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AMSEC 11 -- Coroner's Verdict

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CORONER'S VERDICT

The following information was obtained from a review of Coroner's Verdict, case number 76629, written by Dr. Sam Gerber, Cuyahoga County, Ohio Coroner: Exhibit 60.

"Upon full inquiry based on all the known facts, I find that the said Marilyn Reese Sheppard came to her death officially on the 4th day of July, 1954 at or near 28924 Westlake Road, Bay Village, Ohio, and was officially pronounced dead at 8:00 A.M., July 4th 1954 by me, S. R. Gerber, M.D. Coroner, following my arrival at the scene. The said Marilyn Sheppard was found lying on the bed in the 2nd floor bedroom, located in the northwest side of the house. Her head was about one third down from the head of the bed. The legs of the deceased extended over the end of the bed and hung downward to the floor. The chest was partially covered with a pajama jacket and the right leg of the pajama pants was on the right leg and the left leg of the pajama pants was not on the left leg, but was lying alongside the right leg. The top of the pajamas were below the rim of the pelvis. The bed clothes were partially over the lower part of the body and on the floor. The anterior chest and abdomen were uncovered. The head and face was covered with blood and there were multiple wounds in the area of the forehead and the face. There were multiple wounds on the hands and the finger-nail on the left fourth finger was torn loose. The bed sheet was covered with blood beginning at the head and extending downward to the foot of the bed. The blood had soaked through on the mattress. The walls and doors of the room were splashed with blood. The pillow was at the head of the bed and had blood spots on both sides of the pillow slip.

Information was received from Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, husband of the said Marilyn Sheppard that he thought he had heard a noise in his wife's bedroom as if his wife was calling while he was sleeping on the day-bed on the first floor, and that he rushed upstairs and was rendered unconscious by being struck at the back of the head and was not able to "visualize" who had struck him and that when he regained consciousness he heard a noise downstairs, and that he went downstairs and saw something going out the door leading to the porch and the lake side of the house." That he went after this "form or something" down the stairs to the beach where he was again struck and rendered unconscious. When he came to, he went back to the house and went up to his wife's bedroom and saw his wife on the bed. Later he called Mayor Spencer Houk of Bay Village, Ohio, by telephone and told him that "they have killed Marilyn and to come over." Mayor Spencer Houk arrived with Mrs. Houk and after seeing conditions in the house and in the bedroom, he notified the Bay Village Police.

The Bay Village Police, after arrival at the scene and after preliminary investigation, notified the Coroner's Office, and also sought aid from the Cleveland Police Department. Shortly after the arrival of the Mayor, and the Bay Village Police, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's brothers, namely; Dr. Richard N. Sheppard and Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard arrived and removed Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard to Bay View Hospital, a hospital operated and controlled by the Sheppard family of physicians, consisting of Dr. Richard A. Sheppard; Dr. Richard N. Sheppard; Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard and Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.

Upon my arrival at the scene, at about 7:50 A.M., July 4th, 1954, and after officially pronouncing the said Marilyn Sheppard dead, the body of Marilyn Sheppard was conveyed by the Pease Ambulance Service to the Coroner's Office, Laboratories and Morgue.