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54/07/06 Family Tells Why Lawyer is Called

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PRESS 7-6-54

Family Tells Why Lawyer Is Called

Why did the family of Dr. Samuel Sheppard call in a criminal attorney, who advised them to halt police questioning of the husband of murdered Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard?

This explanation was offered today by Dr. Stephen Sheppard, brother of the injured surgeon:

"The family recognized that a crime had been committed, and felt it would possibly affect Bay View Hospital, as well as the family. We felt we needed professional advice, and contacted Arthur A. Petersilge as a personal friend, as well as our attorney.

Corrigan Is Friend

"Petersilge said he was not experienced in criminal law, but would bring along a friend who was."

The friend turned out to be William Corrigan, Cleveland

attorney who has represented defendants in numerous criminal trials.

Dr. Stephen Sheppard said Corrigan suggested stopping the interrogation "only after

asking my professional opinion about the condition of my brother."

His professional opinion, he said, was that "Sam had told everything he knew, and it would retard his progress if he were compelled constantly to relive the episode."

Not Formally Retained

Petersilge said neither he nor Corrigan had been formally retained by the Sheppard family. He said Corrigan had been called in because "we've been friends for many years," and "Bill has a lot of experience with criminal matters. . . . I thought he could make some helpful suggestions leading to the solution."

Both Bay Village Police Chief John Eaton and Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach were barred

from interviewing Dr. Samuel Sheppard in his room at Bay View Hospital today on the joint recommendation of the attorneys and his family.