

**Justice R. Eugene Pincham, Retired**

Appellate Court of Illinois  
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June 7, 1999

Chairman Diane Ciral  
Bughouse Square Debates Committee  
The Newberry Library  
60 West Walton Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610-3380

Dear Chairman Ciral:

I cannot begin to tell you how honored I am to be invited to give the main address at the debate on July 31, 1999. To know that I was the unanimous choice of the committee is flattering beyond description. I will do my very best to live up to this high honor.

As I discussed with you in our subsequent telephone conversation, the seven and eight-year old accused juveniles in the Ryan Harris case were the victims of fabrications, concoctions, distortions and deceptions by two Chicago Police Officers. This is unquestionably, unequivocally and indisputably established by the various and numerous police reports of the Ryan Harris sexual molestation and murder investigation. It is not based or predicated on the witnesses, the two accused juveniles or their attorneys; rather, it is based exclusively on indisputable police records and reports.

By and large, the public is unaware of this frame. In dropping the charges against the two juveniles, and by, thereafter, announcing the indictment of Floyd Durr for the sexual molestation and murder of Ryan Harris. Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard and State's Attorney Richard Devine took the position that the charges against these two children arose out of a mistake. They were left with no alternative but to say this. The adamant question yet remains: "How could the allegations for the sexual molestation and murder of Ryan Harris against the two minors, which was later determined to have been committed by Floyd Durr, possibly be construed as a mistake?"

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By reason of the above and foregoing, and your suggestion that,

**"we thought that it would be of interest to your audience to have you talk about youth, crime, and the justice system."**

my remarks will hopefully enlighten the audience on the subject areas that you have suggested.

I respectfully suggest that one of the ingredients involved in the recent exoneration of convicted death row inmates is and has been the lack and absence of notable public protestation and outrage of, about and surrounding the facts and circumstances of the offender's conviction. The kind of despicable police conduct that denigrates our justice system, and causes disrespect for and a lack of confidence in our justice system, ultimately undermines the democratic process. It must stop. The Newberry Library audience is an audience of tremendous political and economical impact and influence. Their voices must be heard in protestation to this kind of egregious injustice in our justice system.

I look forward to the affair next month. Stay well, and may the Good Lord continue to be with you and you with Him.

Sincerely,



R. EUGENE PINCHAM  
REP/co