



## THE CLIFTON T. PERKINS STATE HOSPITAL

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DORSEY RUN ROAD  
JESSUP, MARYLAND 20794

April 29, 1966

JOHN M. HAMILTON, M.D.  
SUPERINTENDENTEDWARD G. BARNETT  
BUSINESS MANAGER

The Honorable George B. Rasin, Jr.  
Judge  
The Circuit Court for Cecil County  
Court House  
Elkton, Maryland

RE: SCHOWGUROW, Lidge  
Hospital #1669  
Criminal No. 1390

Dear Judge Rasin:

The above named patient was readmitted to our hospital on February 11, 1966, by an Order of your Court, for the purpose of a pre-trial mental examination in association with Criminal No. 1390. Mr. Schowgurow had previously been in our hospital from March 10, 1964 to July 8, 1964 for a pre-trial mental examination in association with Criminal No. 1040 which has the same offense as listed in Criminal No. 1390.

Since being in the Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital, Mr. Schowgurow has received a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation with psychological testing, social service investigation, electroencephalography and other pertinent clinical and Laboratory studies. He was presented before a Medical Staff Conference\*, on April 28, 1966, at which time it was the unanimous opinion of the Medical Staff, and I concur, that Mr. Schowgurow is currently competent to stand trial.

Two members of the Medical Staff felt that Mr. Schowgurow was "probably" of such mental capacity and reason at the time of the alleged offense so as to be properly able to distinguish between right and wrong and to know the nature and consequences of his acts as applied to himself. Two other members of the staff, and I am in agreement with these members, felt that they were unable to reach a valid opinion as to Mr. Schowgurow's responsibility at the time of the alleged offense.

In view of the difficulty the staff and I had in coming to a definitive conclusion about this man's responsibility, I think that it is useful that I elaborate at length about the circumstances which caused me to be so inconclusive. Mr. Schowgurow claims amnesia for the time during which the alleged offense occurred. He has only vague recollections of his actions during the entire months of November and December of 1963 and the first part of January, 1964. He knows what happened during this period, he says, because of his reading of the events in the press and his exposure in various court hearings, however, he insists that he has no personal recollection of the events which transpired during this time.

Significantly, some time earlier in 1963, Mr. Schowgurow had sustained what must be considered to have been a head injury, probably concussion, when he was struck by a bat held by his father-in-law. Subsequent to that head injury, he claims to have experienced multiple episodes of "black-out" and increasing forgetfulness. He had been employed successfully as a journeyman electrician

\* A representative of the Department of Mental Hygiene was present at this Conference.

for about ten years prior to this injury and had always performed adequately on the job. Following the injury, however, he began to lose his ability to perform skillfully in areas where he had previously done well, so much so that he lost the job which was current at that time. He was re-employed by the employer for whom he was working at the time of the alleged offense and claims to have been able to do an adequate job because less intricate things were required of him.

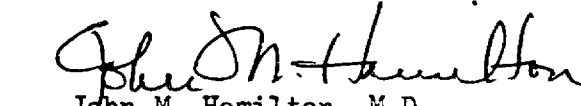
This man has no significant alcoholic history of long standing but it is possible that his alcoholic intake increased rather markedly just two months prior to the alleged offense. Mr. Schowgurow has no past criminal record and the family circumstances under which he lived have been documented as quite horrendous and, therefore, considerably stressful. He had adjusted to them without violence for a considerable period of time.

There are several possibilities which might adequately explain what may have happened at the time of the alleged offense. Mr. Schowgurow may have suffered a post-traumatic amnesia resulting from the injury mentioned earlier; he may have experienced simply an alcoholic black-out or he may have experienced a true Dissociative Reaction. There is also the possibility that his amnesia is a post-crime one and, therefore, of no consequence to the criminal responsibility consideration and it may also be true that he is consciously suppressing the material incident to the alleged offense.

The psychiatric examination at this time does not shed enough light on the personality adjustment of Mr. Schowgurow at the time of the alleged offense, principally, because that period of time is so remote from this period of examination. We can only say that, currently, he is Without Mental Disorder and certainly entirely competent for trial. The history which we have been able to compile, however, does not allow me, in retrospect, to establish and, therefore, elucidate a valid opinion as to Mr. Schowgurow's responsibility at the time of the alleged offense.

In view of the above opinions, I would appreciate it if you would make arrangements for Mr. Schowgurow's return to your custody, as soon as possible, since our evaluation has been completed. If there is any other information that Your Honor might require concerning our evaluation of this man, or his course in our hospital, please do not hesitate to request it of me.

Sincerely yours,

  
John M. Hamilton, M.D.  
Superintendent

JMH:tbt

cc: The Honorable Walter M. Baker  
State's Attorney  
Dr. Wilfried R. Freinek