

From transcript of press conference 10 Dec 70, filed Nixon Administration 11 Dec 70:

Question 12. Rights of Defendants.

Q. Mr. President, at a previous news conference you said that what happened at Mylai was a massacre. On another occasion, you said that Charles Manson is guilty. On another occasion you mentioned Angela Davis by name and then said that those responsible for such acts of terror will be brought to justice. My question concerns the problem of pretrial publicity and the fact that it could jeopardize a defendant's rights at a trial. How do you reconcile your comments with your status as a lawyer?

A. I think that's a legitimate criticism. I think sometimes we lawyers, even like doctors who try to prescribe for themselves, may make mistakes. And I think that kind of comment probably is unjustified.

See also Excerpts From President Nixon's Address to National Conference on Judiciary, filed Nixon Administration 12 Mar 71.

"Mr. Nixon, who was accused last year of prejudicing the murder trial of Charles M. Manson in Los Angeles by saying that Manson was guilty, also warned today that 'all too often, the right of the accused to a fair trial is eroded by prejudicial publicity.'"

Fred P. Graham (President Urges 'Genuine Reform' of Court System), NYTimes 12 Mar 71, filed Nix Ad.