12-30-1957

Letter 27

Redacted

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Board of Pardons and Paroles, 
Columbus, Ohio:

To whom it may concern:

On December 8, 1957, I wrote a letter to the President of our United States making a request on behalf of Dr. Samuel Shepherd, M.D., that he might be released from prison, or, at least, be given another fair trial, and the reply came today from the Dept. of Justice, referring the letter to me. As I am making this plea to you, that some thing be done for this man, to release him from prison. I have written several letters, in the past, to his brother, to the President of the Prison, where he is, and now the last one to the President, and it seems as if no one can do anything about it. In all of them, I have professed my belief in his innocence, to the crime of which he was accused, and I always believe he is innocent. I also believe he is a good man and I think it is unjust to keep him in
Prisoners at this time of year, when every one should be happy and rejoicing, think of one with a broken heart, and weary soul, thinking that no one listens to him, and as I think of this prisoner, my heart is breaking, also.

I have prayed every night for him since he was sentenced to prison, and I shall continue to do so until he is released. As when I die, which is soon, first! This man in torment, I feel it in my heart and soul, and some day, all are going to know it, and draw a warning. If they are all going to he, but that is not going to help all those wasted years he has spent in prison! Please, can I not make you people who feel you were just, see our situation. Change your feelings and beg him back.

Can I not make you see how he may feel as he spends day after weary day, behind those gray prison walls, with no ripple of once again being as you and I were free! to walk and the and live as we do, to know once again, what is like to be an American! May God in Heaven have mercy on your souls, if you do! Change your hearts, and set them free! The one thing I would like to do is to see him free.
and also be able to talk to them! Could I make a request on the night of August, that I might be able to see them near and talk to them?

Please, it would be the nicest Christmas gift I ever had, if I could but see, and talk to them.

Please let me know if this could be made possible. I shall wait anxiously for your reply. I would feel so brand and I were talking to a living. Thanking you, and very, very, in my heart, I am most sincerely.

December 30, 1957

Mesick, Michigan

Dear [Redacted]  

In Re: Samuel Sheppard No. 98860

Your recent letter has been received and carefully read.

Our records show that Samuel Sheppard was charged with first degree murder, tried to a jury which returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree and he was sentenced to the Ohio Penitentiary. Under the Ohio law, his case will become eligible for a parole hearing after he has served ten full years of his sentence. This Commission does not have the authority to grant him a parole hearing prior to that time.

This Commission does not try or re-try cases and we must assume that each and every person has a fair and impartial trial in the Courts. Apparently, the members of the jury believed beyond a reasonable doubt that Samuel Sheppard was guilty of second degree murder and returned the verdict accordingly.

Your letter has been placed in his file as a part of the record and we assure you that every consideration his case merits will be given to it when he becomes eligible for a parole hearing.

Yours sincerely,

OHIO PARDON AND PAROLE COMMISSION

CEM/LB

Clarence E. McLeod, Chairman