

THE SEYMOUR POLLACK COLLECTION

The Oskar Diethelm Library
DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry
Weill Cornell Medical College
525 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10065

Arranged and described by:
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Provenance

The Seymour Pollack Collection is a gift of Dr. Pollack which he presented to the Archives of Psychiatry at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 1977. There are no restrictions regarding use of the material as these reports are now part of the public record.

Scope and Content

Dr. Seymour Pollack was Director of the Institute of Psychiatry, Law and the Behavioral Science of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

The Seymour Pollack Collection consists of two reports Dr. Pollack prepared as a forensic psychiatrist hired by the State of California to evaluate two major legal cases. In 1969 he served as psychiatric consultant to the District Attorney's office of Los Angeles County to represent the prosecution in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was to be the Democratic candidate for president of the United States in 1968.

In the second legal case, Dr. Pollack prepared a psychiatric evaluation of Patricia Hearst for the Federal Court in San Francisco. It is not clear whether Dr. Pollack served for the defense or the prosecution. Miss Hearst, a 19 year old heiress, was forcibly kidnapped from her Berkeley, California apartment by members of the self-styled Symbionese Liberation Army, a terrorist urban guerrilla organization. This organization demanded and received from the Hearsts and the Hearst Foundation two million dollars in a free food distribution program for needy recipients to be exchanged from Miss Hearst's release. She was not released, however, and joined her SLA captors in their guerrilla war against the Establishment. As an alleged voluntary member of the SLA, she then became criminally involved in a bank robbery. Following her arrest, she declared

that her conversion to the SLA was not truly voluntary, and her attorneys alleged she was substantially mentally ill.

Inventory

Folder 1	Sirhan Sirhan	1969
2	Patricia Hearst	1975 – 1977