

1 your duty to go back and read every charge which might  
2 apply, and I submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, you will  
3 be able to find a charge that fits Miss Owens, but it won't  
4 be Murder in the First Degree. Thank you.

5 BY THE COURT: State.

6 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT

7 BY MR. STROTHER:

8 Ladies and gentlemen, this is an argument in which  
9 the State gets to respond to the arguments of counsel for  
10 the defendants. I hope, and I say this with no levity  
11 intended, that none of you will hold it against me or the  
12 State if I don't take as long to respond to the arguments  
13 of Mr. Marty and Mr. Bailey as they took to make them. I  
14 honestly and sincerely don't believe that in my representa-  
15 tion of the State that it will take me that long to answer  
16 and respond to the questions they've attempted to raise.

17 Generally, Mr. Marty's argument, which I'll respond  
18 to first is that something was wrong...the bizarre activity  
19 of his client, that something was amiss. Yes, I think that's  
20 certainly true that something was amiss. I don't think that  
21 any words fit it better than "That was a desperate woman."  
22 That was a desparate woman; not because of anyone else's  
23 actions, but because of her own actions she was about to  
24 loose everything that mattered to her, and there was one way  
25 and one way only to salvage that; to salvage her way of life;

1 and that was to have her husband killed and collect the  
2 insurance money. It's just that simple. Why do I say that?  
3 Do I say that because I'm testifying? No. I say it because  
4 you have the testimony of her sister...her own blood sister,  
5 Carolyn Hensley, who came into this courtroom and recounted  
6 to you Miss Owens' history. Going back to '79 or '80, she  
7 had embezzled thousands of dollars, and she was supposed to  
8 pay that back, and she was supposed to have a job where she  
9 was working to pay it back. And what do we find out she was  
10 doing on this second new job with Dr. Jones? Lo and behold,  
11 to pay the money back...the original money she owed...she  
12 had been embezzling from Dr. Jones, and she gets caught,  
13 and her own father has to sign a note for \$20,000, which he's  
14 still paying on. And she forges his name to a second side  
15 note obligating herself to make monthly payments to this man  
16 to keep from having to go to jail again. And how does she  
17 start getting that money? We heard about the invalid aunt  
18 on whose account she wrote checks on non-existent funds  
19 from that aunt's account and put those into her account.  
20 And we heard how the bills that Mr. Owens was attempting to  
21 pay were not being paid with those checks; probably very  
22 much like the check...the \$2,000 check Mr. Owens' father  
23 sent. Those were never mailed to people they were supposed  
24 to go to, and Mrs. Owens was writing checks on those funds.

25 And what had her husband told her? What would