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CIRCUIT CHANCERY COURT

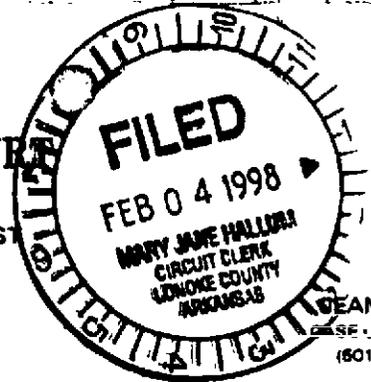
DIVISION I

JUDICIAL DISTRICT SEVENTEEN WEST

LONOKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

301 N. CENTER, SUITE 303

LONOKE, ARKANSAS 72086



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The tenth of the ten Judicial Commandments Judges have, is to pray for divine guidance daily. I do that and especially for this dissertation.

I want to talk about courage and the courage it took for these young victims to come forth and tell their stories. It took great courage to end this sad episode which has existed for many years. I applaud you for your courage.

In 95 percent of the cases, where it is my duty to sentence someone for crimes committed against the state and their fellow-man, I usually say nothing and merely carry out the sentence. On rare occasion, it becomes necessary to address the public on issues of great importance.

Because of the immense interest in this case, not only by the media, but especially by the local citizens, I deem it necessary to make a few remarks.

Firstly, all Courts are bound by the law and must impose punishment within the guidelines set forth by the legislature and for crimes which are established by the law of the state. A simple Class "Y" felony sets limits of 10 - 40 years or life imprisonment. In years to serve that's it! Nothing more and nothing less. When a person pleads guilty to the Court without recommendation from the state, the court goes to great lengths to determine if the person is pleading guilty for any reason other than the fact that he is guilty of doing the acts with which he is charged. Once that determination is made, the Court is satisfied that the state does not have to go into all the gory details to "prove" the guilt of the accused. He, the accused, has admitted guilt of the crime charged. Because the state does not "prove" the allegations in Court, that does not make the one who pleads guilty, any less guilty of those crimes charged. -

Now, if you'll indulge me for a few minutes to express my thoughts on several matters, I promise not to be long or boring.

Adults, in the audience and everywhere, that may read or hear these few words, heed these truths as I believe them to be truths. We cannot continue to wink at crime and hide from the truths that we see everyday..... truths in our children and in our way of life. To continue to be promiscuous in our thoughts, our actions and every facet of our lives, regarding our children, will render this country weak, powerless and doomed to destruction within. We cannot survive another twenty (20) years with the rate of juvenile

delinquency climbing, the rate of divorce soaring and family life decreasing. WE MUST CHANGE....

Mr. Walls, I have read volumes of letters, statements, files, pre-sentence reports and have been sickened by the acts and deeds done to dozens of young boys, many of whom are now grown men with families. Many young men, for whom you were not charged because of the statute of limitations, have cried and wondered for years why these things happened to them. Many others acted out their hurt, rage and bitterness toward society by committing crimes for which many have been punished. That has not been a good record, for your Scout Troop.

There is a song that says, "Let those who come behind us find us faithful. We are the only examples our children have and they learn from us. It is not popular to talk about values, morals and choices, but to those who come behind us, those are the principles we teach. Are we found faithful?"

Mr. Walls, by your own confession you have been found violative of your faithfulness to all the boys who put their trust, devotion, hopes and dreams in you. But not just all the dozens of boys who did not find you faithful, you violated the faith put in you by many others. You were unfaithful to your wife, your children, your parents, your friends and family who trusted you, and most of all you were unfaithful to your church and God. You were unfaithful to all those who entrusted you with their children, to help build character, self-esteem, and to formulate the love for God, country and Boy Scout Organization. You stalked, as a predator your prey without regard to the consequences for your victims.

The Boy Scout organization that I was part of many, many years ago was established on the principles of teaching productive lives, positive attitudes and good citizenship. But Mr. Walls, because of your perverted and selfish proclivities for young "outdoorsey" types, many lives have been put on hold, rendered non-productive and certainly less than good citizens. Perhaps for some whom you could not reach for your perverted schemes, you did manage to teach the principles I've mentioned. But after reading the files and seeing the names of many whom you have violated, it takes more than one hand to count those that I personally have jailed and sent to prison. I've only been judge here for 7 years. When we count the costs of your actions, directly or indirectly, that cost is staggering.

I have read things that are not public and will never be made public for the sake of the young men you have so adversely

influenced. A few people have written the pre-sentence officer, all of whom will remain anonymous, asking for a light sentence so you can be returned to a productive life. None of those people were present on January 22, 1998 to hear the anguishing testimony of some of those violated by you. They will never read of the pornographic filth plied to your young victims to arouse them, or know of the various alcoholic concoctions created to dull their senses and to loosen their inhibitions or of bringing certain women for sexual activity so that you could reap the rewards of satisfying your pedophilic mind. They will never know of the vast amount of time you must have spent conjuring the various lurid schemes to entice one or several young men into your self-centered web. Only a few truly know the depth of your unfaithfulness.

I do not have to believe Heath Stock's testimony that you told him to kill his family, to know that he was your finest creation and, perhaps, most vulnerable victim, and to know that he became what you taught him to be..... I only know that, in the very least, you are indirectly responsible for the deaths of Joe, Barbara and Heather Stocks.

I do not have to believe Doug Hogan's story that you attempted to unbuckle his pants, to know that you have caused others to ridicule the Hogans and attempt to make them less than they are in the eyes of the public, and that many of these young men stalked the Hogans for you! And, by way of disclaimer, this Court never knew of that 1993 charge or its outcome until all of these more recent activities were made public.....

It has been said, and I was reminded not long ago by my pastor, that "no one stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child." What a wonderful opportunity you had to justify the trust placed in you by all these young people, to teach them about moral and spiritual things and values and good choices. But you failed in this. In Luke 6:40 we read, "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher." Thank God, not many, if more than one, has been fully trained by you to become like his teacher.

The healing of these young men, their families and friends has to begin. This entire ordeal reminds me of the sad ending in the story of "Old Yeller", one of my favorite books and movies. After the tragedy, the father comes home and tells his son: "Sometimes life hits you in the pit of the stomach and you can't breathe and life has lost its meaning..... but you have to go onuntil you catch your breath. And, then, you can begin to live again."