to get a statement from Jessie Misskelley. The police were suggestive and they led Jessie through the entire statement. When you listen to the statement, when you read about the statement, think again about the narrative, and think about the way these officers led him through the entire statement. The way they suggested things to him through the entire statement.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what I'm about to tell you is the most important thing that you will hear throughout the course of this trial. A very learned judge in the State of Florida once said in one of our opinions, he said, "The killing of one human being by another is a most heinous act only excluded by the killing of an innocent man by the state." Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my client, Little Jessie

Misskelley, is an innocent man. He's innocent and I will ask you to go back to that jury room and bring back a verdict that renders justice — truth and justice — and I would ask you to bring back a verdict that you can live with for the rest of your life. Thank you.

THE COURT: Do you want to take a stretch break?

About two minutes in place.

(RECESS.)

THE COURT: Alright, Court will be in session. Alright, you may proceed.

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MR. DAVIS: If it please the Court, Mr. Stidham, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I know at this point we're all tired. We've spent weeks in preparing this case while a lot of times while you all have been out in the halls we've been in here at each other's throats and we're all tired and we all have a great deal of responsibility. Fortunately, my responsibility is going to end when I sit down and yours is going to just begin.

What I want to do briefly and I'm not going to recap everything. I think Mr. Fogleman did an excellent job of detailing what the testimony was and showing you the specific facts that you should concentrate on. But what I want to do is try to boil it down to what really the issue of this case is. I think it's something that Mr. Stidham is nearly afraid to articulate. Because what their whole premise to their case is is that their client He's a liar and the police are liars because they won't tell you what happened when he was being interrogated and as a result you should throw a confession out the window and find the defendant not guilty. And that's his case.

Now, he tries to couch in in different terms and to put it in a different form or fashion but that's what it boils down to. Personally I find it repugnant with this evidence that Mr. Stidham would make such allegations.

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It is the first time in my career that I've had to stand up here and deal with a defense attorney claiming that his client lies. It is so incredibly a reversal of roles for the defense, but what else can they do? Their client confesses to his involvement. He tells specific instances of his involvement. He describes details that only a person that is there could possibly know, and I don't care what he says. He can say it was newspaper articles or what else. But you can read in that statement that he described the castration of that particular boy. That is a fact that only someone who was there would know. And when he described that the other two individuals forced them to perform oral sex on them and grabbed them by the ears, those are facts that only a person there would know.

When he described the cutting on the side of one boy's face, those are facts that only a person that was there would know. Unless -- unless he successfully convinces you that the police officers got up here and they are the ones that are lying, and they are the ones that are lying to you. And I hope that you have the integrity and good sense not to buy that because it doesn't mesh with the facts and evidence in this case and that's what you make your decision on.

The other issue that is involved in this case I'll

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address in a minute, but that is going to be whether the defendant was involved enough to be convicted of capital murder. But let me address some of the specifics that Mr. Stidham brought up.

On the one he started off by saying that Mr. Ofshe was on trial. For what Mr. Ofshe gets paid and for his willingness to go out on a limb and make the statements that he makes based on the flimsy information he possesses -- well, that -- he -- he was on trial to some extent. It reminds me -- in preparation of this case I listened to a tape recording of Warren Holmes, their other expert, and he said in that, he said, "The difference between a Ten Thousand Dollar a year salesman and a hundred thousand dollar a year salesman is one is a better liar." And we've got a Forty Thousand Dollar a year salesman who came and talked to you.

He says that the reasonable doubt that exists -- and this is his first point. I'm going along -- we couldn't see the chart, but I assume this is what he did. The first reasonable doubt is Jessie's story. "My client's a liar. Therefore, you should have a reasonable doubt." That's his first premise.

Then he goes and he says, "Well, the victims -there's no evidence that the victims were sodomized."
Well, if you'll recall the Doctor's testimony was that in

all three instances there was anal dilation. That there were abrasions and bruises about the buttocks and the anal rectal area and then as Mr. Fogleman described and I know it was hard to follow, but the DNA guy said that there was DNA consistent as coming from a source of male sperm on the pants of one of the boys. And Mr. Stidham says, "No evidence." Well, ladies and gentlemen, you make your decision on the evidence in the case.

He talked about the time and, granted, there are inconsistencies in the time. You've heard the expert say number one, this defendant has a disorder in terms of memory, and number two, all of a sudden we're sitting here talking about, "Well, gee, a defendant who committed three murders tells us something that's not true, we must believe that all those other facts that he could only have acquired if he was there, must not be true either."

And that doesn't make good sense, ladies and gentlemen.

All defendants -- all criminal defendants do not immediately tell you the truth. In fact, Mr. Stidham forgets that his very own expert, Mr. Holmes, told you that ninety-nine percent of the time there will be details that wouldn't be consistent, that would be left out, there will be threads that don't connect, and that in ninety-nine percent of those cases the defendant is guilty.

Mr. Holmes also told you that in situations -- I asked him, I said, "Mr. Holmes, does it worry you if a defendant recants and says after he confesses all of a sudden he said, 'No, not me. I didn't do it. I lied to the police.'" And he says, "That doesn't worry me at all. In ninety-nine percent of the cases when that occurs the defendant is guilty. "If there are admissions in that first statement that go to show his guilt that no one else could know" -- and I put to you those are what we have in this case -- and that is why this defendant is guilty.

Now, he also talks about Jessie's alibi and I nearly laughed at this -- seriously. He said -- you know -- he said the State -- for him to commit this murder -- must think that he could be in two places at one time. Well, as you listen to his alibi testimony, he was. Because there were people that testified and I -- you go back and look at your testimony -- that he's sitting on the front porch for an hour and a half with somebody, and at the same time, he's with his girlfriend, and they're two different people, and then all of a sudden at the time that the Sheriff's Deputy got there, he's with Dennis Carter, and you remember Dennis Carter got up here and testified when he talked to the police the first time he gave them a statement and said he hadn't seen Jessie all

In fact he said he hadn't been with Jessie all day. day. The second time he talked to him he had been with Jessie all day and this is right. A week -- ten to thirteen days after Jessie's arrest. This is his friend. the guy that's in jail and he's concerned about him, and where is the yellow ribbon? That close in proximity he never says a word about being with Jessie that day. Never says a thing about it. One of them was a handwritten statement now, and only to say Mr. OfShe would say they coerced that out of him. He wrote it out himself. And yet he never mentions the same until he gets up here, and the reason -- go back and look and see why these people -- and some of them -- some of them I'm putting to you are just flat liars. Some of them I think after a month had elapsed and the Misskelleys came and approached them and they came in with these police reports and said this happened on this day, and they came in with these things that they wanted to help their friend and neighbor, and they wanted to do what they could. And so when they were told, "Don't you remember Don't you remember that?", they bought into it. But when you listen to it, if they were telling the truth, there would be consistencies. And if they knew where Jessie was on the fifth, they would have told it when they talked to the police the first time, not nine

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months later. And if they knew where he was and those that didn't talk to the police, they would have reported it.

What happened though is Fred Revelle was the one person who reported it. And he came up with this theory, "Well, I know where he was 'cause that's when he got — that's when we paid the money." And he did report it. He told the police, then they checked it out, and said, "No, I'm sorry, Fred, you're wrong. It was April twenty-seventh." And once that word got out I didn't see a soul bother to report their alibi information because they didn't want it to get under scrutiny of the eye of the police department.

Now, I put to you the reason for that is -- the reason why it doesn't jive -- the alibis don't jive -- the reason why he's in two places at the same time is because those alibis are not accurate, and those alibis are not true.

Mr. Stidham says, "Gosh, when this incident happened that late, sure everybody was out there." Well, from my recollection of the testimony was that there were four or five people out there at times. Some of his witnesses put Jessie up there talking to the Sheriff's Deputy.

Now, I guess conceivably you could say, "Well, with four or five people out there, Officer Dollahite may not have

seen him." But their witnesses say that he was within five yards of the car. There's only three or four people there and two or three of their witnesses said he was talking to the officer. Now, maybe you could say, "Well, you know, gee, these officers run into a lot of people over the course of the day, runs into a stranger out there, maybe he wouldn't recognize him." Well, these officers all knew Jessie Misskelley, Junior. They were all familiar with him -- acquainted with him -- before they went out there, and those officers -- all three of them -- who say, "Jessie Misskelley, Junior wasn't there."

Ladies and gentlemen, when you look at that and compare that with these other alibis that put him in the same place -- or two different places at the same time, it just doesn't jive and it just doesn't work.

He also refers to Jim McNease. Now, Jim McNease is the one that puts him with Allen Carter. Jim McNease is the one who refused to even talk with the police when they wanted to talk to him back in June. He refused to communicate with them and he gets on the stand and says that night he saw him with Allen Carter. Well, that's fine because he's got him walking down the street with Allen Carter and Mr. Hoggard has him walking down the street by himself. Mr. Hoggard has him up there talking

to the Sheriff's Deputy. Mr. Hoggard has the Sheriff's Deputy's car in Stephanie Dollar's driveway, which the officer testified he never was in her driveway.

But when you look at that, if that's really -- if they are accurately recalling based on that event, you would not have those blaring inconsistencies, because to my knowledge there was no evidence that any of those people have memory deficits or anything of that nature, and you would expect that information to at least jive more significantly than what it does with the facts you hear from the witness stand.

He also refers and he says -- and I don't know if they just missed part of the last testimony or not -- but he said part of the reason why the alibi is good is because Jessie, Senior comes home from D. W. I. School and meets the officer driving out of the park, which is rather unusual since he got out of D. W. I. School at a quarter 'til eight and the officers left the scene about ten 'til seven, which would again he's accusing us of putting Jessie two places at once. It seems like Jessie, Senior also has that ability to be in D. W. I. School at a quarter 'til eight and he's driving home at ten 'til seven.

Also, the witness that we put on in rebuttal, Mr. -I think it's Mercier and Mercer -- look at this, please.

When everybody that got up here testified that at times whenever they were there -- they signed this. It hasn't got a date one. If you'll look and see whose the last name on there and he told you he wasn't friends with anybody, didn't appear to have any bias, Mr. Stidham didn't attack him in any way in that nature. He just said, "I was only there once and I signed that document then and that was before the boys were murdered."

Now, he says there's no physical evidence linking Jessie Misskelley, and Friday -- I think it was last Friday -- I'm not even sure what today is -- but last Friday after all of the testimony we put on the quy from the crime lab, Lisa S. and all these people that testified about various physical evidence, and the next morning I read the paper and it said nothing -- it said nothing happened, nothing really significant occurred yesterday, but what we were doing -- you have to understand and I'm sure unless you have been in a criminal trial before -- if we don't put on evidence that a fingerprint expert looked at everything at a crime scene and says, "I looked at everything there was. were no fingerprints." Then the defense jumps up and screams, "They didn't even try to get fingerprints." we put on a fingerprint expert to say they submitted all sorts of things -- these sticks -- everything in the

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world. We looked at them. We examined them. We couldn't find latent prints. We also put on the DNA people. He testified he had a number of things submitted to him. They examined all sorts of things. It wasn't that they found evidence that somebody else was connected or evidence that couldn't be explained because we didn't know who it belonged to -- which would be permissible. You know if there's fingerprints out there that we can't match up then somebody else might have been there and it's not this defendant. But that's not the case. That's not the case.

The evidence that we presented was that all of these efforts were made to procure physical evidence and what physical evidence was obtained and was identifiable goes back to Damien and Jason. We didn't find anything with But the fact that the evidence does connect Jessie. those two is certainly consistent with what his statement was that he told the police. And it in no way gets him out of responsibility by saying, "Well, gee, there was no evidence connecting him, he couldn't have been there." This whole crime scene out in the woods you've heard how clean it was, how devoid of physical evidence -- out of the entire investigation -- and it was massive and it was meticulous. There was just a handful of fibers and I think ten hairs that were even suitable for comparison.

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And for them to say that because you don't have something that directly links Jessie then he wasn't there is absolutely preposterous. We put that evidence on to show you what we did, what we had, and who it connected to, and it's consistent with what he told you in his statement.

They talk about Bojangles. Do you think if the blood sample that was obtained at Bojangles had indicated in its examination that it belonged to somebody or some thing or would have any evidentiary value, don't you think that you would have heard some evidence about it from the defense? Don't you think they would have put something on? The reason that -- and that's one of those things -- one that we call a red herring -- and I think the reason they call it a red herring is because it's something if you throw it in the jury box and leave it there long enough it's going to create a big stink. that red herring is thrown in there to try to throw you off, but like Mr. Fogleman said, the person that was in Bojangles -- I don't know if they investigated him -whatever happened to him -- whatever caused him to be bleeding -- that person was not the same person who meticulously cleaned this area, who jammed the clothes down in the water, who submerged these three little victims and left no trail of blood anywhere in those

woods. That person is not the same person that was in Bojangles. And you all agreed with me during voir dire you'd apply your common sense. And common sense tells you that that is -- is -- I guess -- blowing smoke on the part of the defense because it's just not something that makes any common sense whatsoever.

Now, he says another thing that's reasonable doubt is the cult. That there is no -- no evidence that these other people were in the cult. Well, the only evidence is that a witness testified that this defendant along with Damien Echols went with -- or took her to a cult related activity. You heard in his statement where he talked about how they would kill animals and eat meat off their hind legs. He talked about being involved with cult related activity. You seen the book that they confiscated from Damien's house and when this Hutchison lady wanted to get hooked up with Damien who was it she was able to go through to make that connection? It was Jessie Misskelley.

Now, they say there's no connection between him and a cult and I guess technically there's no scientific evidence that says this was a cult killing. But there is certainly evidence and I think it's clearly showed that more than one person was involved because we have three separate weapons. We have three separate type knots in

the ligature. We have three different type bruises to these children. Now you can -- just from your own common sense three eight year olds -- to corral and do what they did to these children, it's going to take more than one. And then to perform the sadistic acts they did on them I don't know what the definition of the cult is. I don't know if it has to mean that they go once a week and worship the devil or what, but when three -- more than one -- and I put to you the evidence is that all three of them are involved in this type of activity -- that's a cult in my book and I think that Mr. Stidham finds that there's a different definition then at least for standards of northeast Arkansas, maybe he ought to move to Berkeley, California, with Mr. Ofshe.

He says that there is no narrative in the -- in the tape recording. You listen to that and be the judge. Also, remember that all of the tests indicated that Jessie has some verbal problems and granted, he does not -- there are not long orations on Jessie's part, but when you go through there you will see areas -- in fact one area is where he's mentioning where somebody lives, and he describing to the officers where somebody lives and it's about five or six lines long. And it's a description -- "You go down this street, you turn left, you go down about four blocks and then it's the third

house on the right. There's a truck across -- there's a goal post next to it." It's a very detailed statement that flies in the face of this poor little innocent fellow that's had his head tucked down all during the course of this trial that wouldn't look you in the eye. It's not consistent with what you've seen here.

And Mr. Fogleman touched on it. They're claiming police officers were deceptive and they're claiming that the police officers have lied to you and have been involved in deceit and have created this entire statement so that you'll convict Jessie Misskelley, Junior. And that they're staking their professional integrity on doing something like this in order to solve this crime.

Well, when you look at these photographs of this guy right here and then you look at what you've been staring at for the last two or three weeks sitting over there with his head bowed down, different attire, different hair cut, please tell me who it is that's the deceptive party in this whole situation.

What Mr. Stidham pointed out about their expert, what they told you was that there are these certain items that you can look at that can indicate a person can be as easily suggestible or can be influenced. Well, to determine whether a person actually was you need to know what happened there and you need to look at how the

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questions were asked. Mr. Fogleman has gone over with you all those questions where if they were suggestive, coercive, and influencing him improperly he would have said what they wanted him to. If these officers were so diabolical and manipulative and to hear Mr. Ofshe say there's some sort of book where they have these interrogation tactics that they could get you or I to go in their office and after a short period of time we would confess to multiple homicides. But if they're so diabolical and they're so good in such a science that they can prey on somebody in this -- and this poor defendant is just so easily suggestible, why didn't they get a better statement? Why didn't they make it perfect? Why would they ask him -- why would Ridge say, "What about nine o'clock in the morning?" Why would they ask him when he says, "It's the Byers child who's been castrated?" Why would they say, "Are you sure?" Heck, they got what they wanted, let's move on and pin him down to the next thing we're going to try coerce him on.

But when you get to areas like that then Doctor

Ofshe, who is a little slippery, he comes up and he wants

to talk about something else. But please look at that

because -- and think about it -- because what he accused

the police of doing was having a brainwashing mind

control ability over this defendant, and that they were

able just to get him to say what they wanted and if that's true, then why isn't the statement perfect? Why are there -- why are there still some inconsistencies in it? Why would they do that? It doesn't make sense if you believe the defense theory.

The other thing is, too, they want it both ways. They want you to believe that this defendant is so -- and they call him handicapped -- but he's got such a low I. Q. that he is practically just like putty in the hands of these police officers. His -- you know -- to think of it, no matter what situation he were in to confess to the horrendous -- to running down a boy -- an eight year old boy and dragging him back to his death -- just think what pressure would be required to cause you to do that. Think of it. And what they're telling you is that this person -- because he has such a low I. Q. was persuaded and coerced into doing it yet the way he was able to give a statement that -- on the tape that you heard that had such good facts is because although he's so slow he's easily suggestible, he's also so smart he can pick up all this stuff while they're questioning him and then spit it back out to you in a statement.

So it's really -- he's slow for one purpose, but he's very intelligent for another purpose. And they can't have it both ways because it doesn't make sense,

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and if it doesn't make sense then it shows that this defendant is guilty.

The second issue is -- and I think it's one that's crossed your minds from the time you heard the confession -- is that the law requires the State to prove that this defendant acted with premeditation and deliberation with the purpose of causing the death -- him or an accomplice -- even under the tape, how do we find that this defendant committed capital murder? Because what he says in his tapes that his involvement is relative; y slight. Well, examine what his statement says. He ran the Moore boy down and brought him back. At the time he did that Damien had already -- was already beating up one of the boys and he brings him back. Now, he'll say somewhere in that statement -- he'll say, "Well, that's when I saw what was happening, I left." But that's not true. can't be because in his statement he then proceeds to detail how the boy was cut in the face. He detailed how the boy was castrated and he doesn't just say castrated. When they say, "Are you sure?" He said, "Yes." And they say, "Well, how did they do it?" And he said, "They got him down on his back. They were both on top of him. One of them was sitting on him and then I saw the blood."

Now, if his involvement was that he ran and chased the boy down and brought him back and then he took off,

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how was it he saw all of those things? How was it that three weapons were used to inflict these wounds with if there's only two people that are left there? And in talking about his involvement — an accomplice — he's guilty as an accomplice if he aids or agrees to aid in the participation of the offense or aids or agrees to aid another in the commission of the offense. It's with the purpose — and when you get back there and read the instructions — purpose is defined as consciously engaging in conduct of a certain nature. If he consciously engaged in conduct that involved him in this act, then he's guilty of capital murder if that's the result.

See this picture? (INDICATING.) This is the Moore boy and this defendant won't look up and won't look at But this defendant's actions -- and you just think about it -- if this defendant does not chase down Michael Moore, if he does not run through the woods and chase him down and bring him back, Michael Moore lives. Michael Moore gets to go home at night and his parents get to be with him. But because of this defendant's actions, because of what Jessie Misskelley, Junior did and what he told you about in that taped statement, Michael Moore, Junior -- Michael Moore doesn't go home any more. because if he hadn't of chased him down, Michael Moore

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gets away. It's only a few hundred yards to the truck And certainly Michael Moore is going to report what's happening and if Michael Moore gets away, maybe the others decide that this isn't a good thing to engage in and they get out. Maybe it's just a kidnapping or Maybe they're just seriously hurt. Ladies and gentlemen, we'll never know for Jessie Misskelley, Junior didn't let Michael Moore get away. He chased him down like an animal and brought him back and as a result of his actions, Michael Moore's dead, Steven Branch is dead, and Chris Byers is dead, and there's no getting around And you can cut it any way you want to. You can sit there and look over it, but when you read that tape and listen to that tape, and you look and go over this evidence, the actions of this defendant certainly meets the acts of an accomplice in aiding or agreeing to aid or assisting in the commission of capital murder and, for goodness sakes, in a case like this -- I know there's a lot of -- there's a lot of pressure, there's a lot of attention on it, and it's a great responsibility to go back to, because the person you've looked at for two weeks looks young and it's easy to empathize and sympathize with him. But, please, for goodness sakes go back there, follow the law, and when I asked you in opening -- or in voir dire about using your common sense,

what I meant was in this case you will be presented -you are presented with a confession. A confession that
gives details that only this defendant could know. And
under any other circumstances you would probably say it
would be ludicrous not to say, "Well, gosh" -- I mean -the reaction is if a person confesses and they know the
details, then they're guilty. But the defense through
bringing in so-called experts such as Mr. Ofshe have
tried to smoke and mirrors to make it sound like a person
that confesses to such heinous crimes and admits their
involvement and gives you specific details of the
involvement, that's indicative of someone who was forced
or coerced to confess.

I think when you go back and you apply your common sense and you do what's right, and you think about the evidence in this case, you're going to know that what the evidence shows is that this defendant ran down Michael Moore. That this defendant was there and was involved and he's guilty of three counts of capital murder.

You will have a verdict form that will be given to you and you'll take back all of these instructions. And that verdict form will say, "We, the jury find the defendant, Jessie Misskelley, guilty of capital murder, Count One involving Michael Moore, Count Two, Steven Branch, and Count Three, Chris Byers", and the Judge will

tell you there are some lesser included offenses that are mentioned. You only -- it's not like you take all of these options and spread them out on the table and say, "Gee, this looks like a good one." You start at the top. You start with capital murder and if this defendant, from the evidence you find beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of capital murder to each of those counts, you check those boxes and the lesser included offenses are not even to be considered.

And I trust that when you go back there -- you'll carry a heavy responsibility -- but you'll do what the law and the facts require and you'll return a verdict of guilty. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Alright, ladies and gentlemen, when you reach the jury room you should elect one of your number as foreperson and you will consider and complete one of the following verdict forms and I'm going to read those to you.

You will first take up and consider the charge -- charges of capital murder and that verdict form reads as follows:

"We, the jury find Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, Junior guilty of capital murder in the death of Michael Moore, Stevie Branch, and Chris Byers", and there are three separate blocks.