what I say; but this Court

1 has recently found that proof beyond a reasonable doubt is a
2 requirement of the due process clause in criminal cases, and
3 I can only say that I can't find proof beyond a reasonable
4 doubt in this record.

5 This is not a case where it is enough to find some
6 evidence, or sufficient evidence, to support a verdict based
7 on a preponderance of the evidence. It is a criminal case
8 where proof beyond a reasonable doubt is required.

9 Needless to say, I don't think this Court should
10 review records in state criminal cases to determine whether
11 there is sufficient evidence to support a verdict of guilty
12 beyond a reasonable doubt. But it does seem to me that the
13 Court can correct the error of the California Supreme Court --
14 an error into which, I think it may be said, the California
15 Court fell because of the chilling effect of certain decisions
16 of this Court -- in rejecting the admissibility of the evidence
17 here and then remand the case to the California Court for
18 further proceedings.

19 After all, the Court below concluded its opinion by
20 saying, on page 118 of the appendix, "We need not reach the
21 defendant's additional contention of insufficiency of the
22 evidence, suppression of the evidence, and prejudicial mis-
23 conduct."

24 Q It suggested then that even if all this evidence
25 was properly admitted, as you say it was, that there would

1 remain a question of whether or not, even with this prosecution
2 evidence, there was proof beyond a reasonable doubt of the
3 defendant's guilt; but that is a matter we should leave to the
4 California Court?

5 A That, it seems to me, is a matter for the
6 California Court.

7 Q You are not suggesting that this is a Thompson
8 and Louisville Case are you?

9 A No; I think there is more evidence here than
10 there was in Thompson against Louisville, but I don't think --
11 and my view is of no importance -- but I have read the record,
12 and I couldn't find that there was evidence beyond a reasonable
13 doubt here.

14 I don't think that the Court need be concerned that
15 justice will not be done if it corrects the court below on the
16 constitutional law of evidence. What I am concerned with is
17 that hard cases make bad law. We all know that. And I agree
18 that this is a hard case, but I don't think that it should be
19 resolved by a wholly novel and, I should think unfortunate,
20 discovery that the Fourteenth Amendment, and thus presumably
21 the Fifth as well, requires that hearsay evidence is inadmissible,
22 even where the witnesses involved are in court, sworn, and
23 available for cross-examination.

24 Q Could I clarify something in my mind? Are you
25 saying that even if you prevail on the confrontation question,

1 or the State prevails on the confrontation question, you are
2 still left with a due process question as to the "sufficiency
3 of the evidence?"

4 A No, Mr. Justice. What I am trying to say is
5 a little bit like what was in Stovall and Denno; the first
6 portion of my argument is this is not a Sixth Amendment case.
7 The Sixth Amendment was fully satisfied here. There was every
8 confrontation you could want. Therefore, perhaps that is
9 enough to dispose of the case. If it is, what I have more to
10 say is irrelevant.

11 Q That is the question I wanted to put to you.
12 If you prevail, if the State prevails, on the Sixth Amendment
13 case, do you think there is a due process question left?

14 A I think conceivably there is, Mr. Justice.

15 Q I figured you to say, first of all, when you
16 started out on this due process business, that that was
17 premised on the theory that the State might not prevail on
18 the confrontation question.

19 A I think, perhaps, that I would prefer to put
20 it this way, Mr. Justice. If there is any question, it is only
21 a question under the Fourteenth Amendment. I don't regard
22 that question as serious, but I thought it of enough concern
23 that it was appropriate to devote a part of my argument to it.

24 Q Now, I am getting a little confused. Are we
25 talking about proof beyond a reasonable doubt, that part of

1 the Fourteenth Amendment?

2 A No, Mr. Justice; we are talking about the
3 admission of prior inconsistent statements as affirmative
4 evidence.

5 Q May I ask you this question? Let's assume you
6 prevail and that the Court decides that neither the Fourteenth
7 Amendment, insofar as it incorporates the Sixth Amendment, nor
8 the Fourteenth Amendment, simpliciter, plaino, requires the
9 exclusion of this evidence and that the California Supreme
10 Court was wrong in holding that the United States Constitution
11 requires the exclusion of the evidence, do you still say that,
12 with the inclusion of this evidence, there might remain a
13 question of whether or not there was proof beyond a reasonable
14 doubt of the defendant's guilt, but that that is a matter for
15 the State of California?

16 A Yes, Mr. Justice; that's my personal view. My
17 concern here is that when the Court reads this record and finds
18 that it is a pretty thin case, that we may end up with a
19 constitutionally prescribed rule with respect to the rules of
20 evidence as a means of disposing of it, when I think it ought
21 to be disposed of simply on the narrow ground of whether
22 there is sufficient evidence to support a verdict as beyond a
23 reasonable doubt. That gets close to the area of Thompson and
24 Louisville, although this is different from that case in many
25 ways.

1 Q Well, Bridges went at it from a due process
2 standpoint mostly, didn't it, rather than confrontation?

3 A There is confrontation overtones in the language
4 in Bridges; the passage is quoted in our brief.

5 Q But it was a federal case, and yet they really
6 didn't seem to talk due process, did they?

7 A The passage is on page 22 of our brief. To
8 admit this prior statement in Bridges said the Court: "So
9 to hold would allow men to be convicted on unsworn testimony
10 of witnesses-- a practice which runs counter to the notions of
11 fairness on which our legal system is founded."

12 Q Is that confrontation talk?

13 A That is due process talk, I suppose. Perhaps
14 that is the reason why I thought it was relevant to make a
15 due process argument here.

16 Q Mr. Solicitor General, I was just looking at Mr.
17 Prettyman's brief for Green. I don't see that he has raised
18 any question -- unless I have missed it -- on the sufficiency
19 of the evidence.

20 A No, Mr. Justice. I have interjected this as a
21 means of hoping to divert you from deciding this case against
22 the government on constitutional grounds.

23 Q It is a diversionary argument.

24 A It is a diversionary argument, in confession,
25 in avoidance. What I am concerned with is that we should not

1 end up with this case by finding that, for the first time in
2 180 years, it has been discovered that the hearsay rules are
3 embodied in the Constitution, on one ground or another, and
4 are beyond the power of state legislatures to change, to
5 innovate, to experiment and, indeed, beyond the power of the
6 people who formulate federal rules of evidence.

7 Q It is a little more dangerous and far-reaching
8 to precipitate us into a program of examining state records to
9 see whether the evidence was beyond a reasonable doubt.

10 A I am not suggesting, Mr. Justice, that you
11 should. I am suggesting you should remand to the Supreme
12 Court of California to do that ---

13 Q Yes, I realize that.

14 A --- with such innovations as you care to include
15 in it.

16 Q But how does that process avoid our getting
17 into the evaluation?

18 A It does not. It means that you decide that the
19 Supreme Court of California was wrong in its decision below and
20 in the Johnson case, that this is not a constitutional require-
21 ment, but that you can feel satisfied that, nevertheless, justice
22 will be done in this particular case.

23 Q What you are saying is that is is none of our
24 business, really, but that we should take a quick look at it
25 and do something about it, the sufficiency of the evidence part?

1 A Well, Mr. Justice, I can't quite say it is none
2 of your business, since the Court put it into the Constitution
3 about three weeks ago -- the question of beyond a reasonable
4 doubt being a constitutional requirement. And I don't know
5 that the Court can completely escape that, though it can delegate
6 it quite widely and expect that the delegation will be faith-
7 fully honored.

8 Q Mr. Solicitor General, I thought that, ordin-
9 arily, with circumstances like that in the state's case, we
10 remand for proceedings not inconsistent, because we don't
11 think we ought to get beyond the issues raised by the petition-
12 er of the state case. When did we go reaching into things
13 like this? I didn't think we did.

14 A Mr. Justice, my whole objective is that when
15 you read this record, I don't think you will think the State's
16 case is very strong. And I don't want that to result in an
17 affirmance of the State's decision, which puts this rule of
18 evidence into the Constitution.

19 There is another way, which is to reverse the
20 decisions below on the constitutional questions and remand it
21 for further proceedings consistent with the ---

22 Q Not inconsistent with the state cases; we don't
23 send them back for proceedings consistent; we send them back
24 for proceedings not inconsistent.

25 A Not inconsistent ---

1 Q It is rather an important distinction we make
2 between state and federal cases.

3 Q Well, I thought your proposition on what I call
4 the diversionary argument was that you are uneasy about the
5 record. And the California Court said that since we find that
6 this was not admissible under confrontation, we don't have to
7 reach anything else. And, therefore, you are simply suggesting
8 that if we agree on the confrontation thing, leave it open for
9 the California Court to do what it wants to with it?

10 A Exactly, Mr. Justice. That is my point.

11 Now, this question of the admissibility of prior
12 inconsistent statements as evidence is one which has been
13 discussed over a period of two generations. It is sometimes,
14 it seems to me, denigrated a little bit by talking about the
15 orthodox view and the academic view.

16 The academic view, for which we speak here, has been
17 supported by some very great figures; Wigmore, who is one
18 of our authentic greats, and Morgan and Judge Weinstein can
19 hardly be called impractical persons. This change in the
20 California Statute Section 1235 was recommended by a state
21 commission in California, which had a staff of which Professor
22 James A. Chadburn was the chief reporter. He is now at the
23 Harvard Law School and is the editor carrying out the current
24 revision of Wigmore on evidence.

25 This rule is supported by distinguished members of the

1 bench, not impractical men, such as Judge Learned Hand, whom
2 I have already quoted, and Judge Henry Friendly, who is cited
3 in our brief. From Bentham to the present time, authorities
4 have agreed that present hearsay law keeps reliable evidence
5 from the courtroom.

6 We should continue to be free to experiment in this
7 area by legislation, by delegated rule-making, and by judicial
8 decision. The area should not be frozen into a constitutional
9 rule by application of a constitutional provision, which says
10 nothing about it and, obviously, has no application to the
11 problem either in terms or in light of its history.

12 I speak, of course, of the Fourteenth Amendment, because
13 I have earlier contended that the Sixth Amendment, whether
14 incorporated by the Fourteenth Amendment or not, has nothing
15 to do with the case, since the defendant here did confront both
16 of the human witnesses involved.

17 There is no case in this Court which requires affirmance
18 of the court below, either here or in its decision in the
19 Johnson Case. On the contrary, affirmance here is nothing less
20 than reading into the Fourteenth Amendment a conclusion that
21 hearsay evidence is always inadmissible. For if this evidence
22 cannot come in, it is hard to see how any extra-judicial
23 statements can be received.

24 That would be a revolution, not only in the law of
25 evidence, but in constitutional law. And if the Court thinks

1 I am overstating, I can only say that is what the California
2 Court has decided in both of these cases.

3 Moreover, since we are talking about the Fourteenth
4 Amendment and not the Sixth, Mr. Chief Justice, I will borrow
5 a little time from Mr. James, with his permission, I don't see
6 how it could be limited to criminal cases. It would apparently
7 apply to civil cases as well, for they are surely subject to
8 the Fourteenth and the Fifth Amendment.

9 Apparently, such a rule would apply to the administra-
10 tive process, where we have widely had statutes saying that
11 the rules of evidence shall not apply.

12 Such a conclusion would go beyond anything that is
13 needed or useful or warranted; it would go far beyond any con-
14 ception of due process which is part of our tradition or a
15 concept of ordered liberty. Our law has always accepted
16 hearsay evidence and evidence of extra-judicial statements and
17 actions, often without oath or cross-examination, under one
18 or another of a great many exceptions to the hearsay rule.

19 I would point out, of course, that other systems of
20 law widely admits hearsay evidence, subject only to the weight
21 to be attributed to it. Scholars in those systems often find
22 themselves quite unable to understand our concern about hearsay.

23 Often, in one situation or another, particularly in
24 administrative proceedings of one kind or another, our law
25 has specifically provided that no hearsay rule shall apply and

1 that the only test of the admissibility of evidence shall be
2 its relevance, with its weight under all of the circumstances
3 to be a matter of the trier of the fact.

4 It can hardly be said that such rules are irrational.
5 It ought not to be said that they are forbidden by the
6 Constitution. If states want to expand the admissibility of
7 evidence within sound reason, they should be free to do so.

8 As I have indicated, justice should be done in this
9 case but not by distorting our rules of evidence and putting
10 it beyond development and change. This is not a case for a
11 constitutional decision, and the California Court was wrong
12 in thinking that this Court's decision required it to dispose
13 of the case on federal constitutional grounds.

14 That error should be corrected, and the case should
15 then be remanded to the California Court for further proceed-
16 ings and not inconsistent with this Court's decision.

17 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, Mr. Solicitor
18 General.

19 Mr. Prettyman.

20 ARGUMENT OF E. BARRETT PRETTYMAN, JR.

21 ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT

22 Q Before you get under way, Mr. Prettyman, may I
23 ask if you know -- because I am not sure I could see it in the
24 record -- whether, in the California Supreme Court, the
25 insufficiency of the evidence to support the verdict was urged

1 by the petitioner here.

2 MR. PRETTYMAN: It was urged before the California
3 Supreme Court, and they reserved judgment.

4 I might say that I view the record in this case as
5 the Solicitor General does, but, perhaps, with more alarm.
6 And I have not raised the issue in my brief for the simple
7 reason that I was appointed after the petition was filed and
8 granted.

9 Consequently, I found myself bound by the issues
10 there presented. But, if for some reason I do not prevail
11 here, I would certainly intend to urge before the California
12 Supreme Court on remand that this conviction cannot stand on
13 such paltry evidence as we find in this case.

14 Q Even assuming all the evidence?

15 A Even assuming that all came in. As a matter
16 of fact, I would urge the rule -- which as I understand it has
17 not been decided by this Court -- as to whether a conviction
18 can stand on the basis of hearsay alone.

19 Q Well, the last sentence of the opinion says just
20 that. We need not reach a definite additional contention of
21 insufficiency. So it is wide open.

22 A That is correct. I would be happy to present
23 the issue of insufficiency and obtain a reversal on any ground
24 that I can.

25 Q Would you lead the Court, or seriously urge the

1 Court to review this record and make an initial determination
2 that this record was insufficient to satisfy the standards of
3 reasonable doubt?

4 A Your Honor, I think that the confrontation
5 issue is so square and is so surely in my favor that I don't
6 think that I have to urge that the Court do that. I think that
7 the California Court, should there be a remand, is fully able ---

8 Q I realize that, but I was just putting a direct
9 question to you as to whether you were seriously urging the
10 second proposition of this Court.

11 A You mean the hearsay?

12 Q Yes.

13 A Not at this time. I hope if there is a remand
14 that I will be back up if it is decided adversely by the
15 California Court.

16 Q It would appear on what you just confirmed about
17 the situation in the California Supreme Court that they
18 reached out of their y for a constitutional issue, when they
19 could have disposed of this case on what you and the Solicitor
20 General suggest is a relatively routine, non-constitutional
21 ground.

22 A Of course, I can't speak for the Court, but I
23 would guess that since they said that this evidence shouldn't
24 have been in the case in the first place, that they didn't
25 find it necessary to reach the question of what would have

1 happened if it had gotten in.

2 Q That is the reverse of what was once thought the
3 orthodox approach to the problem, isn't it?

4 A I concede it.

5 Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the Court: I
6 think I am fortunate in having a case in which the facts so
7 dramatically illustrate the dangers of adopting the position
8 that is urged by the State and the Solicitor General.

9 I would like to review those facts briefly, even
10 though they have been touched on before, because some very
11 important facts have not been mentioned to you.

12 The key witness in this case, and in fact the only
13 witness to the alleged crime, was a 16 year old named Melvin
14 Porter. In footnote 2 to my brief I have listed a series of
15 comments about this witness from the judge and the prosecutor.
16 I think that the most kindly and restrained way of summerizing
17 their attitude toward him was to say that they considered him
18 a worthless liar.

19 Yet it was he, and he alone who convicted Mr. Green.
20 Mr. Green at the time was 24 years old, and according to the
21 state, he gave or sold some marijuana to Porter.

22 Now, how did the State prove its case?

23 Q If I may interrupt you there, Mr. Prettyman,
24 does that go, do you think, primarily to admissibility or to
25 weight?

1 A I think what I am going to demonstrate to you,
2 Your Honor, is how it was impossible for the defendant to have
3 true and effective confrontation in this case. And I think
4 I can develop it for you through the facts and the situation
5 that he was confronted with -- how he was denied confrontation
6 in the same sense as if the witness had not even been on the
7 stand or if he had been pleading self-incrimination.

8 Before, during and after the trial in this case,
9 this 16 year old made four separate and self-conflicting
10 statements in regard to this crime. The first one was after
11 Mr. Porter, himself, had been arrested in an offense that was
12 separate from the one we have here.

13 He was arrested after selling marijuana to an under-
14 cover agent. And he had been incarcerated for four days at
15 the time he made this statement. The police officer, Officer
16 Wade, interrogated him at the juvenile headquarters. Only
17 the two of them were present. There was no lawyer either for
18 the defendant Green or for the defendant Porter, no witness,
19 no stenographer, just the two of them after this young boy had
20 been in jail for four days.

21 According to Wade, Porter told him that some weeks
22 before Mr. Green had called him and then had come by his house
23 and brought with him a bag of marujana.

24 The second statement was made at the preliminary
25 hearing of Mr. Green after he had been arrested as a result of

1 the first statement. Mr. Porter was still in custody of the
2 police, still in jail; his case had not yet been disposed of.
3 That hearing was held only eight days after Mr. Green's
4 arrest.

5 At the hearing Porter testified this time, not that
6 Green had brought a bag of marijuana to his house, but rather
7 that he had come and taken Mr. Porter over to the house of Mr.
8 Green's father and had showed him some marijuana behind a bush,
9 and Mr. Porter had come back on his own that night or the next
10 day and picked it up.

11 Now, I might say that there are a number of inconsis-
12 tencies between these first two statements, and the State has
13 never yet tried to reconcile those inconsistencies.

14 Q Did the State use both of those statements at
15 the trial?

16 A Correct.

17 Q I suppose you could agree that it is not unusual
18 in a criminal or a civil case to have inconsistencies and
19 disparities as wide as what appear in this record from two
20 different witnesses or from the same witness with internal
21 inconsistencies on direct cross-examination?

22 A I do think, however though, when you consider
23 that these are the only two statements that convicted this man.
24 He was not convicted upon any testimony at trial. He was
25 convicted on the basis of these two statements. I think that

1 there is some burden on somebody's part to reconcile the
2 conflicts. We don't even know from the trial judge whether he
3 relied on the first statement, the second statement, or both
4 statements; we have no idea.

5 Q But, what if we didn't have the out-of-court
6 statement at all, the preliminary hearing statement, that had
7 the one version on direct examination and the other version,
8 precisely as they now stand on the record, on cross-examination,
9 this would be purely a weight of the evidence question then,
10 wouldn't it?

11 A You would not have the conflict you have here,
12 but I am trying to demonstrate that to go back, as the State
13 would do, and say, "Well, these prior statements are more
14 likely to be true, because they are earlier in time," doesn't
15 face up to the issue that the two statements, themselves, don't
16 coincide one with the other. I think it goes to the point
17 about what kind of witness this is and the necessity for having
18 him give his convicting statement in front of the trier of
19 fact and not back before some police officer or at some previous
20 hearing.

21 I want to emphasize that at the preliminary hearing
22 Officer Wade, to whom the first statement had been given, did
23 not testify, and no mention was made of that first statement.
24 Therefore, Porter's attorney apparently had no view of it, had
25 no idea that he given a previous inconsistent statement.

1 Another thing about the preliminary hearing was that
2 Porter's attorney, apparently, knew nothing about the LSD that
3 was going to develop later. Not a single, solitary mention
4 was made of LSD at that preliminary hearing.

5 Now, we go on to the third statement.

6 Q What you are really saying is -- if I get
7 the argument is -- that the relevant point of confrontation
8 is not confrontation at the trial, but absence of confrontation
9 at the time of his out-of-court statement? Is that it?

10 A If I may state it just a little differently, Mr.
11 Justice; that the point of confrontation is to look the
12 witness in the eye, have the trier of fact look him in the eye,
13 not as he is talking about some other statement that he might
14 have made at some other time, but when he is talking about the
15 crime, when he is saying the words that convict.

16 This whole cross-examination at the trial was not
17 about the crime. The cross-examination was, "Well, now did
18 you say something to somebody else back there?" And he is
19 saying, "I am really not sure; I can't remember."

20 The third statement was given at trial. At this
21 point it is important to note that this young man was no longer
22 in custody; his own case had been disposed of. This is the
23 first time, now, that he is out of the hands of the police.
24 And what does he testify to now? He says, "Well, if you want
25 to know the truth of it, I took LSD about 20 minutes before

1 Mr. Green called me, and I am not sure what happened thereafter."

2 He didn't know whether Mr. Green had come by his house;
3 he didn't know whether, if he came by the house, he left any-
4 thing. He didn't know where he got the marijuana, because he
5 had been under the influence of LSD.

6 It was, thus, apparent to the State that they could
7 not convict Mr. Green on the testimony in court. This was the
8 only testimony of this crime.

9 So, what do they do? They turn around and have the
10 officer come in and say, "Well, he told me down at juvenile
11 headquarters such and such." And then they read to the
12 witness from portions, about one-fourth of the testimony at
13 the preliminary hearing -- including, I might say, about one-
14 fourth of the cross-examination -- they read this testimony
15 to the witness, and they say, "Didn't you say that at the
16 preliminary hearing?"

17 If you will look on page 7 of my brief, you will
18 see in the footnote his various replies to these questions
19 about what he had said before. If there was ever a young man
20 who was confused, who seemed to be saying 6 different things
21 at once, it was this young man. The best we can make out of
22 all of his testimony was, "Well, if I said it before, perhaps
23 it was true, but the fact of the matter is that, because of
24 my condition, I don't know anything about the crime."

25 Because of these two sections of the California Code,

1 these prior two statements, the one to the officer and the one
2 at the preliminary hearing, where the young man both times was
3 under police control, those were the statements that convicted
4 Mr. Green. Nothing that was said at trial could have convicted
5 him. Because the only direct evidence at trial was that he
6 didn't know what had happened.

7 The fourth statement from this young man was made after
8 trial. It was in a sworn statement, which he said he was
9 making at the suggestion of his probation officer. Here he
10 said he had not gotten the marijuana from Mr. Green; he had
11 gotten it from a gentleman named Lug Head, that Mr. Green was
12 entirely innocent of the offense and that he, Mr. Porter, had
13 made these statements because of police threats when he was
14 in their hands and because he was unable to distinguish between
15 reality and fantasy.

16 Both the intermediate appellate court and the Calif-
17 ornia Supreme Court unanimously held that Mr. Green was denied
18 his right of confrontation.

19 Q This follow-up statement that he made after trial,
20 an extra-judicial sworn statement, it really doesn't go very
21 much to the issue before us, does it?

22 A Well, except to this extent, Mr. Justice, it was
23 made part of the record as part of a motion for a new trial.
24 And I think if you review the four statements and see the
25 incredible inconsistencies, I think to view any statement made

1 by this man as evidence, even if you look back at the prior
2 two, it simply won't wash. This fourth statement is part of
3 the pattern of four totally inconsistent ---

4 Q It does, however, rather go more to the question
5 of whether, admitting all this evidence at the trial, was
6 there proof beyond a reasonable doubt when you are dealing
7 with a witness such as this.

8 Q I would like to ask you another question:
9 Supposing you didn't have this ambulatory testimony and just
10 a straightforward contradictory statement, without any LSD or
11 any equivocation that had been offered, would you still say
12 the confrontation rule which you are arguing for now should be
13 the rule?

14 A Let me see if I understand it. He gets on the
15 stand and he makes one statement?

16 Q That is right. And they come up and prove a
17 flat-footed statement the other way, period.

18 A I think, conceivably, that might be used solely
19 to impeach, and, incidently, I have some question even on that.
20 Because in order, at least in the federal courts, to impeach
21 you have to have both surprise and affirmative damaging
22 evidence given for the other side, which you don't have in the
23 case of this LSD testimony. But, assuming that you could use
24 it only to impeach, I certainly don't agree that you could use
25 the prior statement for the truth ---

1 Q No matter how unequivocal it was?

2 A No, sir; I certainly don't, and I will show you
3 why shortly.

4 Now the State has a quite simple argument, deceptively
5 so. And in some ways it seems to have a certain appeal. They
6 say quite simply that so long as the witness is available at
7 trial, so that the trier of fact can look him in the eye, what
8 possible harm can be done in putting in the prior statements?

9 Well, the answer is great deal of harm can be done.
10 The right to confrontaion, in order to have any substance,
11 in order to have any meaning, if it is not going to become an
12 empty right, must mean that there is going to be something more
13 than having a witness, a body, available.

14 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Let's dispense for lunch
15 now, Mr. Prettyman.

16 (Whereupon, at 12:00 p.m. the argument in the
17 above-entitled matter was recessed to commence again at 1:04
18 p.m. this day.)

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1 (After the recess the argument in the above-entitled
2 matter was resumed at 1:04 p.m.)

3 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: You may proceed whenever
4 you are ready.

5 MR. PRETTYMAN: May it please the Court:

6 There are three basic ingredients of the right of
7 confrontation which I would like to discuss, all three of
8 which were missing in this case. The first one is, perhaps,
9 the least important of the three, but, nevertheless, I think
10 it is a factor; it is the requirement that the witness make the
11 incriminating statement at the crucial hearing itself, so that
12 the subjective, moral impact of the courtroom is brought to
13 bear on it. So that he fully realizes the importance, the
14 seriousness, the gravity of the proceeding and the necessity
15 for telling the truth.

16 I am not going to elaborate on this except to say
17 that it is a very far cry from giving a statement to a police
18 officer at juvenile headquarters than it is from giving it
19 under oath before a judge or a jury, facing the defendant in
20 the courtroom itself, where the issue of innocence or guilt
21 is going to be decided.

22 The second basic ingredient is viewing the contem-
23 poraneous demeanor of that witness, the concept that the
24 witness will make his incriminating statement in front of the
25 trier of fact. So that the trier of fact, then and there,

1 as the words are said, can determine whether this man is
2 telling the truth.

3 The State says that you can judge his demeanor at
4 trial as he is asked about his statement. But is the demeanor
5 at trial in any way comparable to the demeanor on the prior
6 occasion? Of course not.

7 Porter, in the hands of the police, implicates Green.
8 Porter, out of the hands of the police, fails to implicate
9 Green. We can see his non-implicating demeanor at trial. But
10 his implicating demeanor is lost to us forever. There is no
11 way we can go back and pick that up.

12 The State's position assumes that you can judge at
13 trial whether or not the witness is lying at trial, and,
14 therefore, you can make an assumption about prior truth. That
15 just isn't so.

16 In this case, if the judge at trial found that Porter
17 was telling the truth about taking LSD, it follows of course
18 that Green's conviction cannot stand. Because Porter said that
19 the effect of the LSD was such that he simply did not know the
20 facts about the crime.

21 But what if the judge at the trial didn't believe
22 the story about LSD? What can that possibly prove about the
23 two prior statements? Porter could have lied in his first
24 statement; he could have lied in his second statement; he could
25 have lied at trial or all three occasions.

1 It is not enough to see the man's demeanor now,
2 weeks or months after those statements were made. You have to
3 be able to compare demeanors, to see the demeanor now and
4 the demeanor then.

5 As a matter of fact, there is a very great danger here.
6 Because I think there is a tendency to feel when a man is
7 lying at trial, if he has made a prior statement that is diff-
8 erent, to feel automatically that the other statement must be
9 true. But that again just isn't so.

10 Q What would you do, Mr. Prettyman, on that thesis
11 with the traditional hearsay exceptions, dying declarations
12 for example, where the same arguments can be made that you
13 are making now? Would you say that those are unconstitutional
14 too?

15 A No, Your Honor. In the case of the dying
16 declaration you have two elements that are lacking here. One
17 is there is an assumption that if the witness were available,
18 if he was here at trial, he would tell the same story that he
19 told before. You assume that. Here that is completely
20 refuted and rebutted. Because when the man gets on the stand
21 at the trial, and you are looking him in the eye, he has a
22 different story to tell.

23 The other thing about the dying declaration is that
24 it has a very high degree of probability of truthfulness. The
25 Courts have always assumed, perhaps rightly or wrongly, that

1 a man on his death bed is going to tend to tell the truth.

2 Q Those are legal presumptions that have the force
3 of tradition behind them, and it seems to me that would suggest,
4 perhaps, the earlier question I put to you as to whether or
5 not your argument doesn't turn on the particular facts of the
6 case rather than to a general rule as to the scope of the
7 confrontation problem?

8 A Your Honor, I think the facts of this case point
9 out rather dramatically the dangers here, but there are other
10 cases which point it out just as well.

11 Now that you have asked me about that, let me turn
12 to the case that the State is asking you to overrule today,
13 although you denied certiorari when it came up to you before.

14 In California vs. Johnson you had a mother and a
15 young daughter testifying before the grand jury that the father
16 had had incest with the daughter. Now this is before the
17 grand jury where the defendant cannot be present; his counsel
18 is not allowed to be present.

19 When the mother and the daughter got on the stand at
20 trial, what did they say? The mother said, "I'll tell you
21 why I told that story, because he beat me up and I was mad at
22 him." And the daughter said, "I told the story, because he
23 found out I was a member of a sex club in high school, and he
24 turned my name over to the U. S. Attorney." They said the
25 stories just are not true, and they convicted that man on the

1 basis of the grand jury testimony. That is the rule that the
2 State is asking you to adopt.

3 Q Could you draw any distinction between -- in
4 terms of what kind of a statement the witness made at the
5 previous time? What if the witness had made a statement that
6 was against his interest?

7 A Your Honor, I think that -- and incidentally, I
8 make a distinction between a civil and criminal proceeding,
9 although the Solicitor General doesn't -- in a criminal
10 proceeding I think the against interest rule goes out the
11 window. I think that in a criminal proceeding, where you
12 have not had the opportunity for discovery of the facts as
13 you do in civil proceedings, the prosecution has to rest on
14 the evidence that it develops at trial, at least for the
15 truth.

16 Q But, generally, the prior statements by the
17 witness -- if there were some other substitute for reliability,
18 I take it, like in the dying declarations, you would permit
19 those?

20 A No, because, as I point out, in the case of the
21 dying declaration it is not just a question of a probability
22 of truth. It is a more basic assumption that if the man were
23 here, he would say the same thing.

24 Q So except for the dying declaration, you
25 wouldn't permit any of the exceptions?

1 A Only for impeachment purposes, but not for the
2 truth of what they say. I say that for a man to be convicted
3 in a criminal trial he has to have the evidence against
4 him introduced at the trial where the person, as he says the
5 words, can be looked in the eye by the trier of fact.

6 Q Let's assume that a co-defendant is tried, and
7 one of the co-defendants has confessed and he implicates the
8 other defendant. In Bruton the Court held that -- at least
9 where the co-defendant didn't testify -- you couldn't introduce
10 the confession ---

11 A That is correct.

12 Q --- or use it against the other defendant. What
13 if the co-defendant does testify?

14 A All right. Suppose he testifies, and he says,
15 "In truth and fact, what I said in this alleged confession is
16 simply untrue. It was extracted out of me by force?"

17 Q You would say then they cannot introduce these
18 prior confessions?

19 A Well, except possibly for impeachment purposes
20 and possibly ---

21 Q Well you could introduce it against him?

22 A Yes, but not against the defendant, absolutely.

23 Q You would say the prior statement of the
24 defendant, himself, is permissible for the truth of the matter?

25 A Yes; of course, you have a double problem in

1 Bruton. Because, as you recall, the instruction to the jury,
2 it is not to be considered against him.

3 Q Put that aside for a moment.

4 A Putting that aside, I say, absolutely, the
5 prosecution has to content itself with the evidence that they
6 can produce before the trier of fact. They cannot, as in
7 this case, rely solely upon evidence that was developed out of
8 the sight of the trier of fact, that is written, spoken words
9 that the trier of fact has not seen and which the defendant
10 cannot even find out about.

11 How can this defendant in this case -- when we
12 talk about the right of cross-examination -- how is he
13 supposed to cross-examine a man who says that he knows nothing
14 about the offense because he had taken LSD? How is he
15 supposed to cross-examine him about a statement made to a
16 police officer at juvenile headquarters, when the kid had been
17 incarcerated for four days -- nothing had happened in his
18 trial, only the two of them were present? He later says in
19 his fourth statement that he had given it partially because of
20 police threats.

21 Q You would have the same position whether or not
22 the prior statement was made under the influence of LSD; if he
23 would have been perfectly competent and knew exactly, you would
24 take the same position?

25 A Absolutely. Because the right of confrontation

1 in any meaningful sense is missing. I think that they view the
2 right of confrontation the same way, in a comparable fashion
3 to the right to counsel. They would say, "So long as you have
4 counsel, that is all that is necessary." That isn't what
5 this Court has said. It says that you have to have the effec-
6 tive assistance of counsel. If the counsel sells the man
7 down the river, you have not had counsel.

8 Here it is not enough to have a body on the stand
9 that you can throw questions at. You said this in Douglas vs.
10 Alabama where you had the witness present, available; he
11 could be asked questions. But he wasn't answering them, because
12 of self-incrimination. He was denied "effective" confrontation.
13 And that is what is missing here. And that is what I want
14 to turn to.

15 Q But as Justice Harlan suggested to you, all
16 of these arguments could be made on the dying declaration
17 exception, too, couldn't they? And nothing but, I think
18 Justice Harlan called it tradition -- and presumably behind
19 that tradition -- long human experience supports the
20 exception.

21 A Your Honor, I can only say to you that the two
22 basic underpinnings of the dying declaration are totally
23 absent here. The only way the dying declaration ever gets in,
24 and it gets in only in the case of the absolute necessity of
25 the witness not being there, the only way is that you assume

1 that he would testify the same way, and it has a very great
2 degree of probability of truth. Because of those two factors
3 the courts have let it in in the past. Both of those are
4 missing now; the witness is present, and he is giving a differ-
5 ent story. Therefore, you do not assume that he gives the
6 same; you have to assume the opposite. The degree of the
7 probability of truth is missing. It can't be said to be
8 present in this case.

9 Q But the testimony is under oath.

10 A Not the first statement, no, sir.

11 Q What about the one at the preliminary hearing?

12 A The one at the preliminary hearing was under
13 oath. Sir, I am going to address myself very shortly to the
14 proposition that testimony at a preliminary hearing is a very
15 far cry -- as this Court has said -- from testimony at trial.
16 And the right of cross-examination is quite different at the
17 preliminary hearing than it is here.

18 Q Why? I never heard that before.

19 A For this reason: In the first place the
20 preliminary hearing is held as soon as possible after arrest and
21 sometimes contemporaneously with the appointment of counsel.
22 Quite often, in the state courts and even in the federal courts,
23 the first time that the appointed attorney sees this man is
24 when he walks into the preliminary hearing, because he was just
25 appointed.

1 Secondly, the issue at the preliminary hearing is
2 a very narrow one. It is not guilt beyond a reasonable doubt;
3 it is whether there is simply enough evidence to say that
4 there is probable cause to hold the man.

5 Q What effect does that have on the examination?

6 A Because, sir, in the first place the cross-
7 examiner has not been able to find the facts. In this case
8 this trial attorney was retained no more than six days and
9 perhaps ---

10 Q I understand that, but I can't understand the
11 reason for your argument that the examination is somehow
12 different.

13 A I was saying cross-examination, Mr. Justice.

14 Q I don't understand why it would be different.
15 It is not in my state, and I don't know why it would be gener-
16 ally.

17 A In the first place, as I say, the attorney who
18 is going to do the cross-examination simply has not had time
19 to gather the facts to prepare for effective cross-examination.
20 In this case, for example, the attorney knew nothing about
21 Officer Wade's statement and he knew nothing about LSD, just
22 by way of example.

23 In the second place the courts are constantly striv-
24 ing to keep the issue at the preliminary hearing narrow. Here
25 in the district defendants have attempted a broad gains

1 cross-examination, attempting to use it for discovery purposes
2 to all the whole range of facts surrounding the case, and
3 they have been denied that right. The trial courts have said
4 no; so long as the issue is the very narrow one of probable
5 cause, that really is all that you can cross-examine.

6 Q But it's a probable cause of guilt in each
7 case either in the preliminary or the other; one is the probable
8 cause of guilt and the other one is just guilt.

9 A Well, one is whether there is probable cause
10 to hold him, and the other one is whether there is guilt beyond
11 a reasonable doubt. And those standards ---

12 Q That is right, but the issue is not what it
13 decides is the same. I just don't understand this idea that
14 there is some difference. It may be that Alabama's rule is
15 different than most states; I am not saying it is not. But that
16 is why I was asking you this question about why the difference.
17 Sometimes a preliminary is not tried for months, 2 months, 3
18 months.

19 A Well, on the other hand, the whole purpose of
20 the preliminary is to hold it at an early a time as possible.

21 Q That is not the whole purpose, not an early a
22 time as possible. They are not always held that early.

23 A Here in the District there is a statute which
24 requires you do it within 10 days unless you waive it.

25 Q Well, that may be true; that is why I was asking

1 you about the difference. It might be different in other
2 states.

3 A Well, they are asking you for a rule that is
4 going to apply to all preliminary hearings, regardless of
5 when they are held. What I am saying to you is that to have
6 a man available for cross-examination at preliminary hearing
7 is simply not an effective right. As a practical matter, you
8 are not able to cross-examine.

9 Q That may be true, but I just can't understand
10 it. Because I have tried many; we have examined just like
11 you on the regular trial. There is no difference in it. Some-
12 times it is a week, 2 months, something, but always we really
13 had a trial.

14 A I can only assure you, Mr. Justice, that it is
15 quite different in many jurisdictions. In many cases the
16 lawyer at the preliminary hearing isn't even the same as the
17 one at trial.

18 Q Suppose it is a jurisdiction which does have a
19 regular knock-down and drag-out trial in cross-examination?

20 A Well, I would still say that if you have a
21 man who gives one story at the preliminary hearing, whether
22 he has been cross-examined for 8 days or not, and he gets on
23 the stand at trial where the issue is entirely different and
24 gives a different story, that the prosecution is stuck with
25 the story that the man tells on the stand. Because the trier

1 of fact as to ultimate guilt is going to look him in the eye.

2 In California they can't even be the same judge.
3 It is a different judge. The judge down at the preliminary
4 hearing is a magistrate or a justice of the peace, and not
5 the same man who is going to appear when the ultimate issue of
6 guilt is decided.

7 I think this case illustrates the fact that there
8 may well have been enough evidence at the preliminary hearing
9 for holding the man. But even the Solicitor General recognizes
10 that when you start talking about ultimate proof of guilt at
11 the trial, you get into some serious difficulty.

12 Q Are you not drawing any distinction between
13 the legal relevancy of a statement made at a preliminary
14 trial, where there is a cross-examination, and one made to
15 an officer on the outside?

16 A I think quite obviously that the statement made
17 to Officer Wade has all kinds of problems to it, some of
18 which are less serious in the preliminary hearing. But what
19 I am saying is that to equate the preliminary hearing and the
20 cross-examination allowed at the preliminary hearing with
21 the trial is simply not realistic. And, as a matter of fact,
22 goes entirely against the grain of what this Court has said
23 when, itself, has said that the preliminary hearing issues are
24 entirely different.

25 Q There is no doubt about the issues being

1 different; the issue is finally whether he is guilty or
2 probable cause for guilt. Am I to understand from you that
3 if the person should be against you on the issue with refer-
4 ence to the preliminary trial, that he can't be against you
5 on the others -- or rather for you on the others? Are you
6 putting them on the same level?

7 A Putting which person? I am sorry; I didn't
8 understand the question.

9 Q The one where they have a chance for cross-
10 examination at a preliminary and the one just where a statement
11 is made to an officer.

12 A I have said to you, sir, that I do believe there
13 is a difference, and that I think that the difficulty with
14 the statement to Officer Wade is a far more serious one. But,
15 on the other hand, I still think that it is not enough to have
16 a man at a preliminary hearing simply cross-examine.

17 If you hold this way, look what is going to happen to
18 the effective assistance of counsel. Do you realize the
19 fantastic pressure that this is going to put on counsel to
20 prepare themselves for a full, effective cross-examination at
21 that preliminary hearing?

22 You have said that counsel has to be at a line-up,
23 because it is a critical confrontation, because not to have him
24 present might derogate from the man's right at trial. What
25 are you going to do about these preliminary hearings? The

1 man has to prepare himself fully just as he would for trial,
2 because, otherwise, he might miss his only opportunity to tear
3 this man's story down.

4 Many of these statements are taken, of course, before
5 there even is a defendant, such as in the Johnson Case and
6 such as the statement made to Officer Wade here.

7 Q If the man testifies at the preliminary hearing
8 one way and then at the hearing on the merits he says I didn't
9 know what happened because I was on LSD, once he made that
10 statement, both the statement read to him and the statement
11 which was made, the defense counsel has unlimited cross-
12 examination.

13 A At the preliminary hearing or at the trial?

14 Q At the trial.

15 A Well, I think this case is the perfect example
16 of why cross-examination at trial in regard to any previous
17 statement is not sufficient; it simply is not. And the reason
18 is that when you have this man at this trial who says, "I
19 don't know anything about the facts, because I was under the
20 influence of LSD," you can talk to him until you are blue in
21 the face about some prior statement, but what are you going
22 to get him to say? Just what you did here. Read page 7 of my
23 brief and see these comments. He says, "Well, I don't know;
24 I guess I said it, but really I just don't know too much about
25 it."

1 Q Well, you don't deny that you are getting toward
2 the truth?

3 A Not in this case I don't think you are getting
4 toward the truth, Mr. Justice.

5 Q Why not?

6 A If you mean getting further toward the truth
7 from the statement from Officer Wade, I would agree that you
8 have a little better chance.

9 Q At this point I am not interested in Officer
10 Wade. At this point you can discredit him to the bitter end.
11 The defense counsel.

12 A The point I am making is what good does it do ---

13 Q Well, the defense counsel just established
14 that this man is a non-truth-telling person; I've got a
15 better word. That should discredit him should it not?

16 A All right. If you show that he is lying now,
17 what have you proved about whether he was lying before?

18 Q Possibly you could show that he never told the
19 truth since he was born.

20 A I would like to think that is precisely what
21 was shown here, but the man was convicted on the basis of
22 these prior statements.

23 Q That is just the point: that the judge sitting
24 as the trier of fact does not agree that he just never tells
25 the truth.

1 A The judge at trial, Mr. Justice, how is he going
2 to know the circumstances under which this man testified at
3 the preliminary hearing? How is he going to see the flicker
4 of lying on his face?

5 Q He will know as much about it as competent
6 counsel brings out on cross-examination at the trial.

7 A I submit to you that it isn't very much. I
8 submit to you that he has no opportunity to recreate the scene
9 as the man gave his testimony; that you are allowing a man to
10 testify on one occasion and use it under other circumstances,
11 something that has never been done.

12 This -- so far as I know -- has never been done
13 before. This rule that they are asking for is a broadening
14 of the common law rule. The very first right under confronta-
15 tion -- even before the right to cross-examine -- was the
16 right to have the witness come and appear at the trial while
17 he gave his testimony. That was the most basic of all rights.

18 I say it is not enough to have him cross-examined
19 now about his prior statements. He should be cross-examined
20 about what he knows about the crime and the facts of the crime.

21 Here that right was simply denied. This man was
22 denied an effective cross-examination just as much as if he
23 would have had a wooden body on the stand. This boy simply
24 could not answer the questions. He didn't know.

25 Q Well, of course, there is another factor,

1 isn't there, Mr. Prettyman? That he may have been dissembling
2 at the trial? No one has any way of knowing, subjectively, what
3 was the motivation behind this.

4 A If I were to guess -- and I confess that it is
5 only a guess -- I would say that this boy at trial really
6 knew that Green did not give him this stuff; that he got it
7 from Lug Head; and that he finally decided he had better get
8 him off.

9 That is perfectly in conformity with his fourth
10 statement, which in turn is actually supported by evidence at
11 the trial. And it is just as logical to assume that he
12 decided at trial to get him off as it is to assume that one
13 of these prior statements, which conflicted one with the other,
14 was in fact true. That is a guess, Mr. Justice.

15 But I don't think we should be guessing about this
16 kind of thing. I think the man has to get on the stand
17 and give his story and let you judge him by the way he is
18 giving it now. So that when he gives the incriminating test-
19 imony, you look him right in the eye and you tell as best you
20 can if it is true or false.

21 Now I would like to pass, in the moments remaining
22 to me, to something which I think is extremely important. I
23 have touched on it, but I would like to expand on it a little
24 bit. I am concerned -- if you approve this rule -- about what
25

1 is going to happen to this problem of effective assistance
2 of counsel.

3 It is inconceivable to me that, if these statements
4 are going to come in, that they can come in without counsel
5 being present when they were first made.

6 Look what is going to happen now to all of these
7 pre-trial proceedings: motions to suppress evidence, hearings
8 on sanity and ability to stand trial, line-ups, preliminary
9 hearings and all the rest of these pre-trial proceedings.

10 Every one of these proceedings is going to be turned
11 into a forum for the prosecution to get its statements down,
12 to get its case put in, and they couldn't care less about the
13 trial later. They couldn't care less whether the man gets up
14 and even says, "I never made the statement before." Because,
15 under the California statute, it is not even required that he
16 admit he made them.

17 Do you realize the pressure that this is going to
18 put on the police, for example? They have got a fellow in
19 tow here, down at headquarters, for four days. They could
20 beat a confession out of him, and he gets on the stand, and
21 he says, "I never meant a word of it. They beat me up." And
22 that first statement can be used to convict. It is incredible.

23 Q Well, subject to all the constitutional rules
24 developed over the years with respect to involuntary
25 confessions.

1 A Of course, Your Honor. But we are hopeful that
2 the facts would come out and that he could show that he was
3 beaten up. But the point I am making is that even to allow
4 the possibility that a statement out of the defendant's presence,
5 under the tow of the police, could be used as the sole evidence
6 at trial to convict a man, despite what he says at the trial,
7 I think that is inconceivable. I think it goes directly
8 against every concept of confrontation.

9 You are going to have statements ---

10 Q Suppose a man comes into the police station and
11 says, "I have just murdered my brother, and I shot him with a
12 38 revolver, which I am now handing to you. And I am ready
13 and willing to sign anything that you will give me. But,
14 as a matter of fact, I represent myself." And he doesn't have
15 a lawyer or anything else.

16 A I say that if he goes on the stand at trial and
17 says, "In truth what happened was this: That the guy didn't do
18 it at all; it was somebody else who did it; that I was
19 drunk at the time and just felt like playing a game and came
20 into police headquarters and confessed," I say the prosecution
21 is stuck with that testimony.

22 Q But he can't use the other?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q In his own handwriting?

25 A Yes, certainly, whether it is in his handwriting

1 or not.

2 Q If you keep pushing me, I am going to have six
3 witnesses with him.

4 A Your Honor, I had a man once tell me that he
5 had committed such a crime. And it turned out that legally
6 he hadn't. He didn't know whether he had done it or not.

7 Q He had a good lawyer.

8 A Thank you, sir.

9 Q Suppose he goes on television and confesses?
10 Would you believe that?

11 A No, I wouldn't. Because we don't know why he
12 is on television. We don't know whether he confessed under
13 pressure. We don't know whether he may be under LSD.

14 Q He can explain that he was under pressure. You
15 are saying that there is no way it can be admitted?

16 A As evidence of the truth of the fact asserted.
17 That is the traditional rule. As the Eighth Circuit has said,
18 that rule has stood the test of time, and the academic ---

19 Q That a voluntary confession is never admissible?

20 A Not against the man himself, now. This is
21 against another defendant you are talking about. We are not
22 talking about a confession of the man who shot the woman; we
23 are talking about a confession of one man who implicates the
24 other fellow who is on trial.

25 Q What do we do with a man who testifies and

1 has his own tape recorder?

2 A And again, this is a statement about somebody
3 else, not about himself?

4 Q About somebody else; it won't come it?

5 A Not as affirmative proof of guilt against the
6 other party, if that is not the story he gives at trial.

7 Q And it is your position that there is nothing
8 in the record other than those that will stand up as proof
9 that Green did sell the marijuana?

10 A No; what I am saying is that the total lack
11 of evidence of guilt itself other than these two statements.
12 There were circumstances which could be said to -- if believed --
13 corroborate some aspects of it. But I think everyone would agree
14 that if we took these two statements out, there would not be
15 enough evidence.

16 Q What you want us to say is that, where there
17 is no evidence other than these statements, then the conviction
18 cannot stand?

19 A No, sir. I do not base it on whether there is
20 enough evidence or not. What I am saying is that you look at
21 each statement itself, whether or not it is enough to convict,
22 whether or not. And you judge it as to whether the statement
23 was made in court before the defendant and the trier of fact.
24 You judge it. Or whether it was made on some other occasion.

25 Q And once the witness says, "I don't have the

1 slightest idea of what happened that day, because I was under
2 LSD." And he never contradicts that statement. You cannot
3 use anything similar to these two statements to the contrary,
4 because there is nothing.

5 A Well, you can use extrinsic proof of some kind,
6 but you cannot use the man's own prior inconsistent statement.
7 That is the great innovation in this California Code. This
8 type of evidence has traditionally been used to impeach a
9 witness, but not, obviously, for the truth of what is in it.
10 And for all of these various, obvious reasons. The dangers
11 are just too great.

12 Q You would still let it stand for impeachment
13 purposes?

14 A I would where it met the test; that is the
15 test both of surprise and of ---

16 Q And you would be content to rely on jury
17 instruction that they can't use it for the truth of the fact,
18 even though as a practical lawyer you probably know the jury
19 would take it that way anyway?

20 A Well, I don't think we can decide the constitu-
21 tional question on the basis that the jury will disregard the
22 instruction.

23 Q Well, that runs into Bruton, doesn't it?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q You would, therefore, never accept the old

1 co-conspirator exception?

2 A The co-conspirator exception only allows the
3 statement in to impeach the particular defendant against whom
4 it comes, and it is not allowed as affirmative evidence of
5 guilt as to the other party. And the jury is so instructed.

6 But, this Court, as you know, has had difficulty
7 in cases where they felt that it could be considered. And
8 you have reversed cases where a statement has come in that
9 implicated the second defendant. You felt that the jury
10 instruction was not sufficient.

11 Q Did you say that we said the co-conspirator
12 statement may not be used on the question of guilt or innocence?

13 A Of the co-conspirator?

14 Q I am saying that A and B are indicted as co-
15 conspirators. A makes a statement pursuant to the conspiracy
16 implicating B.

17 A As I understand it, if the first co-conspirator
18 has made a pre-trial statement, and it then comes in as to him.
19 But if it implicates the other co-defendant, the jury must be
20 instructed -- unless he is testifying the same thing at trial,
21 in other words, if it is an out-of-trial statement -- that
22 it can't be used against him.

23 Q I think that is, perhaps, not quite accurate
24 with respect to the federal rule; that is with respect to
25 co-conspirators. That is generally understood to be a

1 recognized exception of guilt. But you do not have a
2 conspiracy case.

3 A No; I, fortunately, do not.

4 The last point that I would like to make is simply
5 that we are going to have all kinds of conflicts develop between
6 the various goals that we seek in our criminal justice system,
7 if we allow this kind of thing to happen.

8 As I have indicated, the entire point of the
9 preliminary hearing, for example, is to get it as soon as
10 possible, so that you can free men who are not guilty and
11 who shouldn't be held. Whereas, I am afraid that retained
12 counsel and appointed counsel -- that the great impetus with
13 them if this rule is approved -- is going to delay that
14 preliminary hearing just as long as possible. Because it
15 means that they are going to have to prepare for it the same
16 way they prepare for trial. They know they have got to strike
17 while the anvil is hot at that preliminary hearing.

18 Every, single experienced trial lawyer is against
19 this academic approach. Because they tell you it is not
20 enough just to have somebody available for cross-examination
21 days or weeks later.

22 As a matter of fact, it is even error in court to
23 delay cross-examination too long after direct examination.
24 Because the trial lawyers know that if you don't get that man
25 to change or retract his testimony as he makes it, it is going

1 to become solidified in his mind; it is going to become
2 solidified in the jury's mind. It is going to gain a stature
3 merely by the passage of time, and it is going to be too late
4 to cross-examine that man at some later day about what he
5 might have said long ago.

6 Q Mr. Prettyman, when you say that this is the
7 universal view of trial lawyers, how would you reconcile that
8 with the recommendation of the American College of Trial
9 Lawyers, which certainly contains some of the most eminent
10 trial lawyers in this country, and a great many of them with
11 approval of exactly what the Solicitor General and the
12 Attorney General of California are arguing here today?

13 A I have, perhaps, misstated, but I was quoting ---

14 Q I wasn't suggesting that you misstated, just
15 overstated.

16 A I was citing, actually, the Eighth Circuit's
17 statement to the effect that trial lawyers did not think that
18 this was an adequate substitute. And my own experience in
19 talking to trial lawyers is that they regard late cross-
20 examination, cross-examination long after the fact, as some-
21 thing that is totally unacceptable as a substitute for cross-
22 examination while the man is testifying.

23 Moreover, some of these codes and propositions
24 that have been put forward, you know, are not all like this
25 one. Maguire, for example, -- although he is cited as in

1 support of this -- actually would restrict it to witness
2 statements. And the British Code would not only restrict
3 it to witness statements, but would restrict it to civil
4 proceedings, which is far different. Because there, as
5 you know, you have such a right of discovery before trial;
6 that you can discover all these facts that you would need to
7 know for your trial or cross-examination. But it is not
8 true in criminal cases, in most instances.

9 I think that the impetus to put off the preliminary
10 hearing as long as possible, so that you can prepare for it,
11 I think is going to be a very serious result of all this.

12 The California statute is worried about the turn-
13 coat witness. The answer to the turncoat witness is a speedy
14 trial. It is not -- Right now prosecutors want a speedy trial,
15 because they want to get that evidence in while it is still
16 fresh in the memories and the minds of the witnesses.

17 Under the California statute, they couldn't care less
18 about a speedy trial. They have got their case. They have
19 got the statement before Officer Wade and at the preliminary
20 hearing, and they know they can go in and convict on that.

21 I say that the answer to the turncoat witness is
22 not to take away the most valuable single right the defendant
23 has in a criminal trial; and that is to confront and cross-
24 examine the witnesses against him as the crucial, incriminating
25 testimony comes in.

1 If you have no more questions, thank you very much.

2 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, Mr. Prettyman.

3 Mr. James.

4 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF WILLIAM E. JAMES

5 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER

6 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chief Justice and may it please the
7 Court:

8 In the few moments that I have left, I think I just
9 want to touch on a few points. I think there is no fact
10 clearer from the decisions of this Court than that the right
11 of confrontation is a trial right. And if there is anything
12 in our adversary system, it is the right of cross-examination
13 by competent counsel.

14 I believe Mr. Justice Marshall pointed out that if
15 there are discrepancies in the story of a witness, a prior
16 statement, a statement in court, competent counsel can probe
17 out that statement and determine what the truth is. And the
18 trier of fact has an opportunity to view the witness as he is
19 testifying on the stand.

20 Now this argument that we have heard about contempor-
21 aneous utterances. It comes, I think, from the Supreme Court
22 of California where they used the term "contemporaneous
23 confrontation", which isn't found in the Sixth Amendment as
24 far as I know. It is a sort of "do-it-yourself constitutional"
25 attitude.

1 If there is to be any confrontation, the personal
2 confrontation at trial should be sufficient-- where the
3 competent counsel has an opportunity to examine the witness,
4 to find out why he made his statement at one time and why he
5 is making this statement. And the trier of fact can view him
6 and determine wherein lies the truth.

7 We submit that that is all that the Constitution
8 requires.

9 Q What other states, if any, have got this
10 California statute?

11 A Well, I believe we cited a recent case out of
12 Kentucky where, by judicial decision, they adopted this rule.
13 This is also true of the State of Wisconsin, as far as I know.
14 California has it. I believe the Second Circuit follows it.
15 And following the Bruton decision and remand by this Court of
16 a number of cases, I think the Ninth Circuit follows it.

17 If the co-defendant who confesses -- when you have
18 a Bruton type situation -- is present in court and takes the
19 stand and is subject to cross-examination by the particular
20 defendant, that defendant has not been denied confrontation.

21 I think this was evident from the case that this
22 Court had relating to confrontation just last term, following
23 Bruton. And that was Harrington vs. California. There were
24 four defendants tried together. Harrington was up on appeal
25 to this Court contending that he had been denied confrontation.

1 There were three confessing co-defendants whose
2 confessions, relating to the crime and those who participated
3 in the crime, were introduced into evidence.

4 Two of those confessing co-defendants, Bosby and
5 Cooper, did not mention this defendant Harrington by name. They
6 talked about a white boy. And Harrington was the only
7 Caucasian who participated in this abortive robbery and murder.

8 They specifically said he did not have a gun. This
9 Court held that there was Bruton error as to those two co-
10 defendants' confession, but that it was harmless.

11 The third confessing co-defendant, Rowan, named
12 Harrington, placed him in the store where the robbery took
13 place with a gun, in possession of a gun. But the significant
14 thing in that case was that the co-defendant Rowan took the
15 stand and was subject to cross-examination by Harrington's
16 counsel. And we submit ---

17 Q Can that holding stand if your opponents are
18 correct here?

19 A I don't think so. If they would say that as
20 to Rowan likewise, his statement made out of court -- although
21 he was present in court subject to cross-examination -- would
22 not be admissible. And it would be error of a Bruton type.

23 Q But Rowan's testimony was no different from his
24 confession.

25 Q But it was an out-of-court statement.

1 A It was an out-of-court statement.

2 Q Well, I know. But he testified -- and that
3 certainly was substantive evidence against Harrington -- he
4 testified at the trial against Harrington.

5 A Yes; and he was subject to cross-examination
6 by Harrington's counsel.

7 Q I know he was, but what we are dealing with
8 here is a testimony at the trial which doesn't support the
9 prosecution. And you are relying on statements given to the
10 police officer for the substantive evidence upon which to
11 convict Green, aren't you?

12 A And the preliminary hearing. Thank you. My
13 time is up.

14 MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, Mr. James.
15 Mr. Prettyman, you acted at the appointment of the Court and
16 at our request. We thank you for your assistance to the defen-
17 dant and to the Court. And Mr. Solicitor General, we thank you.
18 The case is submitted.

19 (Whereupon at 1:45 p.m. the argument in the above-
20 entitled matter was concluded.)

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