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IN RE: RAYMOND TIBBETTS, CCI #A363-178

**STATE OF OHIO
ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Date of Meeting: June 14, 2018

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the
Adult Parole Authority held at 770 West Broad Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43222 on the above date.

IN RE: Raymond Tibbetts, CCI #A363-178

SUBJECT: Death Sentence Clemency

CRIMES, CONVICTIONS: Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Robbery

DATE, PLACE OF CRIME: November 5, 1997 in Cincinnati, Ohio

COUNTY: Hamilton

CASE NUMBER: B9708596

VICTIMS: Judith Sue Crawford (age 42) – deceased
Fred Hicks (age 67) – deceased

INDICTMENT: Count 1: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Judith Crawford)
Count 2: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Judith Crawford)
Count 3: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Fred Hicks)
Count 4: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Fred Hicks)
Count 5: Aggravated Robbery (victim Fred Hicks)

TRIAL: Found guilty by jury of counts 1 (lesser included offense of Murder, merged with count 2), 2, 3, 4 (merged with count 3), and count 5.

DATE OF SENTENCE: August 27, 1998

SENTENCE: Count 1: Merged with Count 2
Count 2: Life without Parole
Count 3: DEATH
Count 4: Merged with Count 3
Count 5: 10 years

Counts 2, 3, and 5 to be served consecutively to each other.

ADMITTED TO INSTITUTION: September 2, 1998

JAIL TIME CREDIT: 6 days

TIME SERVED: 237 months (does not include jail time credit)

AGE AT ADMISSION: 41 years' old

CURRENT AGE: 61 years' old

DATE OF BIRTH: June 8, 1957

JUDGE: Honorable Patrick T. Dinkelacker

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Joseph T. Deters

FOREWORD:

A clemency proceeding in the case of Raymond Tibbetts, A363-178, was initiated by the Ohio Parole Board pursuant to Sections 2967.03 and 2967.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and Parole Board Policy #105-PBD-01.

On January 3, 2017, the Parole Board interviewed Tibbetts, who appeared via videoconference from the Chillicothe Correctional Institution. A clemency hearing was then held on January 17, 2017 with twelve (12) members of the Parole Board participating. The Board, by a vote of eleven (11) to one (1), recommended to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, that Executive clemency be denied in the case of Raymond Tibbetts.

On June 14, 2018, at the request of the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, the Parole Board conducted a supplemental hearing on this case for the limited purpose of hearing and considering information pertaining to a request from Ross Geiger, one of Tibbetts's trial jurors, for mercy on behalf of Tibbetts.

Arguments in support of, and in opposition to, clemency were presented at that hearing. The Parole Board considered all of the supplemental written submissions, arguments, and information disseminated by presenters at the hearing, as well as the judicial decisions.

The Parole Board deliberated upon the propriety of clemency in this case. With nine (9) members participating, the Board voted eight (8) to one (1) to provide an unfavorable recommendation for clemency to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CLEMENCY:

At the supplemental hearing held on June 14, 2018, one of Tibbetts's attorney, Erin Barnhart, presented arguments in support of clemency, supplementing the written application previously received.

Barnhart noted that the supplemental hearing is being conducted at the request of Governor Kasich following receipt of a letter from trial juror Ross Geiger. She cited three primary concerns stated in the letter. First, defense counsel failed to provide the jury with the extent and scope of Tibbetts's childhood abuse. Second, the prosecution presented erroneous information to offset the mitigation information that the defense did present. Third, there was

insufficient knowledge of the impact of opiate abuse to fully understand the effect of the inappropriate prescription for painkillers issued to Tibbetts shortly before the crime.

Geiger began his presentation by expressing his sympathy to the families of the murdered victims. He stated that his letter provided a summary of his concerns as well as a brief history leading up to his writing the letter.

Geiger spoke to the impact of serving on the jury as this was the only case that he has ever served on as a juror. He stated that the jury selection seemed routine and boring at the time despite being a capital case. Geiger described viewing the pictures and slides depicting the brutality of the crime as being unimaginable and horrifying. He noted it was quite traumatic and still sticks with him even though the crime occurred over twenty years ago. Geiger spoke of handling the evidence and sitting just a few feet away from the families of the victims.

Geiger stated he understood that, despite the sentence, it was going to be a long process to completion. He continued to Google the case on a regular basis. On one occasion, he saw a headline regarding an inmate asking to die by firing squad and researched that out of curiosity. Geiger found himself on the Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) website and proceeded to read the clemency materials from Tibbetts's Parole Board death penalty clemency hearing. He stated that he found it very different from the defense's presentation at trial and that the extracts from the Human Services records "jumped out" at him. Geiger simply stated that, at trial, one side said Tibbetts had a horrible childhood and the other side said that he did not. He acknowledged that the jury received a stack of Human Services records, but questioned whether the jury was just supposed to read through the information themselves. Geiger stated that the defense had just one witness, Dr. Weaver, a psychiatrist who addressed Tibbetts's mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as his horrible childhood. Geiger claimed that, at the time, he was shocked that there was only one such witness.

Next, Geiger stated that he is now troubled by the prosecution's response to the defense's presentation and feels that it was misleading. The defense's most compelling mitigation was Tibbetts's childhood, but the prosecution implied going into foster care was a good thing for Tibbetts. When the prosecution disputed Dr. Weaver's findings, the defense did not counter, leaving the impression that Tibbetts's childhood was not as significant a factor as portrayed. Geiger also expressed concern over the lack of testimony from any of Tibbetts's siblings, which left the impression that although they all grew up under the same circumstances, the others turned out okay.

Geiger stated he then questioned what he should do. He did not want to obstruct justice, but he was angry because he felt misled. Geiger requested to be contacted by OTSE through the organization's website and wrote an email to the governor. OTSE connected him with Tibbetts's attorneys who then met with him. He concluded by stating that it is an "almost absolute certainty" that had the information he read on the OTSE website been made available to jurors during the trial, he would have voted for life without parole in the case.

When asked by the Board how he came to write the letter, Geiger stated Tibbetts's attorneys suggested the writing of a letter to the governor because the governor's office receives many communications and a lone email might not receive attention. Tibbetts's attorneys then facilitated its delivery to the governor's counsel.

When asked whether he had read anything else to refresh his recollection about the case, Geiger acknowledged that the prosecution had provided him with transcripts from the sentencing hearing, but stated he “wasn’t interested in reading it all”.

After being asked whether any experience since the trial had impacted his recent thoughts, Geiger stated nothing that specifically related to the case. He indicated his opinion on the death penalty itself is complicated. Geiger does not perceive himself as totally for or against the death penalty. He stated that prior to the trial, he was 100% in support of the death penalty, but now his view is more nuanced. He is not opposed to the death penalty as a principle of justice, but is concerned that mistakes can be made.

When questioned about his assertion that he found the jury instructions unclear, Geiger stated that he felt that he would be “breaking the law” if he did not vote for the death penalty. When pressed to explain further, he elaborated by talking about the instructions regarding whether aggravation and mitigation outweighed, and if ten others were convinced that aggravation outweighed mitigation then it would be wrong to vote differently.

Regarding Tibbetts himself, Geiger noted that he was clearly guilty and the jury already knew he was a terrible human being. He said that the natural assumption was that if there was no one who was willing to stand up on his behalf, he must be even worse than they already believed.

Attorney Barnhart stated that Tibbetts’s attorneys did seek out another juror who also considered voting for life without parole, but she is in frail health after having several strokes. The attorneys had concerns whether she had a reliable memory.

Barnhart then summarized their presentation by pointing out that the issue of childhood experience was already a compelling issue for Geiger. There was no dispute Tibbetts was abused, and no question he was removed from his home. The question was the extent of the abuse and its long-standing impact. She noted that the only member of Tibbetts’s family asked to testify was Suzanne and she was only reluctant to testify because she was told there was no way for her to avoid being on camera. Other family members have claimed that they were never asked to appear. Barnhart stated that while Geiger took his role as a juror seriously, it was unreasonable to have expected him to have thoroughly reviewed the Human Services records at the time of the trial.

Tibbetts’s attorneys concluded their presentation by asking that the Parole Board grant clemency in the form of life without parole to Raymond Tibbetts.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CLEMENCY:

Philip Cummings, Hamilton County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, and Brenda Leikala, Assistant Ohio Attorney General, presented arguments in opposition to clemency.

Cummings stated that Geiger’s letter, no matter how heartfelt, should have absolutely no impact on the Parole Board’s prior hearing recommendation. He noted that this supplemental hearing

is unprecedented and that it is a dangerous road to go down for several reasons, even though the Parole Board is a different entity from the courts.

First, the law is very wary of this type of proceeding and the courts rarely entertain such reviews. Second, such reviews violate the privacy of jury deliberations and may inhibit the jury process. Third, such reviews threaten the stability of court proceedings if they can be overturned by a juror expressing later reservations. Fourth, he stated his concern that jurors may be harassed in the future to try to overturn other decisions. Lastly, it threatens the sense of finality that is given to participants through the trial process.

Cummings asked whether there was anything fundamentally different presented at the clemency hearing from the original trial or appeals. He pointed out that at each stage, no court to date has determined that the brutality of the offenses is in anyway outweighed by the mitigating factors.

Cummings defended the trial defense, stating that they did not go through the individual records with the jury one by one, as that was Dr. Weaver's job as an expert to provide a summary and explanation to the jury. He also pointed out that Tibbetts's sister did not want to testify because she wanted to protect her clients and their families. Cummings took offense at the suggestion that the prosecution misled the jury. He noted that Tibbetts himself, in his unsworn statement, pointed out his own positive attributes, and that his sister and one of his brothers were positive citizens at the time of the trial.

Cummings then addressed the way Geiger arrived at the statements he made in his letter, noting that Geiger started with material he found on an anti-capital punishment website which does not include any prosecution materials and then went on to develop his thoughts by himself. The jury process is quite different based on mutual discussion and deliberation which is how the system is intended to work. Cummings stated that the real question before the Parole Board was not whether Geiger changed his mind, but whether he put something before the Parole Board which justifies changing its prior decision.

Cummings then reminded the Parole Board that in his interview, Tibbetts himself said he was not deserving of clemency.

Cummings and Leikala concluded the State's presentation by asking that the Board recommend to the governor that clemency be denied.

VICTIMS' REPRESENTATIVES:

Toni Landwehr-Strausbaugh, niece of victim Fred Hicks, stated that the hearings have been horrific to experience. Her uncle was a sweet, giving man. He was found with multiple stab wounds in his lazy-boy chair where he had been watching television. The day Tibbetts was supposed to be put to death, her mother ended up hospitalized for three days. Landwehr-Strausbaugh stated that Tibbetts may have had a bad childhood and ended up in a foster home, but other individuals have as well and not murdered anyone. The family dearly loved their uncle.

Terrie Landwehr-Vance, niece of victim Fred Hicks, noted that Hicks's daughter passed away in May and that the family attended the clemency hearing on her behalf. She reported that the process has been a continuous nightmare. Having been told that Tibbetts was not being executed as scheduled was traumatic for the family and they have dealt with these feelings for over 20 years. Family members want to have peace. Landwehr-Vance stated that the Tibbetts's family cannot be held responsible for his actions. She noted that once you are an adult, you choose to make your own decisions. Landwehr-Vance expressed that Judith Sue Crawford, the female victim, was the sweetest person and loved their Uncle Fred. She then displayed pictures of Fred Hicks' body as discovered at the crime scene and in the morgue, stating "Please, let it be."

Joan Hicks-Landwehr, sister of victim Fred Hicks, stated that the victim was one of four brothers, born to two deaf parents. The victim was hearing impaired, but could speak and had a good job as an electrician prior to his retirement. She understands that Tibbetts had a rough time as a child but points out that he lived in a good neighborhood and went to a good school at one point in his life. Hicks-Landwehr only met Tibbetts four to five weeks prior to the murders, after her brother had given him permission to live with victim Crawford in his home. Crawford was her brother's caretaker. Her brother was much loved and police had to direct traffic at his funeral because he had so many friends. Hicks-Landwehr discovered her brother's body when she went to pick him up for lunch and thanks God that she did not go upstairs to see Sue's body. Hicks-Landwehr said she is sorry that Geiger is now having a hard time with his decision, but believes Tibbetts needs to serve out the sentence that was imposed by the court.

Mark Hicks, nephew of victim Fred Hicks, was vehement in his presentation, expressing his utmost concern that one layperson, surfing the web, could bring the process to a halt. Hicks stated that he understands the governor wants to be "absolutely sure," but believes that the process for justice has taken way too long. He pointed out that the case has been reviewed multiple times by legal professionals and it makes no sense that one juror can come back over 20 years later and overturn a decision such as this one.

PAROLE BOARD'S POSITION AND CONCLUSION:

The Ohio Parole Board carefully considered the information presented at the supplemental clemency hearing. A majority of the Board has concluded that Executive clemency is not warranted based on the following:

- While the Parole Board believes that Geiger submitted his letter with the best of intentions, members are not convinced that his decision would have been different had the information been presented in the same manner at trial, when the results would have been deliberated within the jury setting. The vicious and gratuitous murder of Fred Hicks immediately following the brutal slaying of Judith Sue Crawford was so heinous that the mitigation as presented does not outweigh the aggravating factors in this case.

One member of the Ohio Parole Board has concluded that Executive clemency in the form of life without the possibility of parole is warranted in this case based on the following:

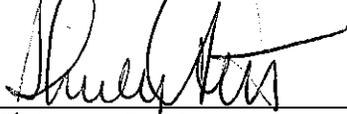
- The issue under consideration is whether the jury was sufficiently presented with full details of the mitigating circumstances, enabling them to make an informed decision in the case. The defense did not fully present the scope of the childhood abuse suffered by Tibbetts and the long-term impact of that abuse.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Ohio Parole Board with nine (9) members participating, by a vote of eight (8) to one (1), recommends to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, that Executive clemency be denied in the case of Raymond Tibbetts.

Adult Parole Authority

Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Favorable**



Shirley A. Smith

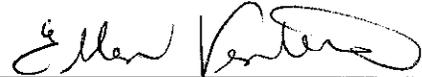
Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Unfavorable**



Trayce Thalheimer, Acting Chair



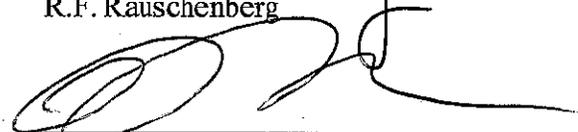
Kathleen Kovach



Ellen Venters



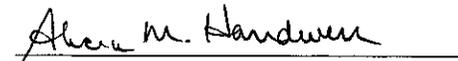
R.F. Rauschenberg



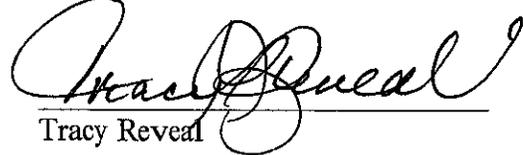
Marc Houk



Ronald E. Nelson Jr.



Alicia Handwerk



Tracy Reveal

Hicks Family's response to Juror Ross Geiger's letter

To Governor Kasich

It is absolutely unbelievable to my family and I - that we are back here considering Clemency for Ray Tibbetts AGAIN because a juror was surfing the internet one night!

I know this because in addition to writing letters to Governor Kasich, he is also giving interviews to Dan Horn of the Cincinnati Enquirer/USA Today network!

Dan Horn writes

"Years later, though, Geiger learned more about the case. One night, while reading some news articles online, he came across a story about capital punishment."

As members of the Ohio Parole Board, you are being asked to change your vote for the Death Penalty of a convicted murderer, because Mr. Geiger changed his mind "surfing the net one night". This is the reason my family has had their wounds re-opened! The reason our agony has been revived is because a juror was surfing the net! **That's just stunning!!**

The only thing that does make sense about this meeting of the parole board is that Governor Kasich wants to make sure he gives Tibbetts every benefit of doubt before he, and he alone, has to sign the death warrant! Reading Mr. Geiger's letter/article you'd think that was going to be his job!

If I had that responsibility – I'd have to be sure too! With that in mind let me address Mr. Geiger's letter to the governor and his interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer/USA TODAY Network.

Surfing the net lead him to the minutes of "Special Meeting of the Adult Parole Authority" held January 17, 2017.

This document is less than 50 pages but it was enough to change his mind about his decision? I don't think so! What else did he read while surfing the net? Whatever it was it wasn't this document!

This is my personal copy of the trial transcript all 1,613 pages! This is the document with all the facts not the 50 page summary of the January 2017 parole board meeting and definitely not whatever else he's been reading on the internet for the last 21 years! I do agree with him on one point he made in the interview. The process for justice takes way too long! 21 years is way more time than is needed for a family to wait for justice!

In the first paragraph of his letter to the governor Mr. Geiger explains how this case has had *"a deep and sustained impact on me."*

I do not think he could have read the complete summary and come to the conclusion that he did. If he had read it in its entirety, he would have read about the other triple murder in our family! He would have read that I was in Philadelphia cleaning up after that mess when my Aunt Joan called me to tell me about Uncle Freddy and Sue! He would have read about my close friend Mark Bany, a guy I've been very close to since we were in a Foster Home together when we were kids. How when his brother Michael Bany was Murdered in December of 1995 - How that was the first time I saw the agony Murder produces! Those are life experience that will have "a deep and sustained impact on your life"!

In the same paragraph he says the *"The experience was so impactful that he periodically checks the internet for public information related to appeals and other proceedings"*

Yet in his interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer/USA Today Network it was *"One night, while reading some articles online he came across a story about capital punishment." "He got curious and decided to look up Tibbetts' case."*

Which is it – Is he so affected that he "Periodically checks for updates" like told the Governor was or was he surfing the net one night? I don't think it matters because he got his picture in the paper!

In his second paragraph of the Governor's letter he states *"This is not about my conscience beyond having an opportunity to explain how I believe the trial process was not well served in this case."*

If I'm not mistaken, Isn't that what the Court of Appeals does? I'm confident that the Judges at the Court of Appeals aren't surfing the web for their answers and they have Law Degrees! They did their job and found nothing like Mr.Geiger's "findings,"

Mr.Geiger's letter includes "Bullet Points" at the end to summarize for the Governor HIS conclusions as to why Tibbetts should receive clemency. There are five that stand out;

1) *The lack of preparation if not outright MALPRATICE on the part of the Defense for the sentencing phase*

2) *The apparent withholding of information from the jury during the sentencing phase*

3) *The apparent ineptitude of the defense team in not calling Tibbetts' sister*

4) *The prosecutors leading the jury to inaccurate conclusions about Tibbetts' siblings*

5) *What he now believes were poor instructions to the jury regarding the autonomy of each juror in the sentencing phase*

This begs the question - When did Mr. Geiger receive HIS law degree and when was he appointed to the Court of Appeals?

On top of every page of the Trial Transcript it says "TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO" so I know they've looked at this case to ensure Tibbetts got a fair trial! Their findings and opinions don't come out in the Enquirer/USA Today Network or on the internet!

He also pointed out in his letter that even the Parole Board's actions are a reason for clemency stating – "*It almost seems as if the Parole Board has overrode the jury and has decided that Tibbetts should have had the death penalty for the murder of Ms. Crawford*".

What I'm seeing here is the attempt of Mr. Geiger to do exactly that –Override the other 11 jurors he served with!

What I'm seeing is someone that spends so much time surfing the internet that now he thinks he knows better than other 11 jurors, the Court of Appeals, Ohio Supreme Court and the Parole Board!

I'm not really sure what all Mr. Geiger has read to come to his conclusions. My recollection of the January 2017 Clemency hearing is that multiple members of the board asked the doctors and other experts "What about Mr. Hicks?" when they were trying to explain their reasons Tibbetts should receive clemency. The experts' reasons were all about the same as Mr. Geiger's – bad childhood drugs and alcohol abuse. It also seemed to me that the reason they focused on Sue was to try to convince the board that Uncle Freddy's murder was also a crime of passion. In fact for my family and me it was tremendously difficult!

When the time came for the family to speak my Aunt Joan and cousin spoke to their emotional agony which Tibbetts has brought to our family!

I however took a different approach. My approach relied on my experience dealing with my own "Bad childhood" – the beatings I took from my own mother and the inter actions I've had with the many bullies like Tibbetts during my times in institutions and foster homes. Most importantly I got my information about the case from the 1,613 pages in the trial transcript not the internet like Mr. Geiger! Had Mr. Geiger read the transcript he would have seen all the real information that was kept from the jury! The conversations at side bar and before and after the jury was in the courtroom.

Mr. Geiger would have read on pg. 788 Defense attorney Sanks arguing for the exclusion of photo 79 saying; *"79 speaks for itself. It's horrible. Anybody that looks at this is going to want vengeance right then and there. It's going to cut off reason and that sort of thing. It's—here we have this picture of this lady whose brains are beaten out of her head and lying on the rug. There is dried blood. There is dried brain tissue. It is just overly inflammatory"*. And that is part of just one side bar!

Mr. Geiger is correct in saying things were kept from the jury. What is kept from the jury is closely monitored by the judge then it is reviewed by many other people with law degrees to ensure a fair trial. As a juror – IT'S NOT MR. GEIGERS JOB TO DO THIS!!!

Mr. Geiger read what he read from the point of view of an "Original Juror" I read the transcript from the point of view of a bad childhood and spending way too much time with bullies like Tibbetts! Tibbetts is one of those bullies that wants people to fear him! He wants to be seen as the "Big Dog" on the porch! He wants to be the Badest dude on the block!

I think the Trial Transcript shows that he took pride in his killing and knew exactly how to stage murder to look like a crime of passion! We know this because when Officers Randolph and Seal went to St. Elizabeth Hospital to interview Tibbetts – Tibbetts ended the interview after only two questions demonstrating he knows a little bit about the law. As the Officers were leaving Tibbetts asked, *“What’s the charge Manslaughter?”* Neither Officer had said a word about a Homicide!

The Coroner testified Sue’s stab wounds were post mortem. There is no doubt in my mind that her stab wounds were practice for Uncle Freddy!

Remember Tibbetts has beaten Sue’s brains out and they’re lying on the rug next to her and he stabs her 12 times?!!! WHY? He’s made his case for Manslaughter for a crime of passion. PRACTICE!!! He has to know what it’s going to take to kill Freddy it may even help his “Crime of Passion” claim! Then he covers her up to complete the staging of a crime of passion! The wedding band under the body was a nice touch! Staging a murder as a crime of passion is well within Ray Tibbetts’ capabilities! It was just another con game for him!

The transcript shows that he IS a killer right up there with the Manson Family, Jeffery Dahmer and Donald Harvey! Nothing on the internet leads me to my conclusions. My conclusions all come from the Trial Transcript! For example:

Page 712 to page 732 contains the testimony of two Covington KY police officers. LT Mike Kraft and Officer David Finan Jr.

They encountered Tibbetts only a few hours after he brutally murdered two people. Now remember he was supposed to be so high he can’t remember the murders! They come upon him while he was driving one of the victim’s cars! On page 1,161 in Tibbetts statement to the jury - Tibbetts himself stated, *“it was my lucky day because they didn’t shake me down - if they would have shook me down they would have found all the pain pills I had in my jacket along with a crack pipe and crack cocaine”*.

So here is a guy talking to police that only a few hours earlier brutally murdered two people – he’s driving the car of one of his victims – he has a pocket full of dope and is able to walk away from that encounter! I’m sorry but that is some Jeffery Dahmer stuff there - if you recall Jeffery Dahmer talked a couple police officers into giving him one of his victims back that had escaped.

The officers said Tibbetts seemed a just little nervous.

Unless you're an exceptional murderer you just can't do that! You've got to be plain evil to be able to do that! YOU GOTTA LIKE IT!

Starting on pg. 927 to pg. 932 is the testimony of Sally Smith a nurse at St Elizabeth Hospital. She testified Tibbetts gave his name to her as Raymond Harvey as in "Donald Harvey"! The most notorious killer Butler County Ohio (where Tibbetts lived for a while) has ever produced! I gotta give Tibbetts credit he strives to be the best!

All you have to do is read the Defense Attorneys descriptions of the photos they had excluded to understand that the Mason Family had nothing on Tibbetts! Tibbetts may have been more brutal! Mr. Geiger described it in his letter to the governor very well – He called it "*Very gruesome*"! In fact in both his letter to the governor and his interview with the Enquirer/ USA Today Network he described the murders pretty well. All his descriptions are the descriptions of someone deserving of the death penalty!

In his interview with the Enquirer/USA Today network it says "*He (Geiger) considered the brutality of the crime and the premeditation involved in killing Hicks, the only witness. And like the other 11 jurors, Geiger decided those aggravating factors outweighed the mitigating factors he heard in court.*" That's what is written just before he tells Mr. Horn about surfing the internet and we know what that lead to – Us all getting together again!

The Hicks family knows Governor Kasich has what it takes to sign a death warrant. He's proven he is going to follow the law! The law in Ohio allows for heinous killers like Tibbetts to be executed. Governor Kasich has gone above and beyond to ensure Tibbetts has had all doubt removed.

We are still talking about a killer that kills like the Manson Family – Cons police officers as well as Jeffery Dahmer – And puts himself in a class with killers like Donald Harvey! A killer that liked it and it showed!

If after all the qualified courts and boards have looked at this case and confirmed that the right sentence was ordered – if a lay person is now going to determine Tibbetts' sentence - let it be someone that owns a Trial Transcript and has studied it at an emotional cost so great It can't even be inventoried!

Not someone surfing the internet and giving interviews!

My family wants justice served - so for my family I ask the Board to Please, Please send the Governor Kasich what he needs in order to be reassured that signing this death warrant is the right thing to do!

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Hicks". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

NEPHEW OF FRED HICKS