

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v

PERNISKA BERNARD SALTER,

Defendant-Appellant.

UNPUBLISHED

December 26, 2000

No. 217105

Oakland Circuit Court

LC No. 98-161643-FH

Before: Sawyer, P.J., and Jansen and Gage, JJ.

PER CURIAM.

Following a jury trial, defendant was convicted of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, MCL 750.84; MSA 28.279. He was sentenced as a fourth habitual offender, MCL 769.12; MSA 28.1084, to five to twenty-five years' imprisonment. He appeals as of right. We affirm.

Defendant argues that the circuit court's comments to defense counsel during jury voir dire were prejudicial and denied him a fair trial. We disagree. The court's directions to defense counsel fell well within its power to control the scope of voir dire and do not show a bias against defendant or his counsel. The circuit court's remarks were not "of such a nature as to unduly influence the jury and thereby deprive the appellant of his right to a fair and impartial trial." *People v Collier*, 168 Mich App 687, 698; 425 NW2d 118 (1988).

Affirmed.

/s/ David H. Sawyer

/s/ Kathleen Jansen

/s/ Hilda R. Gage