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54/07/26 Kerr Urges Sheppard's Arrest

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KERR URGES SHEPARD ARREST

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PRESS 7-26-54

Check Home for Missing T-Shirt

Homicide Capt. David Kerr, flying home from a Miami vacation to join the investigation of the slaying of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, recommended today that Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard be arrested "for investigation of murder."

Kerr said the slain woman's husband should be held for interrogation at Central Police Station.

Reached by The Press before he took off from Miami, Kerr said: "If there had been an immediate arrest, the case would have been solved in four hours."

Kerr declared that he wanted to determine who prevented continuous interrogation of Dr. Sam immediately after he reported his wife's murder.

"In homicide investigations," Kerr said, "I treat doctors and lawyers and everyone else just alike."

Police Chief Frank W. Story commented: "That's what should have been done in the beginning, but the situation is more complicated now."

Story said his men have definite evidence which "flatly contradicts" several statements made by Dr. Sheppard under oath at a coroner's inquest which resumed today at the Normandy School in Bay Village.

It was believed that Dr. Sheppard would be recalled to the witness stand to be confronted with these contradictions.

When Dr. Sheppard concluded his testimony Friday, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber ordered him to "hold yourself available at all times."

Won't Call Doctor's Son Now

At the last minute, Dr. Gerber decided to excuse Sam (Chip) Sheppard Jr., six-year-old son of the murdered Marilyn, from testifying.

Chip was asleep next door to his parents' bedroom when his mother was bludgeoned to death July 4 in their home at 28924 Lake Rd. He earlier told Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach he hadn't heard anything.

"The boy couldn't add anything at this time," Dr. Gerber said.

Miss Susan Hayes, West Coast companion of Dr. Sam, gave an account at Los Angeles to Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Parrino and Homicide Detective Robert Schottke which contradicted some of Dr. Sheppard's witness stand statements.

Chief Story said a May Co. salesman was prepared to testify that Dr. Sam purchased two hunting knives and a fishing rod at the downtown department store some time prior to his wife's murder. On the witness stand, Dr. Sam said he had no recollection of a knife purchase. He was not asked about the fishing rod.

According to Dr. Gerber, the chief added, the weapon with which Mrs. Sheppard was struck 25 or more savage blows was "very likely a heavier object than a fishing rod."

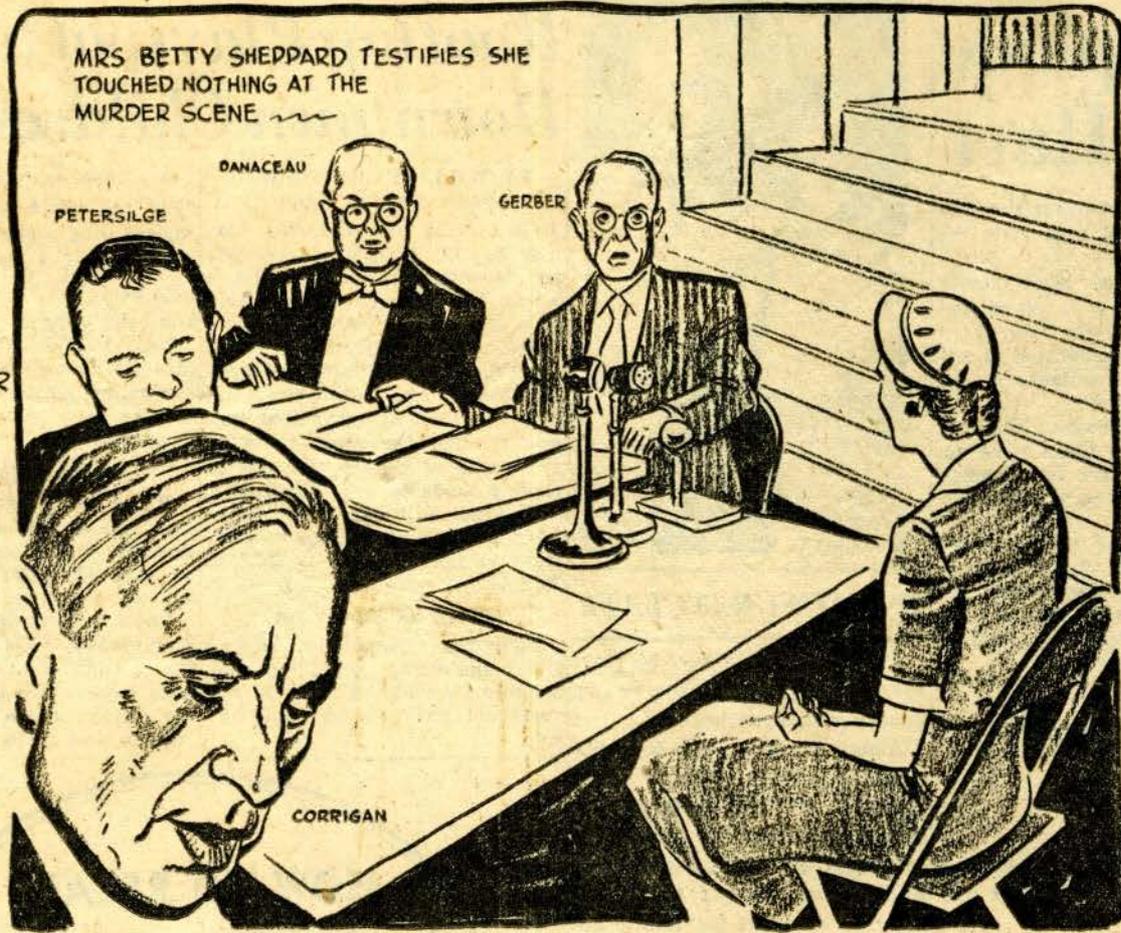
Check Plumbing at Home

Story assigned sewer cleaning experts to check the plumbing and downspouts of the Sheppard home today in a renewed search for the missing murder weapon and Dr. Sam's mysteriously vanished T-shirt.

The police chief made this observation: "The case looks more encouraging than at any time since we took it over. Our hopes for a definite solution are rising."

Detective Chief James McArthur disclosed that scientific tests at the Sheppard home have definitely established that the killer washed off a trail of blood from the murder bedroom to the downstairs section.

The tidy murderer, McArthur said, missed a few specks of blood on the stair risers.



With no flash bulb pictures allowed at the inquest into the Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard murder, News Artist John Sheridan went to the inquest at Normandy School in Bay Village and came back with these impressions of how people react during the actual hearings and questioning by Dr. Sam R. Gerber, county coroner.

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