

PRESS RELEASE FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1958,
CITING AN EXCERPT RE "McNABB-MALLORY" QUESTION

STATISTICS ON COMMITMENTS AT ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL, SHOWING PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON CURRENT STUDY BY STANDING COMMITTEE ON "PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH MENTAL EXAMINATION OF THE ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL CASES, BEFORE TRIAL," JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT,
January 3, 1964.

CHAIRMAN, SENATE DISTRICT COMMITTEE,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Pursuant to your request, we are pleased to advise that in the course of our research we have compiled statistical data relating to the length of time which elapses between the mandatory commitment in the District of Columbia which follows an acquittal by reason of insanity and subsequent release from St. Elizabeths Hospital, to which such persons are committed.

For the period fiscal 1954 through fiscal 1962, St. Elizabeths Hospital received a total of 251 persons acquitted by reason of insanity. Approximately two-thirds of this number are still at the hospital, having received neither conditional nor unconditional release. Of the one-third who have received such releases, approximately 15 percent received such a release within 2 years, 31 percent within 3 years, and 35 percent within 4 years. It should be stressed that the foregoing figures represent raw data which has not been doublechecked or evaluated by the executive committee.

Regrettably such research as we have done which might establish a relationship between these periods of time and the length of sentences which might be imposed during the same period in similar cases is so incomplete as to be of no value at this time. We are hopeful to do additional work in this area before our report is completed, but do not expect to be able to do this until late spring.

If public release is to be made of the information we have furnished above, we would appreciate an indication that it was derived from raw data supplied by our committee.

Respectfully yours,

JOSHUA OKUN,

*Project Director, Standing Committee on "Problems Connected With
Mental Examination of the Accused in Criminal Cases, Before Trial,"
Georgetown University Law Center.*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL,
Washington, D.C., January 14, 1964.

Mr. FRED L. MCINTYRE,
*Counsel, Senate Committee on the District of Columbia,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MCINTYRE: In answer to your telephone request of January 14 to Mr. Weinstein, the attached tables have been reproduced for your use.

These tables show the number of patients admitted to St. Elizabeths Hospital as "not guilty by reason of insanity" from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia during fiscal years 1954-62, for each type of offense. These tables also show the numbers of patients granted unconditional or conditional releases, respectively, by the length of time from admission to release.

The attached material was assembled initially at the expense of the Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia Circuit, Standing Committee on "Problems Connected With Mental Examination of the Accused in Criminal Cases, Before Trial," of which Prof. Joshua Okun is project director. Any use of these data should be accompanied by an appropriate acknowledgment.

At your request, the data related to unconditional releases will be brought up to date through fiscal year 1963. This information should reach you by Thursday, January 16. Comparable data related to conditional releases through fiscal year 1963 would require considerable time to assemble.

I hope this information is useful to you. If we can be of further assistance in any way, please call on us.

Sincerely yours,

DALE C. CAMERON, M.D., *Superintendent.*