

THE BAILIFF: Mrs. Wochele, kindly  
take the witness box and be seated.

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THEREUPON, RUTH WOCHLE, a member of the  
prospective jury panel, having been previously  
sworn, was examined and testified on voir dire  
as follows:

THE COURT: Good morning, Mrs.  
Wochele.

MRS. WOCHLE: Good morning.

THE COURT: Mrs. Wochele, you will  
remember you are under oath as a prospective juror  
in this cause.

The lawyers are going to put questions to  
you, Mrs. Wochele, and you must keep your voice at  
a point and a pitch so that each person in this room  
can hear you. Do you understand that?

MRS. WOCHLE: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: And Mr. Romito must report  
and record your responses, so you must respond to  
each question audibly.

Counselor Corrigan or Spellacy?

MR. SPELLACY: If it please the Court.

## VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION OF RUTH WOCHELE

By Mr. Spellacy:

Q Mrs. Wochele, as Judge Talty just told you, we are going to ask certain questions of you, and certainly we are not intending to pry into your affairs, but rather to obtain a jury that will be fair to both sides; understand?

A Yes.

Q For Mr. Romito will you please give us your full name?

A Ruth Wochele.

Q Will you spell your last name?

A W-o-c-h-e-l-e.

Q Where do you live?

A 5143 Mayview Road in Lyndhurst.

Q How long have you lived there?

A Eighteen years.

Q I see by the jury sheet that you are a widow; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you have a family?

A Yes, I do.

Q How many children do you have?

A Three.

Q Will you give us their names and ages, please?

A Carolyn, 20. Ronald, 17. Carl, 14.

Q Are they all at home now?

A No, Carolyn is away at nursing school.

Q Where does she go to nursing school?

A In Lima, Lima Memorial Hospital.

Q Lima Memorial Hospital?

A Yes.

Q What year is she in there?

A She will graduate in August.

Q Do you have any other children in school?

A Yes.

Q Where do they go to school?

A Ronald goes to Brush High, and Carl at Memorial Junior High.

Q What year is Ronald in?

A He is a senior.

Q A senior?

A Yes.

Q Are you employed?

A No, sir, I am not.

Q Have you been employed recently?

A Not for over a year.

Q What type of work did you do?

A Well, I worked for the Auto Club.

Q Pardon me?

A The Automobile Club.

Q What type of work did you do there?

A: Office work.

Q How long did you work for them?

A I worked for them two different times. The last time, six months.

Q These two different times, approximately when would that have been?

A Pardon?

Q When would the two different times have been?

A Well, the year before, during license plate season.

Q Prior to that had you worked outside the home?

A Yes, sir.

Q Where was that?

A I worked for W. I. White Realty.

Q I am sorry, I didn't hear you?

A W. I. White Realty.

Q As a what?

A As a receptionist.

Q And when would that have been?

A I think it was in 1959.

Q What type of work did Mr. Wochele do?

A He worked for Western Electric.

Q How long did he work for them?

A 31 years.

Q Now, yesterday when you were brought into the courtroom, Judge Talty told you why you were here, do you remember?



A Yes.

Q You understood that this is the case of the State of Ohio vs. Sam Sheppard.

Have you heard or read anything about this case?

A All of it.

Q Pardon me?

A All of it.

Q All of it?

A Yes.

Q I assume when you say you read all of it, you mean for some period of time, is that correct?

A Yes, over a period of years.

Q Can you recall when you first read about it?

A In 1954.

Q Do you recall what -- not just what -- but did you learn from the newspapers what you read?

A Yes.

Q Did you learn anything else other than from newspapers?

A No.

Q Did you follow the case closely at that time?

A Yes.

Q And did you discuss the case with anyone? Yes or no?

A Well, yes.

Q Now, as a result of having read about the case and having discussed it, did you form an opinion with regard to this case?

A Yes.

Q And have you expressed an opinion with regard to this case?

A Yes.

Q As a result of having formed and expressed an opinion, do you still have that opinion today?

A Yes.

Q Is this a fixed opinion?

A Yes.

MR. SPELLACY: Challenge for cause,  
your Honor.

THE COURT: Pursue it further,  
counselor, please.

Q Mrs. Wochele, is this an opinion that would prevent you from serving as a fair and impartial juror in this case?

A Yes, I am sure it would.

MR. SPELLACY: Challenge for cause,  
your Honor.

THE COURT: Counselor, do you have any observations to make with respect to the challenge for cause?

MR. BAILEY: May I make them at the bench?

THE COURT: Yes, you may.

(Thereupon counsel and the Court conferred at the Court's bench out of the hearing of the jury panel, as follows:)

THE COURT: Let the record show that when the Court addresses questions to counselors as to whether or not they have any observations, the Court means to make them at the side of the bench; and Mr. Bailey has just indicated that the counselors all will follow that procedure from here on; if I ask for responses or observations it will mean unless I indicate to the contrary that I wish them made at the side of the bench, for the record.

MR. BAILEY: Yes. Again, without knowing what this opinion is, I can't challenge for cause.

If she has an opinion that Doctor Sheppard was innocent or that his guilt wasn't proven before, that he has been given a bad time, I still think she is a fit juror if despite that opinion she would convict him if she were persuaded by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, by evidence in this court, if she has a fixed opinion of guilt, or if she is disqualified, I think she should be asked in the absence of the jury which way her opinion is.

THE COURT: Mr. Reporter, will you read back to me the last two questions that Mr. Spellacy asked, and the last two responses. (Record was read by the reporter.)

THE COURT: Challenge for cause is granted.

MR. BAILEY: Your Honor, may I make an observation, if this man is convicted I will appeal, of course, and one of our grounds would be that the Court failed to grant a change of venue.

I suggest if there is no record of the opinion which these jurors are being excused do hold, the defendant is deprived of the very statistical evidence that the Supreme Court relied on in reversing the case, because each of those jurors was asked what his opinion was.

For that reason, also, I feel it should be recorded, even if she is excused for cause.

THE COURT: The Court has in mind the opinion. The record does reflect Mr. Bailey's reference and allusion to the case, but the State's challenge for cause is granted.

(Thereupon proceedings were resumed within the hearing of the jury panel, as follows:)

THE COURT: Let the record show



that the State's challenge for cause to the present prospective juror is hereby granted.

Mrs. Wochele, before excusing you the Court wishes to express our appreciation to you for the time you have spent here, and for your willingness to offer yourself as a juror in this case, if selected.

But before leaving this room the Court instructs you further that you shall not discuss this case at all with anyone, even with a member of your family; you shall not permit yourself to make any statement, you shall not permit yourself to be interviewed, and you will have no opinion to express whatever with respect to the merits of this case, unless and until such time as you learn for a certainty that a jury has returned its verdict in this case in open court.

Will you follow those instructions?

MRS. WOCHLE: I will.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mrs. Wochele.

You are hereby excused.

MRS. WOCHLE: Thank you.

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