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Letter 26

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Dear Mr. Bailey:

Re: SAM SHEPARD


Because of your interest in the Sam Sheppard case, perhaps you will be interested in learning a few FACTS, to wit:

Early in the morning of the day of the murder, two residents of Bay Village were returning home from a party when the husband became ill, parked at the side of the road, turned off the car's headlights, and walked a distance to relieve his sick stomach. While waiting in the car, in close range and full view of the Sam Sheppard residence, his wife SAW Sam Sheppard speed out his driveway in his sports car - a familiar sight about town - also with his car's headlights out, which at the moment she attributed to oversight in hurriedly responding to an emergency call. Within minutes she SAW both of Sam's brothers enter his house and they were still inside when her husband returned to their car and they continued on home.

Although this evidence was with held because of their friendship with Sam's father, now that he has passed on, this and other gossip has run rampant and widespread.

Probably the reason that Governor DiSalle refused hypnotic procedure was because he felt that, innocent or guilty, Sam Sheppard is better off where he is at present, knowing of the intense hatred of him in the community at large due to his deplorable, dishonorable character. It is regrettable that you failed to go over the testimony disclosed by the newspapers; in part, that Sam is known to be ambidextrous, one picture taken of him at a party showing him holding his plate with his right hand, eating with his left hand; that he lacked any respect for his lovely, intelligent wife by deserting her at a party to take his mistress for a stroll down by a lake, of the latter's ready admittance of intercourse with him in his car and many other places; of parking his wife another time while he took his mistress on a pleasure trip and of buying her gifts; of relaxing on a bed and spinning records while waiting to attend his wife's funeral. How can any human being display such a lack of respect and decency?

All this and much more is common KNOWLEDGE, without one single word in favor of Sam personally. People generally wanted him to be hypnotized to have him given the opportunity of telling the truth at last, of feigning asleep until his wife was asleep so that he could perform his premeditated abortion of the child - his child - he didn't want, and when she awakened and kicked at him, he beat her to death - not one murder - and a vicious one, at that - but two - of the mother and her unborn child. Who ever heard of a murderer, eviscerate of a family member, waiting at the scene of the crime long enough to thoroughly clean up the blood from the second story to the basement, as that house was? No, to escape apprehension anyone else would have fled in terror. Also, do
you think Sam's mother would have committed suicide if she hadn't known her son was a vicious killer?  No, she would have wanted to live to try to comfort him and make his future as pleasant as possible.

Certainly, Sam has spent several years in jail for his crime, but Marilyn had to give up a LIFETIME of living, of becoming the mother of her unborn baby - Sam's baby - of companionship of her young son - nothing for her but the grave and for no reason except her husband's passion and hatred of her. If his sex-crazy nature held no sense of decency or honor, why didn't he give her freedom to seek happiness with someone else or in some other place?

For many, many reasons Sam Sheppard is much better off behind bars, and this is probably the opinion of our Governor.

Sincerely,

CC to Stephen Sheppard