

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 236.—OCTOBER TERM, 1960.

Dollree Mapp, etc., Appellant, } On Appeal from the Su-
v. } preme Court of the
Ohio. } State of Ohio.

[May —, 1961.]

MR. JUSTICE CLARK delivered the opinion of the Court.

Appellant stands convicted of knowingly having had in her possession and under her control certain lewd and lascivious books, pictures and photographs in violation of § 2905.34 of Ohio's Revised Code. As officially stated in the syllabus to its opinion, the Supreme Court of Ohio found that her conviction was valid though "based primarily upon the introduction in evidence of lewd and lascivious books and pictures unlawfully seized during an unlawful search of defendant's home" 170 Ohio St. 427, 166 N. E. 2d 387. The State says that even though under our cases the search violated the Fourth Amendment, it is not prevented from using the unconstitutionally seized evidence at trial, citing Wolf v. Colorado, 338 U. S. 25 (1949). This Court did indeed hold "that in a prosecution in a state court for a state crime the Fourteenth Amendment does not forbid the admission of evidence obtained by an unreasonable search and seizure." At p. 33. On this appeal, wherein we have noted probable jurisdiction, 364 U. S. 868, it is urged once again that we review that holding.

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1 The statute provides in pertinent part that "No person shall knowingly . . . have in his possession or under his control an obscene, lewd, or lascivious book . . . picture. . . ." "Whoever violates this section shall be fined not less than two hundred nor more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than seven years, or both."

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2 Other issues have been raised on this appeal, but in the view we have taken of the case they need not be decided.

I.

Seventy-five years ago, in *Boyd v. United States*, 116 U. S. 616, 630 (1886), considering the Fourth and Fifth Amendment as running "almost into each other" on the facts before it, this Court held that the doctrines of the Fourth Amendment

"apply to all invasions, on the part of the government and its employees, of the sanctity of man's home and the privacies of life. It is not the breaking of the doors, and the rummaging of his drawers, that constitutes the essence of the offense; but it is the invasion of his indefeasible right of personal security, personal liberty and private property . . ."

The Court noted that

"[C]onstitutional provisions for the security of person and property should be liberally construed. It is the duty of courts to be watchful for the Constitutional rights of the citizen and against any stealthy encroachment thereon, and specifically referred to the use of the evidence there seized as 'unconstitutional.' At pp. 635 and 638.

In this the Court was following Madison's prediction that "independent tribunals of justice . . . will be naturally led to resist every encroachment upon rights expressly stipulated for in the Constitution by the declaration of rights." I Annals of Cong. 439 (1789). Less than 30 years later in *Weeks v. United States*, 232 U. S. 383 (1914), the Court stated that

"[T]he Fourth Amendment . . . put the courts of the United States and Federal officials in the exercise of their power and authority, under limitations and restraint, and to forever secure the people, their persons, houses, papers and effects against all unreasonable searches and seizures under the guise

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of law . . . and the duty of giving to it force and effect is obligatory upon all entrusted under our Federal system with the enforcement of the laws."

pp. 391-392.

At p. 389.

Specifically dealing with the use of the evidence unconstitutionally seized, the Court concluded:

"If letters and private documents can thus be seized and held and used in evidence against a citizen accused of an offense, the protection of the Fourth Amendment declaring his right to be secure against such searches and seizures is of no value, and, so far as those placed are concerned, might as well be stricken from the Constitution. The efforts of the courts and their officials to bring the guilty to punishment, praiseworthy as they are, are not to be aided by the sacrifice of those great principles established by years of endeavor and suffering which have resulted in their embodiment in the fundamental law of the land." At pp. 391-393.

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p. 393.

Finally, the Court in that case clearly stated that use of the seized evidence involved "a denial of the constitutional rights of the accused." At p. 398. Thus, in the year 1914, in the *Weeks* case, this Court "for the first time" held that "in a federal prosecution the Fourth Amendment barred the use of evidence secured through an illegal search and seizure." *Wolf v. Colorado, supra*, at 28. This Court has ever since required of federal law officers a strict adherence to that command which this Court held to be a clear, specific, and constitutionally required—even if judicially implied—deterrent safeguard without insistence upon which the Fourth Amendment would have been reduced to "a form of words." Holmes, J., *Silverthorne Lumber Co. v. United States*, 251 U. S. 385 (1920). It meant, quite simply, that "conviction by means of unlawful seizures and enforced con-

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fessions . . . should find no sanction in the judgments of the courts" *Weeks v. United States, supra*, at 392, and that such evidence "shall not be used at all." *Silverthorne Lumber Co. v. United States, supra*, at 392.

There are in the cases of this Court some passing references to the *Weeks* rule as being one of evidence. But the plain and unequivocal language of *Weeks*—and its later paraphrase in *Wolf*—to the effect that the *Weeks* rule is of constitutional origin, remains entirely undisturbed. In *Byars v. United States*, 273 U. S. 28 (1927), a unanimous Court declared that "the doctrine, ~~can[not]~~ be tolerated under our constitutional system, that evidences of crime discovered by a federal officer in making a search without a lawful warrant may be used against the victim of the unlawful search where a timely challenge has been interposed." At pp. 29-30 (emphasis added). The Court, in *Olmstead v. United States*, 277 U. S. 438 (1928), in unmistakable language restated the *Weeks* rule:

"The striking outcome of the *Weeks* case and those which followed it was the sweeping declaration that the Fourth Amendment, although not referring to or limiting the use of evidence in courts, really forbade its introduction if obtained by government officers through a violation of the Amendment." At p. 469.

In *McNabb v. United States*, 318 U. S. 332 (1943), we note this statement:

"[A] conviction in the federal courts, the foundation of which is evidence obtained in disregard of liberties deemed fundamental by the Constitution cannot stand, *Boyd v. United States* . . . *Weeks v. United States* And this Court has, on Constitutional grounds, set aside convictions, both in the federal and State courts, which were based upon con-

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against the States by the Due Process Clause, that which decades before had been posited as part and parcel of the Fourth Amendment's limitation upon federal encroachment of individual privacy were bottomed entirely on factual considerations.

While they are not essentially relevant to a decision that the exclusionary rule is ~~part and parcel~~ of the Fourth Amendment as it is visited upon the States through the Due Process Clause, we will consider the current validity of the factual grounds upon which *Wolf* was based.

The Court in *Wolf* first stated that ~~the~~ "contrariety of views" of the States on the adoption of the exclusionary rule of *Weeks* was "particularly impressive"; and, in this connection, that it could not "brush aside the experience of ~~the~~ states which deem the incidence of such conduct by the police too slight to call for a deterrent remedy . . . by overruling the [States'] relevant rules of evidence." At pp. 31-32. We note, however, that since 1949 and without the assistance of this Court, 21 of the 37 States that have passed on the *Weeks* exclusionary rule have by their own decision either adopted or adhered to it. While in 1949, prior to the *Wolf* case, almost two-thirds of the States were opposed to the use of the exclusionary rule, now, despite the *Wolf* case, 57% of those passing upon it have adopted the *Weeks* rule. See *Elkins v. United States*, 364 U. S. 206, Appendix, pp. 224-232 (1960). Significantly, among those now following the rule is California which, according to its highest court, was "compelled to reach that conclusion because other remedies have completely failed to secure compliance with the constitutional provisions" *People v. Cahan*, 44 Cal. 2d 434, 445, 282 P. 2d 905, 911 (1955). In connection with this California case, we note that the second basis elaborated in *Wolf* in support of its failure to enforce the exclusionary doctrine against the States as part of

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the Fourth Amendment was that "other means of protection" have been afforded "the right to privacy." The experience of California that such other remedies have been worthless and futile is buttressed by the experience of other States.* In fact, this Court has decided only one

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Criminal Liability of Affiant for Malicious Procurement of Search Warrant.—Ala. Code, 1958, Tit. 15, § 99; Alaska Comp. Laws Ann., 1949, § 66-7-15; Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann., 1956, § 13-1454; Cal. Pen. Code § 170; Fla. Stat., 1959, § 933.16; Ga. Code Ann., 1953, § 27-301; Idaho Code Ann., 1948, § 18-709 ~~(1948)~~; Iowa Code Ann., 1950, § 751.38; Minn. Stat. Ann., 1947, § 613.54; Mont. Rev. Codes Ann., 1947, § 94-35-122; Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 199.130, 199.140; N. J. Stat. Ann., 1940, § 33:1-64; N. Y. Pen. Law § 1786, N. Y. Code Crim. Proc. § 811; N. C. Gen. Stat., 1953, § 15-27 (applies to "officers" only); N. D. Century Code Ann., 1960, §§ 12-17-08, 29-29-18; Okla. Stat., 1951, Tit. 21, § 585, Tit. 22, § 1239; Ore. Rev. Stat. § 141.990; S. D. Code, 1939 (Supp. 1960), § 34.9904; Utah Code Ann., 1953, § 77-54-21.

Criminal Liability of Magistrate Issuing Warrant Without Supporting Affidavit.—N. C. Gen. Stat., 1953, § 15-27; Va. Code Ann., 1960 Replacement Volume, § 19.1-89.

Criminal Liability of Officer Willfully Exceeding Authority of Search Warrant.—Fla. Stat. Ann., 1944, § 933.17; Iowa Code Ann., 1950, § 751.39; Minn. Stat. Ann., 1950, § 613.54; Nev. Rev. Stat. § 199.450; N. Y. Pen. Law § 1847, N. Y. Code Crim. Proc. § 812; N. D. Century Code Ann., 1960, §§ 12-17-07, 29-29-19; Okla. Stat., 1951, Tit. 21, § 536, Tit. 22, § 1240; S. D. Code, 1939 (Supp. 1960), § 34.9905; Tenn. Code Ann., 1955, § 40-510; Utah Code Ann., 1953, § 77-54-22.

Criminal Liability of Officer for Search with Invalid Warrant or no Warrant.—Idaho Code Ann., 1948, § 18-703; Minn. Stat. Ann., 1947, §§ 613.53, 621.17; Mo. Ann. Stat., 1953, § 558.190; Mont. Rev. Codes Ann., 1947, § 94-3506; N. J. Stat. Ann., 1940, § 33:1-65; N. Y. Pen. Law § 1846; N. D. Century Code Ann., 1960, § 12-17-06; Okla. Stat. Ann., 1958, Tit. 21, § 535; Utah Code Ann., 1953, § 76-28-52; Va. Code Ann., 1960 Replacement Volume, § 19.1-88; Wash. Rev. Code §§ 10.79.040, 10.79.045.

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case (*Monroe v. Pape*, 365 U. S. 167 (1961)) in which private remedies have been pursued in an effort to redress such invasions of privacy. The obvious futility of relegating the Fourth Amendment to the protection of other remedies has been recognized by this Court since *Wolf*. See *Irvine v. California*, 347 U. S. 128, 137 (1954).

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Likewise, time has set its face against what *Wolf* called the "weighty testimony" of *People v. Defore*, 242 N. Y. 13, ~~22~~ 150 N. E. 585, ~~588~~ (1926). There Justice (then Judge) Cardozo, rejecting the use of the *Weeks* exclusionary rule in New York, said that "[t]he federal rule as it stands is either too strict or too lax." 242 N. Y., at 22, 150 N. E., at 588. However, the force of that reasoning has been largely vitiated by recent decisions of this Court. These include the recent discarding of the "silver platter" doctrine which allowed federal judicial use of evidence seized in violation of the Constitution by state agents, *Elkins v. United States*, *supra*; and relaxation of the formerly strict requirements as to standing to challenge use of evidence thus seized, so that now the procedure of exclusion, "ultimately referable to constitutional safeguards," is available to anyone even "legitimately on the premises" unlawfully searched, *Jones v. United States*, 362 U. S. 257, (1960); and recognition of a method to prevent state use of evidence unconstitutionally seized by federal agents, *Rea v. United States*, 350 U. S. 214 (1956). Because there can be no fixed formula, we are admittedly met with "recurring questions of the reasonableness of searches," but less is not to be expected when dealing with a Constitution, and, at any rate, "Reasonableness is in the first instance for the ~~tribunal~~ to determine." *United States v. Rabinowitz*, 339 U. S. 56, 63.

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It, therefore, plainly appears that the factual considerations supporting the failure of the *Wolf* Court to in-

clude the *Weeks* exclusionary rule when it recognized the enforceability of the Fourth Amendment against the States in 1949, while not basically relevant to the constitutional consideration, could not, in any analysis, now be deemed controlling.

III.

Some five years after *Wolf*, in answer to a plea that we overturn its doctrine on applicability of the *Weeks* exclusionary rule, this Court indicated that such should not be done until the States had had "adequate opportunity to adopt or reject the doctrine." *Irvine v. California, supra*, at 134. There again it was said

"Never until June of 1949 did this Court hold the basic search and seizure prohibition [of the Fourth Amendment] in any way applicable to the States under the Fourteenth Amendment." At p. 134.

And only last Term in *Elkins v. United States, supra*, the Court pointed out that "the controlling principles" as to search and seizure and the problem of admissibility "seemed clear" (at p. 212) until the announcement in *Wolf* "that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment does not itself require State courts to adopt the exclusionary rule" of the *Weeks* case. At p. 213. At the same time the Court pointed out, "the underlying exclusionary doctrine which *Wolf* established . . . that the Federal Constitution . . . prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures by State officers" had undermined the "foundation upon which the admissibility of State seized evidence in a federal trial originally rested" *Ibid.* This "constitutional doctrine of *Wolf*," the Court added, "operated to undermine the logical foundation of the *Weeks* admissibility rule" At p. 214. The Court concluded that it was therefore obliged to hold,

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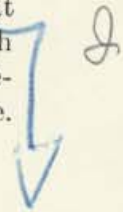
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although it chose the narrower ground on which to do so, that all evidence obtained by an unconstitutional search and seizure was inadmissible in a federal court regardless of its source. Today the *Wolf* holding leads us to close the only courtroom door remaining open to evidence secured by official lawlessness in flagrant abuse of a basic right reserved to all persons as a particular assurance against that very same lawlessness. We hold that all evidence obtained by searches and seizures in violation of the Constitution is, by that same authority, inadmissible in a state court.

IV.

Since the Fourth Amendment has been incorporated through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth, it is enforceable against the States, in the same manner and to the same extent as it is against the Federal Government. At the time that the Court held in *Wolf* that the Amendment was applicable to the States through the Due Process Clause, the cases of this Court, as we have seen, held that as to federal officers the Fourth Amendment included the exclusion of the evidence seized in violation of its provisions. Even *Wolf* "stoutly adhered" to that proposition. The Fourth Amendment, when conceded operatively enforceable against the States, was not susceptible of destruction by avulsion of the sanction upon which the protection of the constitutional right and its enjoyment had always been deemed dependent under the *Boyd*, *Weeks* and *Silverthorne* cases. Therefore, in extending the substantive protections of due process to all constitutionally unreasonable searches—state or federal—it was logically and constitutionally necessary that the exclusion doctrine—part ~~and parcel~~ of the Fourth Amendment—be also transmitted as an essential ingredient of the right newly recognized by the *Wolf* case.



In short, the admission of the new constitutional right by *Wolf* could not consistently tolerate denial of its most important constitutional privilege, namely, the exclusion of the evidence which an accused had been forced to give by reason of the unlawful seizure. To hold otherwise is to grant the right but withhold its privilege and enjoyment.

Indeed, we are aware of no restraint similar to that rejected today, being placed upon the enforcement of any other basic constitutional right. The right to privacy, no less important than any other right carefully and particularly reserved to the people, would stand in marked contrast to all other rights declared as "basic to a free society." *Wolf v. Colorado, supra*, at 27. This Court has not hesitated to enforce as strictly against the States as it does against the Federal Government the rights of free speech and of a free press, the rights to notice and to a fair, public trial, including, as it does, the right not to be convicted by use of a coerced confession, however logically relevant it be, and without regard to its reliability. Cf. *Rogers v. Richmond*, 365 U. S. 534 (1961). And nothing could be more certain than that when a coerced confession is involved, "the relevant rules of evidence" are overridden without regard to "the incidence of such conduct by the police," slight or frequent. Why should not the same rule apply to what is tantamount to coerced testimony by way of unconstitutional seizure of goods, papers, effects, documents, etc. We find the Fourth and Fifth Amendments do enjoy an "intimate relation" in their perpetuation of "principles of humanity and civil liberty secured . . . only after years of struggle," *Bram v. United States*, 168 U. S. 532, ~~541~~, and the philosophy of each is complementary to, although not dependent upon, that of the other—no man is to be convicted on unconstitutional evidence. Cf. *Rochin v. California*, 342 U. S. 165, 173 (1952).

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Schnettler, each pointing up the hazardous uncertainties of our heretofore ambivalent approach.

Federal-state cooperation in the solution of crime under constitutional standards will be promoted, if only by recognition of their now mutual obligation to respect the same fundamental criteria in their approaches. "However much in a particular case insistence upon such rules may appear as a technicality that inures to the benefit of a guilty person, the history of criminal law proves that tolerance of shortcut methods in law enforcement impairs its enduring effectiveness." *Miller v. United States*, 357 U. S. 301, 313 (1958). ~~Barring~~ short-cuts to only one of two cooperating law enforcement agencies tends naturally to breed legitimate suspicion of "working arrangements" whose results are equally tainted. *Byars v. United States*, 273 U. S. 28 (1927); *Lustig v. United States*, 338 U. S. 74 (1949).

There are those who say, as did Mr. Justice (then Judge) Cardozo, that under our constitutional exclusionary doctrine "[t]he criminal is to go free because the constable has blundered." *People v. Defore*, 242 N. Y., at 21, 150 N. E., at 587. In some cases this will undoubtedly be the result. But, as was said in *Elkins*, "[t]here is another consideration—the imperative of judicial integrity." 364 U. S., at p. 222. The criminal goes free, if he must, but it is the law that sets him free. Nothing can destroy a government more quickly than its failure to observe its own laws, or worse, its disregard of the charter of its own existence. As Mr. Justice Brandeis, dissenting, said in *Olmstead v. United States*, 277 U. S. 438, ~~439~~ (1928): "Our government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by example. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it

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invites anarchy." The ignoble but doubtless efficient shortcut to conviction left open to the State tends to destroy the entire system of constitutional restraints on which the liberties of the people rest. Having once recognized that the Fourth Amendment is enforceable against the States and that the right to be secure against rude invasions of privacy by state officers is, therefore, constitutional in origin, we can no longer permit that right to remain an empty promise. Because it is enforceable in the same manner and to like effect as other basic rights secured by our great charter, we can no longer permit it to be revocable at the whim of every policeman who, in the name of law enforcement itself, chooses to suspend its enjoyment.

The judgment of the Supreme Court of Ohio is vacated and the cause remanded for further proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion.

~~Reversed~~ and remanded.

Vacated