

## A MURDER VERDICT DROPPED BY COURT

**Darrell Parker Serving Time  
for 1955 Slaying  
of Wife**

St. Louis (AP)—The conviction of Darrel F. Parker, who was found guilty by a state court jury in Lincoln, Neb., of the 1955 slaying of his wife, was reversed yesterday by the U. S. Eighth Court of Appeals.

The appeals court ruled confessions obtained from Parker were coerced and involuntary and were improperly admitted in evidence.

### State Has 90 Days

The court granted the state of Nebraska 90 days to retry Parker. If he is not retried within that period, Judge Robert Van Pelt of Lincoln is directed to order Parker's release.

Parker's wife, Nancy Parker, was slain December 14, 1955. Parker was sentenced to life imprisonment for the killing and has served 13 years of his sentence in the Nebraska State penitentiary.

The appellate court held that the trial court erred in not determining whether Parker's confessions were voluntary before admitting them in evidence.

### Jury Got Bad Facts

"The court erroneously submitted to the jury the issue of determination whether the confession was voluntary," the appeals court noted.

The appellate court said circumstances "compelled the determination" that the confessions were involuntary.

The court said these circumstances included the fact that "Parker was never advised of his right to an attorney, was never advised of his right against self-incrimination, was never asked if he wanted an attorney or informed that an attorney would be provided for him, was never permitted to use the telephone to call his friends."

The court was critical of the interrogation of Parker by John Reid, a Chicago criminologist. It said Reid's methods appeared to "go beyond approved standards."

The court said the criminologist questioned Parker in a small, windowless room with no witnesses present and required Parker to constantly look him in the eye.