

# Berkowitz's Father Is Designated To Manage Killer Suspect's Estate

By MAX H. SEIGEL

The 68-year-old father of David R. Berkowitz, the man suspected of being the .44-caliber killer, was officially designated to manage his adopted son's estate after a 30-minute hearing yesterday at which the suspect testified that he had no right to control his own affairs.

Describing himself as "a prisoner, an animal and less than human," in his first appearance on the witness stand since his arrest Aug. 10, the 24-year-old Mr. Berkowitz urged Justice Carmine A. Ventiera of State Supreme Court to name his father, Nathan, to control his assets.

The assets have been described by one of the suspects's lawyers, Ira Jultak, as a 1970 Ford, a \$200 checking account, two uncashed paychecks totaling \$500 and \$500 in rent security for his Yonkers apartment.

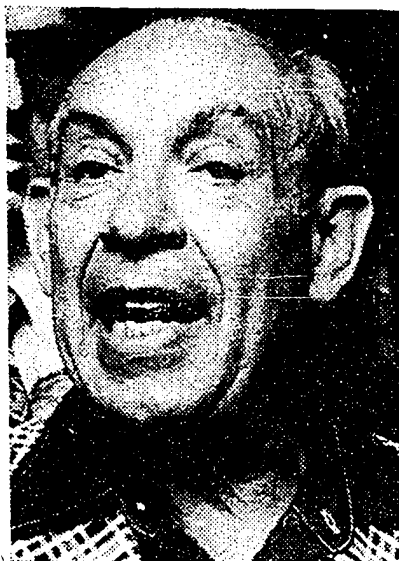
Mr. Jultak testified, however, that he had been "contacted by publishers" interested in interviewing his client. He also disclosed that four civil suits were pending against his client, seeking more than \$20 million in damages "for wrongful death and personal injuries."

Referring to his client, Mr. Jultak said, "It has been his feeling that the victims should indeed receive money. He did not wish to litigate the actions."

Under a recently enacted state law, all profits that a murder suspect may get from any book or film contracts, except those covering legal fees, must be turned over to the New York State Crime Victims Compensation Board to be given to the victims.

The purpose of yesterday's hearing, conducted in a makeshift courtroom on the sixth floor of the psychiatric section of Kings County Medical Center, where David Berkowitz is being held, was to consider an application by Nathan Berkowitz to be named conservator of his son's estate.

Dr. Daniel Schwartz, the chief of forensic psychiatrics at Kings County, who had



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**Nathan Berkowitz leaving courthouse in Manhattan yesterday.**

carried out exhaustive interviews with the murder suspect, said the suspect's abilities to take care of his own finances were substantially impaired.

"It's my repeated observation," he told the court, "that the overriding concern in Mr. Berkowitz's life is to alert the world to the demons he has come to know. He really cares very little about anything else."

Dr. Schwartz noted that the suspect's apartment was "in a state of complete disrepair. There's a hole in one wall," he said, "writing or printing on the walls, trash scattered all over the apartment."

Justice Harry Gittleson of the State Supreme Court, who had been named the suspect's temporary guardian, testified that he had found in interviews with both the father and son that they have "a good relationship," and he recommended that the elder Mr. Berkowitz be appointed to handle his son's estate.