

December 9, 1986

Honorable Robert F. Peckham  
U.S Courthouse  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Judge Peckham,

I'm writing to plea for leniency in sentencing Larry Layton. I feel my guilty verdict was legally correct, but in no way morally just. As a member of the jury panel, it was my job to judge the evidence and not question the law itself. But during the process I was haunted by the larger moral question, was Larry Layton fully responsible for his actions. My fellow jurors convinced me his state of mind, whether he was brainwashed, coerced or pressured in any other way, was not evidence in the case. We did not know the legal definition of brainwashed and therefore had no framework to test the evidence. That left me with no other choice than to convict Larry Layton. But in my mind he is no different than any other victim of Jim Jones. I can not separate him from those who were found dead in the jungle. The vast numbers of those who died are testimony to the extraordinary power of that evil man. Larry Layton is one of his victims. I feel as though I convicted a child, someone who did not have the capacity to question his authority. The ability to reason right from wrong was stripped away long ago. This is not a man who belongs in jail. He is not a threat to anyone and I believe he has already been punished and will forever be haunted by his past, whether he sits in jail or is allowed to heal by becoming a contributing member of society.

Respectfully,

*Karen Provenza*



2321 EL CAMINO REAL • SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94403 • PHONE (415) 574-0650

January 10, 1987

Dear Sir:

This letter is in regards to the trial and sentencing of Mr. Lawrence John Layton. My name is Johanne Germain, and I am a member of the jury panel that convicted Mr. Layton of the crimes charged.

I feel that it is my moral responsibility and I am personally compelled to write this letter regarding my strong thoughts and feelings about Mr. Layton's sentencing. Although we the jury did find Mr. Layton guilty of the crimes charged, we did discuss the fact that Mr. Layton did play a very small part in the conspiracy. Many of the jurors, including myself, did discuss the fact that he should be punished. But we did not feel that he should be punished severely.


Although the defense could not plead insanity, we do feel that the circumstances were almost unbearable. I know that I can only speak for myself. But hopefully others that felt the same as I will also speak up.

I feel that Mr. Layton has already paid and suffered a great deal, and will continue to pay carrying this tragic nightmare with him the rest of his life. I certainly do not believe that he is a threat to society. My verdict of guilt only comes with a feeling of justice if the sentence given is minimal. I hope that you will consider my verdict as a whole including this letter.

This trial has been a great learning experience for me. It was not an easy accomplishment for twelve jurors to come to one verdict. It was a pleasure to serve my civic duty for you, and I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

*Johanne Germain**Johanne  
Germain  
2283 Sollec*



January 13, 1987


The Honorable Robert J. Peckham  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102


Sir:

It has been a little more than a month since we found Harry Laton guilty and I have had this time to reflect back over all the issues presented during his trial.

I realize Harry Laton is guilty of taking part in a horrible crime, but at the same time I believe he was as much of a victim as a participant. The law properly applied can be very painful. He thought that Jim Jones is still destroying lives 8 years after Jonestown is infuriating to me.

In a very short time you must make a decision concerning Harry Laton's sentencing, and I wish you would give some thought






to my position of his being victim-  
ized and show leniency in your  
judgement.

In closing I wish to express  
my gratitude to you for your  
help, guidance and understanding  
shown to us as jurors during the  
trial.

Respectfully yours,

Opie A. Dunkel



1-11-1987

JAN 13 1987

Dear Honorable Judge Peckham,

I, John R. Littrell, Juror # 151 on the  
U.S. vs. Larry Laton. Thank you for your courtesy  
and I beg for mercy for Larry Laton.

I reasoned with some of my fellow jurors,  
that while I believed Laton would make a  
good fishing buddy, where my life might depend  
on his actions; we had to find him guilty as  
charged since the Defense did not plead insanity.

I plead leniency because he spent years in  
a closed environment that revolved around Jones  
and The Peoples Temple. Laton did what seemed  
right in his world.

If, in your wisdom, it is at all practical  
Please Let Laton Go Free!

Thank You  
John R. Littrell

Phone 415-278-6677 After 4:29 p.m.

JOHANNE GERMAIN  
2283 South El Camino Real  
San Mateo, California 94403

May 30, 1991

Commissioner  
U.S. Parole Commission  
1301 Shoreway Road, Fourth Floor  
Belmont, California 94002

Re: Laurence ("Larry") Layton  
Upcoming Parole Hearing

Dear Commissioner:

Please allow me to introduce myself: I am Johanne Germain, and I am one of the twelve jurors in the re-trial of Larry Layton who voted for his conviction. I do not know Mr. Layton beyond what I heard of him, and saw of his actions and reactions in court, during his trial, following which, after considering the very distressing circumstances of this case, we found Mr. Layton guilty as charged. I have just learned that Mr. Layton has applied for parole and that his parole hearing will be held soon. I hope you will consider this letter during your deliberations.

At the time of Mr. Layton's sentencing, I wrote Judge Peckham, the trial judge, to express my concerns about this case. In the event that you do not have that letter before you, I indicated that I had strong thoughts and feelings about Mr. Layton's sentencing and the punishment he would suffer. I continue to hold these strong feelings.

Although we, the jury, did reach a verdict of "guilty" on the charges against Mr. Layton, and did feel that he should be punished, we did not feel that he should be punished severely. The basis for our feeling was that we felt that Mr. Layton had played only a very small part in the conspiracy.

Through the evidence and testimony presented by the prosecution, we also learned of the appalling and almost inconceivable circumstances endured by Mr. Layton and other members of the Peoples Temple in Jonestown, and before. Being involved in a situation like what they were in understandably created an environment where almost anyone, any of us, would have given in. Jonestown was another world, a nightmare. The brainwashing and total subjugation and enslavement of these people and particularly Mr. Layton, to the control and manipulations of the Reverend Jim Jones was obvious.

Although the defense did not plead insanity, we did feel that the circumstances in which Mr. Layton lived and which led up to the offenses he was charged with, were almost unbearable. I, along with several of the other jurors with whom I did discuss this, did not believe that Mr. Layton would have participated, even in a very small way, if he had been in relatively normal circumstances, or not under Rev. Jones's total control.

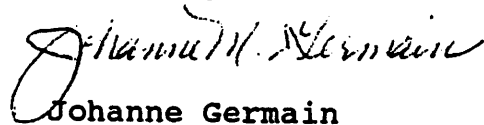
Along with the other jurors, I did feel that, at the time of the trial in 1986, Mr. Layton had already paid and suffered a great deal. We also felt that he will continue to pay by carrying the nightmare of Jonestown and all that Rev. Jones did to him, for the rest of his life.

I continue to feel what I expressed to Judge Peckham. I feel that the prison time Mr. Layton has served, which is about 7 years altogether now, is more than enough to punish him for his minimal role in what happened in Jonestown and at Port Kaituma. As I mentioned to Judge Peckham, my verdict of guilt only came with a feeling of justice if the sentence given was minimal. I had hoped that the sentence would have been less than what was ordered, and was surprised and disappointed to learn that Judge Peckham was required by law to impose the life terms. I was pleased to learn that by ordering that Mr. Layton would be eligible for parole after he had served five years, Judge Peckham ensured that Mr. Layton could then be released without having to serve more time.

I write to recommend and request that your Commission take that action. I certainly do not believe that Larry Layton is a threat to society. He has more than paid for his crimes through his imprisonment and his terrible experiences under Jim Jones. Mr. Layton, too, lost family and friends at Jonestown, and it is time, I believe, to permit Mr. Layton to be back with his family and to try to re-establish his life in a normal world. He has been in one form of prison or other since he joined Peoples Temple.

Please consider this recommendation for Mr. Layton's release.

Sincerely,

  
Johanne Germain

## Section 4

4. Letters from jurors to Chief Judge Peckham requesting leniency in sentencing
  - 4.1. Karen Provenza
  - 4.2. Johanne Germain (1986 & 1991)
  - 4.3. Jai Hubel
  - 4.4. John Littrell

*Chief Judge Peckham noted that the letters pleading for leniency from four of the jurors that had just convicted Larry were unprecedented in his experience. He was obviously moved by them.*



JOHANNE GERMAIN  
2283 South El Camino Real  
San Mateo, California 94403

May 30, 1991

Commissioner  
U.S. Parole Commission  
1301 Shoreway Road, Fourth Floor  
Belmont, California 94002

Re: Laurence ("Larry") Layton  
Upcoming Parole Hearing

Dear Commissioner:

Please allow me to introduce myself: I am Johanne Germain, and I am one of the twelve jurors in the re-trial of Larry Layton who voted for his conviction. I do not know Mr. Layton beyond what I heard of him, and saw of his actions and reactions in court, during his trial, following which, after considering the very distressing circumstances of this case, we found Mr. Layton guilty as charged. I have just learned that Mr. Layton has applied for parole and that his parole hearing will be held soon. I hope you will consider this letter during your deliberations.

At the time of Mr. Layton's sentencing, I wrote Judge Peckham, the trial judge, to express my concerns about this case. In the event that you do not have that letter before you, I indicated that I had strong thoughts and feelings about Mr. Layton's sentencing and the punishment he would suffer. I continue to hold these strong feelings.

Although we, the jury, did reach a verdict of "guilty" on the charges against Mr. Layton, and did feel that he should be punished, we did not feel that he should be punished severely. The basis for our feeling was that we felt that Mr. Layton had played only a very small part in the conspiracy.

Through the evidence and testimony presented by the prosecution, we also learned of the appalling and almost inconceivable circumstances endured by Mr. Layton and other members of the Peoples Temple in Jonestown, and before. Being involved in a situation like what they were in understandably created an environment where almost anyone, any of us, would have given in. Jonestown was another world, a nightmare. The brainwashing and total subjugation and enslavement of these people and particularly Mr. Layton, to the control and manipulations of the Reverend Jim Jones was obvious.

Although the defense did not plead insanity, we did feel that the circumstances in which Mr. Layton lived and which led up to the offenses he was charged with, were almost unbearable. I, along with several of the other jurors with whom I did discuss this, did not believe that Mr. Layton would have participated, even in a very small way, if he had been in relatively normal circumstances, or not under Rev. Jones's total control.

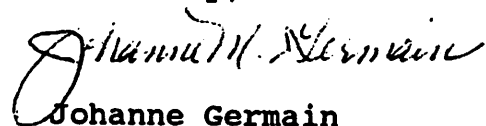
Along with the other jurors, I did feel that, at the time of the trial in 1986, Mr. Layton had already paid and suffered a great deal. We also felt that he will continue to pay by carrying the nightmare of Jonestown and all that Rev. Jones did to him, for the rest of his life.

I continue to feel what I expressed to Judge Peckham. I feel that the prison time Mr. Layton has served, which is about 7 years altogether now, is more than enough to punish him for his minimal role in what happened in Jonestown and at Port Kaituma. As I mentioned to Judge Peckham, my verdict of guilt only came with a feeling of justice if the sentence given was minimal. I had hoped that the sentence would have been less than what was ordered, and was surprised and disappointed to learn that Judge Peckham was required by law to impose the life terms. I was pleased to learn that by ordering that Mr. Layton would be eligible for parole after he had served five years, Judge Peckham ensured that Mr. Layton could then be released without having to serve more time.

I write to recommend and request that your Commission take that action. I certainly do not believe that Larry Layton is a threat to society. He has more than paid for his crimes through his imprisonment and his terrible experiences under Jim Jones. Mr. Layton, too, lost family and friends at Jonestown, and it is time, I believe, to permit Mr. Layton to be back with his family and to try to re-establish his life in a normal world. He has been in one form of prison or other since he joined Peoples Temple.

Please consider this recommendation for Mr. Layton's release.

Sincerely,

  
Johanne Germain

December 9, 1986

Honorable Robert F. Peckham  
U.S Courthouse  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Judge Peckham,

I'm writing to plea for lienancy in sentencing Larry Layton. I feel my guilty verdict was legally correct, but in no way morally just. As a member of the jury panel, it was my job to judge the evidence and not question the law itself. But during the process I was haunted by the larger moral question, was Larry Layton fully responsible for his actions. My fellow jurors convinced me his state of mind, whether he was brainwashed, coerced or pressured in any other way, was not evidence in the case. We did not know the legal definition of brainwashed and therefore had no framework to test the evidence. That left me with no other choice than to convict Larry Layton. But in my mind he is no different than any other victim of Jim Jones. I can not separate him from those who were found dead in the jungle. The vast numbers of those who died are testimony to the extraordinary power of that evil man. Larry Layton is one of his victims. I feel as though I convicted a child, someone who did not have the capacity to question his authority. The ability to reason right from wrong was stripped away long ago. This is not a man who belongs in jail. He is not a threat to anyone and I believe he has already been punished and will forever be haunted by his past, whether he sits in jail or is allowed to heal by becoming a contributing member of society.

Respectfully,

*Karen Proenza*



2321 EL CAMINO REAL • SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94403 • PHONE (415) 574-0650

January 10, 1987

Dear Sir:

This letter is in regards to the trial and sentencing of Mr. Lawrence John Layton. My name is Johanne Germain, and I am a member of the jury panel that convicted Mr. Layton of the crimes charged.


I feel that it is my moral responsibility and I am personally compelled to write this letter regarding my strong thoughts and feelings about Mr. Layton's sentencing. Although we the jury did find Mr. Layton guilty of the crimes charged, we did discuss the fact that Mr. Layton did play a very small part in the conspiracy. Many of the jurors, including myself, did discuss the fact that he should be punished. But we did not feel that he should be punished severely.

Although the defense could not plead insanity, we do feel that the circumstances were almost unbearable. I know that I can only speak for myself. But hopefully others that felt the same as I will also speak up.

I feel that Mr. Layton has already paid and suffered a great deal, and will continue to pay carrying this tragic nightmare with him the rest of his life. I certainly do not believe that he is a threat to society. My verdict of guilt only comes with a feeling of justice if the sentence given is minimal. I hope that you will consider my verdict as a whole including this letter.

This trial has been a great learning experience for me. It was not an easy accomplishment for twelve jurors to come to one verdict. It was a pleasure to serve my civic duty for you, and I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely, *Johanne Germain**Johanne  
Germain  
2283 SoLlCn*



January 13, 1987


The Honorable Robert J. Peckham  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

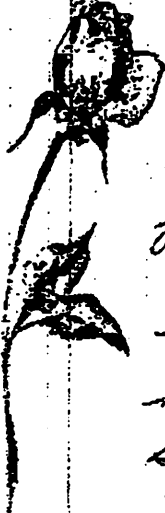
Sir:

It has been a little more than a month since we found Larry Laton guilty and I have had this time to reflect back over all the issues presented during his trial.

I realize Larry Laton is guilty of taking part in a horrible crime, but at the same time I believe he was as much of a victim as a participant. The law properly applied can be very painful. The thought that Jim Jones is still destroying lives 8 years after Jonestown is infuriating to me.

In a very short time you must make a decision concerning Larry Laton's sentencing, and I wish you would give some thought






to my position of his being victim-  
ized and show leniency in your  
judgement.

In closing I wish to express  
my gratitude to you for your  
help, guidance and understanding  
shown to us as jurors during the  
trial.

Respectfully yours

Joe A. Huebel



1-11-1987

JAN 2 1987

Dear Honorable Judge Peckham,

I, John R. Littrell, Juror # 151 on the  
U.S. vs. Larry Laton. Thank you for your courtesy,  
and I beg for mercy for Larry Laton.

I reasoned with some of my fellow jurors,  
that while I believed Laton would make a  
good fishing buddy, where my life might depend  
on his actions; we had to find him guilty as  
charged since the Defense did not plead insanity.

I plead leniency because he spent years in  
a closed environment that revolved around Jones  
and The Peoples Temple. Laton did what seemed  
right in his world.

If, in your wisdom, it is at all practical  
Please Let Laton Go Free!

Thank You  
John R. Littrell

phone #15-278-6677 After 4:30 p.m.