

OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Woodruff v. State

539 P.2d 28 (Okla. Crim. App. 1975) · Decided April 15, 1975

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed Leonard J. Woodruff Jr.'s conviction for unlawful delivery of amphetamine. The court held that evidence of a subsequent similar drug transaction was admissible to show a common scheme or plan, that the evidence sufficiently supported the conviction, and that the trial court properly replayed the portion of testimony requested by the jury. The court also rejected the defendant's motion-for-mistrial argument.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Bussey, Judge; Bliss, Judge; Brett, Presiding Judge
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	April 15, 1975
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed his conviction and sentence for unlawful delivery of a controlled dangerous substance following a jury trial in the District Court of Carter County.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the sufficiency of the evidence to determine whether competent evidence allowed the jury reasonably to find defendant guilty as charged, while recognizing that the jury exclusively weighs evidence and determines disputed facts. Evidentiary and jury-testimony-replay rulings were reviewed under the applicable Oklahoma statutory and case law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion; precedential under the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals' applicable rules.
PARTIES	Leonard J. Woodruff, Jr. v. State of Oklahoma

TOPICS

- evidence
- criminal procedure
- relevance
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether evidence of Woodruff's subsequent amphetamine delivery in Norman was inadmissible evidence of another crime.
2. Whether the evidence was sufficient to support Woodruff's conviction for unlawful delivery of a controlled dangerous substance while acting in concert with West.
3. Whether the trial court improperly allowed the jury to hear only the portion of the agent's testimony that it requested during deliberations, rather than also replaying the cross-examination.
4. Whether the trial court erred in denying Woodruff's motion for a mistrial based on the admission of evidence of another offense.

HOLDINGS

1. Evidence of a subsequent, similar offense was properly admitted because it was material to show a common scheme or plan and was sufficiently related to the charged offense that proof of the subsequent offense tended to establish the charged offense.
2. The evidence was sufficient to support Woodruff's conviction for unlawful delivery of amphetamine while acting in concert with West.
3. The trial court properly replayed only the portion of the witness's testimony requested by the jury and was not required to replay the cross-examination when the jury did not request additional testimony.
4. The denial of the motion for mistrial was proper because the evidence of the subsequent offense was properly admitted.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The general rule in this state is that when a defendant is put upon trial for one offense he is to be convicted, if at all, by evidence which shows that he is guilty of that offense alone and the admission of evidence of other crimes, either prior or subsequent to the offense for which he is on trial is inadmissible." (539 P.2d at 29)

"The offense for which the defendant was charged and the offense which was shown by the evidence in question were so closely related to each other that proof of the latter tended to establish the other." (539 P.2d at 30)

"This Court has consistently held that where there is competent evidence in the record from which the jury could reasonably conclude the defendant was guilty as charged, the Court of Criminal Appeals will not interfere with the verdict even though there is a sharp conflict in the evidence and different inferences may be drawn therefrom, since it is the exclusive province of the jury to weigh the evidence and determine the facts." (539 P.2d at 31)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

An undercover Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent met Woodruff at a club and asked to purchase crystal, which the agent explained meant amphetamine. Woodruff said he would have to obtain the drugs,

introduced the agent to Robert Wayne West, and West then delivered two bags of amphetamine. The next day, the agent met Woodruff and West, and Woodruff handed the agent a box containing two packages of amphetamine after discussing the price. The jury convicted Woodruff of unlawful delivery while acting in concert with West.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Woodruff was charged in Carter County District Court with unlawful delivery of amphetamine while acting in concert with Robert Wayne West. A jury convicted him, imposed two years' imprisonment and a \$500 fine, and the trial court entered judgment and sentence. Woodruff timely appealed, asserting improper admission of subsequent-act evidence, insufficient evidence, improper replay of only part of a witness's testimony to the jury, and denial of a mistrial.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Moulton v. State, 476 P.2d 366 (Okla. Crim. App. 1970)
- Epperson v. State, 406 P.2d 1017 (Okla. Crim. App.)
- Parks v. State, 457 P.2d 818 (Okla. Crim. App.)
- Turnbow v. State, 451 P.2d 387 (Okla. Crim. App.)
- Jones v. State, 468 P.2d 805 (Okla. Crim. App. 1970)
- Miller v. State, 40 Okl. Cr. 72, 267 P. 673 (1928)
- Farrington v. State, 490 P.2d 766 (Okla. Crim. App. 1971)

OPINION

BUSSEY, J.

OPINION BUSSEY, Judge: Appellant, Leonard J. Woodruff, Jr., hereinafter referred to as defendant, was *29charged, tried and convicted in the District Court, Carter County, Case No. CRF-74 — 7, for the offense of Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Drug, in violation of 63 O.S. 1971, § 2-401 (B).

The jury fixed his punishment at a term of two (2) years' imprisonment and assessed a fine of Five Hundred (\$500.00) dollars. From said judgment and sentence, a timely appeal has been perfected to this Court. The State's only witness at trial was Gaylon Hayes. His testimony revealed the following facts. He was employed with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as an agent in the Drug Enforcement Division.

In the early morning hours, around 12:30 a. m., September 30, 1973, he had occasion to be at "My Brothers Place" located on Highway 77 east of Ardmore, Oklahoma. At that time he met one

Hilton Whitfield and the defendant who were both inside the club. Thereafter he followed the defendant and Whitfield outside the club at which time the defendant asked Hayes what he wanted.

He told the defendant he would like some "crystal." The defendant asked Hayes how much he wanted and Hayes replied, "How does it come... in dime bags?" (Tr. 19) The defendant replied in the affirmative and asked how much he wanted. Hayes then related to the court that a dime bag was worth approximately \$10.00 and he then testified he told the defendant he would take two dime bags.

Thereafter the defendant told him that he did not have anymore at that time and that he would have to go get some. While still outside of "My Brothers Place," around 1:30 a. m., the defendant and co-defendant West and a Ms. Southern approached him and introductions were made.

After the introductions the defendant returned inside the club. After Hayes' conversation with Mr. West, Mr. West re-entered the club, returned and handed him two cellophane bags containing Amphetamine. Hayes testified he did not know where the defendant was at the time of the sale.

The witness then identified State's Exhibit No. 1 as the Amphetamine he received from Mr. West and the defense stipulated to the chain of custody from the witness to the chemist of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and that it was Amphetamine under Schedule II of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. Hayes then testified that he returned to Oklahoma City and later had occasion to see the defendant and co-defendant West on October 1, 1973, at Jonesy's Drive Inn in Norman, Oklahoma.

Hayes testified that at Jonesy's Drive Inn, on that date, he purchased two grams of Amphetamine from the defendant and Mr. West, the said Amphetamine being introduced as State's Exhibit No. 2. The State then rested.

The defendant demurred to the evidence and said demurrer was overruled. Defendant's first proposition asserts that it was error for the trial court to admit evidence of subsequent unlawful acts of the defendant in Norman. Defendant specifically asserts that evidence was improperly admitted which tended to show an unlawful delivery and/or sale of Amphetamine by the defendant and Mr. West, and further that such evidence does not fall within one of the common exceptions in which evidence of prior or subsequent wrongful acts may be admissible.

In the case of *Moulton v. State*, Okl.Cr., 476 P.2d 366 (1970), we stated: "The general rule in this state is that when a defendant is put upon trial for one offense he is to be convicted, if at all, by evidence which shows that he is guilty of that offense alone and the admission of evidence of other crimes, either prior or subsequent to the offense for which he is on trial is inadmissible.

However, evidence of separate and similar offenses is admissible when it is material and proper to show (1) motive, (2) intent, (3) absence of mistake or accident, (4) identity of person charged with the commission of the crime for which an accused is put on trial, and (5) common scheme or plan embracing the *30two or more crimes so related to each other that proof of one tends to establish the other.

See *Epperson v. State*, Okl.Cr., 406 P.2d 1017; *Parks v. State*, Okl.Cr., 457 P.2d 818 and *Turnbow v. State*, Okl.Cr., 451 P.2d 387.” We feel that the trial court properly admitted the evidence establishing the commission of another offense as showing a common scheme or plan.

The offense for which the defendant was charged and the offense which was shown by the evidence in question were so closely related to each other that proof of the latter tended to establish the other. Thus, in conclusion, we find this proposition to be without merit.

The defendant’s second proposition asserts that the evidence was wholly insufficient to support the verdict of the jury. He contends that there was no evidence that the defendant had control of any Amphetamine at the time of the sale that took place in Carter County nor was there any evidence that defendant profited from the sale, but he merely performed a favor for the agent.

The defendant was not charged with unlawful sale of a controlled drug, but rather the defendant was charged with unlawful delivery of a controlled drug. The Information specified that the defendant and Robert Wayne West “[D]id unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously, while acting in concert each with the other, deliver and distribute two (2) small plastic bags of Amphetamine to one Gaylon Hayes,...” Title 63 O.S.1971, § 2-101(10) and (12) [Definitions] states: “10. ‘Deliver’ or ‘delivery’ means the actual, constructive, or attempted transfer from one person to another of a controlled dangerous substance, whether or not there is an agency relationship. ¾ # ¾ ± ¾ ± “12. ‘Distribute’ means to deliver other than by administering or dispensing a controlled substance.” Title 21 O.S.1971, § 172, states: “All persons concerned in the commission of crime, whether it be felony or misdemeanor, and whether they directly commit the act constituting the offense, or aid and abet in its commission, though not present, are principals.” The record illustrates that the jury was sufficiently instructed with regard to the rules of law set forth in the foregoing Statutes.

The undercover agent testified that the defendant after offering to sell Amphetamine to the agent thereafter left to get the Amphetamine. The agent further testified that shortly thereafter the defendant introduced the agent to Mr. West and, after the defendant left the agent and Mr. West, Mr. West sold Amphetamine to the agent.

The agent further testified that the very next day he met with the defendant and Mr. West at which time the following conversation transpired: “Q. (BY MR. LAWLER) What conversation did you have with Mr. West in the presence of Mr. Woodruff? “A. Mr. West then said, ‘We sold all the speed that we had the other night, but we saved the last two grams for you.’ “Q.

You said 'gram.' What is a gram? "A. A gram is a weight measure of a substance. In this particular case it was amphetamine. "Q. In reference to the crystal that you earlier testified to, would a gram be more or less than a crystal? "A.

The crystal is the substance. It means the amphetamine. "Q. All right. Then in reference to a dime bag or a gram, what would be the difference in size of that? "A. A gram would be a little bit larger than a dime bag. "Q. Mr. Hayes, what other conversation did you then have with Mr. Woodruff? "A. I then asked him... I made it a question... 'Is it as good as the stuff you had the other night?' At this time Mr. West replied, 'Yes, it is the same stuff.' Then Mr. Woodruff inquired, 'Did you do the whole dime?' I then told him, 'No, I just did a piece; but it was real good speed.' I then inquired, 'How much for a gram?' *31"Q.

Did Mr. Woodruff reply anything to you at that time? "A. Yes, sir, he did. "Q. What did he say? "A. Thirty-five dollars. "Q. What then happened, Mr. Hayes? "A. At that time Mr. West. Excuse me. Mr. Woodruff handed me a small white box containing two small packages of amphetamine." (Tr. 32-33) We find, after carefully reviewing the evidence, it is sufficient to support the verdict of the jury.

This Court has consistently held that where there is competent evidence in the record from which the jury could reasonably conclude the defendant was guilty as charged, the Court of Criminal Appeals will not interfere with the verdict even though there is a sharp conflict in the evidence and different inferences may be drawn therefrom, since it is the exclusive province of the jury to weigh the evidence and determine the facts.

See, *Jones v. State*, Okl.Cr., 468 P.2d 805 (1970). We are of the opinion that this proposition is also without merit. The defendant's third proposition asserts that the trial court erred in allowing the jury to hear the direct testimony that it had requested to have read back to them and in not allowing the jury to hear the cross-examination as well.

The record reflects that the jury, after deliberating, returned to the court room and the following transpired: "BY THE COURT: I have here a note that is not quite clear on what it is you want. You ask for some part of Mr. Hayes' testimony that you want to hear be replayed to you. Is that correct? "BY THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Yes, sir. "BY THE COURT: Now exactly what part of the testimony is it you are requesting to hear?

Your note says 'We request the part of Mr. Hayes testimony relating to the time he made contact with Mr. Woodruff at "My Brothers Club" through the sale.' Is it where the first contact was made with Mr. Woodruff by Agent Hayes? "BY THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Just that testimony is all that was asked for. "(TESTIMONY REPLAYED: The jurors then heard testimony beginning with Question 1 on page 15 through Answer 7 on page 21.) "(JURORS LEAVE JURY BOX AND RETURN TO JURY ROOM.) "BY MR. RITTER: Now, Your Honor, we think the jury should also

be permitted to hear the cross examination on that. “BY THE COURT: Do you want to hear additional testimony? “BY THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY: No, sir, that is all we need to hear.” (Tr.

75-76) Title 22 O.S.1971, § 894, states as follows: “After the jury have retired for deliberation, if there be a disagreement between them as to any part of the testimony or if they desire to be informed on a point of law arising in the cause, they must require the officer to conduct them into court. Upon their being brought into court, the information required must be given in the presence of, or after notice to the county attorney and the defendant or his counsel, or after they have been called.” (Emphasis added) We have previously held that neither the defendant nor the State has the right to select what portions of a witness’ testimony is read to the jury, but the jury alone may request that all or any part of a witness’ testimony be read.

See, *Miller v. State*, 40 Okl.Cr. 72, 267 P. 673 (1928) and cited with approval in *Farrington v. State*, Okl.Cr., 490 P.2d 766 (1971). In the instant case the court complied with the jury’s request to replay a part of the testimony of a witness.

We find this was proper in light of the statutory and case law in Oklahoma. Thus, for the reasons stated we find this proposition to be without merit. *32The defendant’s fourth proposition asserts that the trial court erred in denying the defendant’s motion for mistrial.

The defendant argues that he was not only tried as to the evidence of the crime he was charged with, but was also tried on evidence showing another offense. In light of our disposition of defendant’s first proposition, we find the defendant’s fourth proposition to be without merit.

In conclusion, we observe the record is free of any error which would justify modification or reversal. The judgment and sentence is accordingly affirmed. BLISS, J., specially concurs. BRETT, P. J., dissents.