

OFFICES  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
VIGO COUNTY  
ROOMS 26-27 COURT HOUSE  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

RALPH BERRY  
PROSECUTOR

June 16, 1966

TELEPHONE  
CRAWFORD 7028

Hon. William J. Brennan, Jr., Associate Justice  
Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have just read about your decisions handed down this week concerning the rights of defendants in criminal actions. I am shocked that any court could take such a calloused attitude towards the rights of society. I have long been a so-called "liberal" and have belonged to and been an active member of the American Civil Liberties Union since I have been a member of the Bar. I have never before been critical of the Supreme Court in any of its decisions but I now feel that when members of the court join in the majority opinion, they could not possibly have any practical idea of what is really involved in law enforcement in this country.

Insofar as I am concerned, your decision will do nothing but permit rapists, persons molesting minor children, murderers, robbers and burglars to have an opportunity to escape any punishment for their crimes. I feel certain that the old-time anarchists of fifty years ago would feel that you were helping to achieve their ultimate goals. Law enforcement and the rights of organized society are no longer desirable apparently in your opinion.

I am happy only that the two judges who have had some experience with law enforcement were on the dissentient side. For the five who were on the majority side, I can only say that I regret this decision and feel sorry for the many unfortunate victims of criminal attacks that will result because of your opinion.

Sincerely yours,

*Ralph Berry*  
Ralph Berry, Prosecuting Attorney

RB:rl  
CC: Hon. Birch Bayh  
U. S. Senator

*no reply*