

cc: t. murphy
l. ketcham

September 3, 1990

Conyers, GA 30207

C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St. NW
(Suite 650)
Washington, DC 20001

Attn: Mr. Brian Lamb:

Again, C-SPAN is to be applauded! This time it's for last week's precedent-setting coverage of the U.S. Military Appeals Court proceedings. (I probably am not calling the Court by its correct "official name", am I?).

Both courtroom coverage and the discussions which followed were extremely interesting. Urge your program managers to bring us more court coverage whenever possible.

At one point in the discussions, I think that a judge (or a commentator) raised the question of whether the death penalty had been imposed in recent times, without the defendant having had a jury trial.

I thought you might be interested in having the enclosed clipping from the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION. This relates to the case of Mr. William N. Moore, whose execution was commuted to a life sentence just a few days ago, here in Georgia.

Note that the lack of a jury trial was a significant factor in the decision to spare Moore's life. As I recall, Moore was a soldier at the time. The crime was committed as he and a "buddy", after a drinking spree, went to a home where, the "buddy" said, the man had a lot of money. Moore later confessed to shooting the victim, when the robbery attempt was discovered.

Apparently Moore's confession before a Georgia judge was enough to give the judge adequate jurisdiction to impose the death sentence! Whether Moore ever asked for or received legal counsel, I don't know. Surely there should have been some sort of review or automatic appeals process, or whether the military justice system came into play, is another interesting question.

Frightening, though, that capital punishment could have hung on one judge's decision! And, of course, that point can open up the whole debate on the death penalty, which I personally do not think is a deterrent, and which therefor, I oppose.

Sincerely,

SEP 27 ANS'D

SEP 10 REC'D

2936-90

Moore: He'll be eligible for parole in nine years

► Continued from A1

who called from Calcutta, India, on Monday, urging the panel to "do what Jesus would do," said staff member Marsha Bailey, and from former Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, who wired the board on Saturday to urge clemency,

Speaking for members of her family in the closed hearing Tuesday morning, Sara Farmer, Fredger Stapleton's niece, told the board when she met Billy Moore the night he was arrested, "he told her he was sorry and asked for her forgiveness," said state Rep. Billy Randall, (D-Macon) who coordinated the clem-



Mother Teresa and Jesse Jackson urged the parole board to spare the life of the confessed murderer.

ency effort.

Because there was no jury trial, said Mr. Snow, "There were a lot of factors that would have been brought out that were never seen by anyone."



The lack of a trial also prevented courts that were asked to review the decision from inquiring into the the background and circumstances of the case, he said.

"Had there been a trial, you would have had a lot more information," Mr. Snow said. "You would have had witnesses, you would have a cross-examination. I'm not suggesting that there would be any difference in what the jury might decide, but I am saying that there would be factors that would give rise to the possibility to some appeals."

In an unusual move, the board decided to hold its meeting

even after the U.S. Supreme Court granted Moore a 30-day stay of execution Tuesday, 24 hours before his scheduled execution.

The earliest Moore could be considered for parole under the provisions of the state constitution is after he has served 25 years, nine years from now, said Mr. Snow.

Asked what it felt like to see her brother's life spared after 16 years of living under the death sentence, Moore's eldest sister, Norma Gripper, embraced the reporter.

"There. Now you feel it. The feeling is great."

Joe Moakley, that is to
the investigation of the
of six Jesuit priests in
November. His conclu-
congressional staff find-
y-influenced pattern of
perjured testimony and
esses that continues de-
nt protests.

some Salvadorans may
ngton poke its nose where
and influence personnel
g El Salvador's security?
to that one is simple.

a majority of Americans
s a clique of right-wing
dishonored their Salvador-
e any kind of claim, year
lions of U.S. dollars?

I applaud The Constitution's ar-
ticle concerning Nathan Curtis's at-
tempt to earn his Eagle Scout badge
by starting a recycling project in the
Morningside-Lenox Park neigh-
borhood.

I am a member of the board of
the Morningside-Lenox Park Asso-
ciation, and we have enthusiastically
supported Nathan's efforts to
start such a project.

As I was once again loading my
color-separated glass, newspapers,
and aluminum cans for yet another
trip to the recycling center in Little
Five Points, I thought how absurd it
is that someone like Nathan is will-
ing to undertake such a large job but
is stymied by the inability of the city
administration to make a decision.

Our landfills are fast approach-
ing capacity. Even if incineration

were an acceptable alternative, the
lead time for construction is such
that our landfills will be full before
an incinerator can be brought on
line.

Recycling can work to reduce
the quantity of our waste. Since my
household began recycling and
composting, we no longer fill two
"herbies" a week; instead, we fill
one about half full.

While we struggle with the deci-
sion of how to dispose of our waste,
it is inconceivable that something as
simple as curbside recycling has to
cause such controversy.

I hope the city recycling admin-
istration will finally move off square
one and take an aggressive stand in
favor of recycling.

LESLIE J. BRYAN
Atlanta

Mr. Jones has supported the
cost-of-living-adjustment provi-
sions in the federal budget for feder-
al and military retirees.

Mr. Jones has shown me he is not
afraid to say yes or no because of a
possible political backlash. I have
found through experience that most
of our politicians will not commit
themselves one way or another in
answers to letters. They will always
"keep your views in mind."

While I personally do not agree
with Mr. Jones's vote on the flag
burning issue, I respect his courage
and integrity for voting as he did. I
am one veteran who believes we
need more men like Congressman
Jones serving in the Senate and Con-
gress, not fewer.

GILBERT BARTMAN
Alpharetta

William N. Moore
will be eligible for parole in nine more years



Board spares murderer

Term commuted to life in prison

By Holly Morris
Staff writer

For the first time since Georgia's modern death penalty law was passed in 1973, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole spared a confessed murderer's life Tuesday.

To cheers and applause from family and supporters who included seven members of the victim's family, board chairman Wayne Snow announced the unanimous decision to commute to life in prison the sentence of William Neal Moore, who was scheduled to be executed today for the April 1974 robbery-murder of Fredger Stapleton, 77, in Wrens, Ga.

Most significant in influencing the board's decision, said Mr. Snow, were the fact that Moore was sentenced without benefit of a jury trial early in the history of the state's death penalty law, when "no one knew" whether the Supreme Court would uphold it, and the pleas for mercy from members of the victim's family.

"To say the least, the board was very much impressed by the fact that we did have family of the victim who . . . also asked for clemency. That is something that we do not often see," Mr. Snow said.

The board also heard from Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner,

Please see **MOORE, A9** ►

agging for
a grander vision of Memphis
alms wrote Commercial Appeal
er: "I do not believe that GSU"
o are helping to make Atlanta one
nt cities in the Southeast would
urred vision."

ND GARBAGE: Cyclist **Linda Poore**
ks the recent spate of patriotism
wishes the people waving to pass-
s from the bridges over I-75 would
ess. On her daily rides, she has no-
wasn't there before the flag-waving
their stand: "I think it is great what
but I hate the litter."

DWS: Atlantans **Dory Rolando** and
Martinez take falling in love literally:
re married Saturday, they will be
n an airplane. Martinez, a veteran
000 jumps, and Rolando, who has
s, will say most of their vows in a
FreeFall Ranch in Warm Springs.
I do's' — and kiss — in free fall,"
they will be accompanied by a best
honor and minister **Fred Greason**.
wear a white jumpsuit because, she
rs a dress, "I'll be floating rather

Buzz: Lobbyist **Joe Sports**, recently
delegate
to the state
nvention,
campaign
Fan." ...

nd Buzz,
senior
d sopho-
ch, were
ons dur-
mpetition
e Univer-
g Associ-
re judged



Buzz

He's No. 1

mascot walk and crowd rapport.
he contest's equivalent of Miss Con-

6-5800) or Woodham (526-5456)

ing!

0



selected

rear!

