

# Accused Slayer Admits He Hit Woman

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 20 (UP) —Jack Atkins, 26, on trial here for the murder of Audrey Hayes, formerly of Salt Lake City, his commonlaw wife, admitted from the witness stand late Friday that he left her unconscious in a rooming house and fled without obtaining help.

Atkins, who is charged with beating Audrey to death during an argument last April 28 in the room they shared, spent most of the afternoon on the witness stand in his own defense.

Under questioning of his attorney, Clifford Russell, Atkins told of the events leading up to Audrey's death. He said they had been drinking quite heavily when they arrived at the room and an argument started. Atkins said after he called her a foul name she slapped him and it was then that he struck her.

He said he slapped her four or five times with both hands and she fell to the floor. When he left her, locking the door, Atkins said, he felt her pulse and found that her heart was beating.

Under cross-examination by Deputy Dist. Atty. Milton Schwartz, Atkins said it was not until the next day in San Francisco when he read a newspaper that he discovered that Audrey was dead.

He maintained that he never used more than his open hand in striking Audrey, despite testimony by an autopsy surgeon that the blows from which she died could not have been administered with an open hand, or even a fist.