

Edward TURNER and SOUTHERN FARM  
BUREAU INSURANCE COMPANY *v.*  
Finis Lee HAYNIE

CA 80-255

607 S.W. 2d 86

Court of Appeals of Arkansas  
Opinion delivered November 5, 1980

WORKERS' COMPENSATION — SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE — DISABILITY. —  
Claimant who sustained injury in the course of his employment  
resulting in amputation between the wrist and elbow and who  
also had previously been classified as illiterate and as a person  
with considerable psychological disabilities was considered  
totally disabled as the medical testimony in the record con-  
stituted substantial evidence that the injury aggravated his pre-  
vious mental ailments.

Appeal from Union Circuit Court, *Melvin Mayfield*,  
Judge; affirmed.

*Griffin, Rainwater & Draper*, for appellants.

*Denver L. Thornton*, for appellee.

DAVID NEWBERN, Judge. The appellants contend there is  
no substantial evidence in the record to support the workers'  
compensation commission's determination that the appellee  
is totally disabled. The appellee sustained a scheduled injury  
when his arm was mutilated, in the course of his employ-  
ment, resulting in amputation between the wrist and elbow.  
The commission determined the physical injury, coupled  
with its aggravation of the preexisting mental condition of the  
appellee, caused him to be totally disabled. We agree and,  
therefore, affirm the commission's decision.

It is clear from the record that before the injury to his  
arm the appellee would have been classified as illiterate and  
as a person with considerable psychological disabilities. The  
contention of the appellants is that there has been no showing  
that the appellee's condition has been significantly if at all  
worsened by the physical injury he suffered.

We affirm this award because the testimony of a psy-

chologist, Dr. D. A. Stevens, admitted in the form of a letter, was that the appellee had developed a psychotic reaction to the traumatic amputation. In addition, the testimony by deposition of a psychiatrist, Dr. Walter S. Mizell, was to the effect that the traumatic injury could trigger a new episode of schizophrenia and "it might be the triggering experience that caused him to begin to manifest another [schizophrenic] episode of increasing severity." Another psychiatrist, Dr. William Wood, testified by deposition that the appellee was psychologically affected by the loss of a part of his body and that the ability of an amputee to overcome the tendency to have a reduced level of self esteem would depend upon the strength of the individual. The appellee was not a "strong" individual at the time of his injury. All of this medical testimony constitutes substantial evidence that the injury aggravated the previous mental ailments suffered by the appellee. *Rooney v. Travelers Insurance Co. & Charles*, 262 Ark. 695, 560 S.W. 2d 797 (1978); *Corbitt v. Mohawk Rubber Co.*, 256 Ark. 932, 511 S.W. 2d 184 (1974).

The parties, in their briefs, have simply emphasized different aspects of the testimony of the witnesses to whom we have referred. Our responsibility is to affirm if we find substantial evidence in support of the commission's decision. *Mosley v. El Dorado School Dist.*, 254 Ark. 326, 493 S.W. 2d 427 (1973). Having found it, we affirm.

Affirmed.