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54/07/28 Chief is Susan's Voice for Press

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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CHIEF IS SUSAN'S VOICE FOR PRESS

Story Stands by, Parries Reporters' Queries

BY SANFORD WATZMAN

With the help of Police Chief Frank W. Story, who stood over her and did all the talking, pretty Susan Hayes nonchalantly held her first "press conference" for Cleveland newsmen last night.

Reporters were admitted to Story's office after the 24-year-old brunette did all her own talking at a three-hour session with enforcement officials. She furnished them with another written statement on the Marilyn Sheppard murder case.

"You may come in on condition that you direct no questions at her," Story stipulated as the doors were opened for almost two dozen representatives of the newspapers and wire services.

Poses Willingly

By this time it was 10:30 p. m. Miss Hayes, who had boarded a plane at Los Angeles in the morning, seemed tired and apathetic. She posed willingly as batteries of flash bulbs exploded in front of her in relays.

The sun-tanned young woman, who wore no make-up, sat with her legs crossed and arms folded between Chief Story and Detective Chief James E. McArthur, who were standing.

She wore a white print dress with a blue and green flower pattern, a beige wool cardigan sweater and tan cord shoes. One front lock of her brown hair was sun bleached.

Nothing to Say

As reporters fired questions at Chief Story, she sometimes smiled and showed no embarrassment. Pressed twice by the newsmen to make her own statement—Chief Story relayed these requests—she finally answered: "I have nothing to say."

These were the queries that brought from the chief a quick "no comment:"

HAD Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, husband of Marilyn, promised to marry Miss Hayes?

WAS he in love with the former technician at Bay View Hospital?

WAS she in love with him?

HAD they corresponded since

Susan Hayes Meets Press, But Chief Parries Queries

CPD 7-28-54
(Continued From First Page)

Dr. Sheppard left Los Angeles in March?

"Susan is not being held in custody," Story said. "She will be taken to a hotel somewhere in the downtown area and will stay in the company of a policewoman at all times."

This arrangement, the chief added, was made "almost at her own request and certainly with her acquiescence." He would not explain the reason for policewomen being given this detail.

"We plan to talk to her again tomorrow or the next day," he said. "After that it will be up to her should she want to speak to newspapermen."

Kerr Waits Outside

The statement of Miss Hayes was taken in the presence of Chief Story, Inspector McArthur and Assistant County Prosecutors John J. Mahon and Thomas J. Parrino. Questions were relayed by the others to Mahon—"so as to avoid confusion," the chief said.

Taking no part in the quiz was Homicide Capt. David E. Kerr, who cooled his heels in an outer office. Kerr was brought back from a Cuban vacation to take charge of the field work in the investigation.

Also present, but lending no aid to the questioners, were Chief Assistant County Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau and Homicide

Detective Robert F. Schottke.

Miss Hayes' parents, who live at 1680 W. 210th Street, Rocky River, were not with their daughter at Central Station. Story said that they had been interviewed by telephone, but that there was "no need" of having them come downtown to make statements.

"This girl was very co-operative," Story pointed out. "She volunteered information besides what was asked her."

The chief refused to say whether she advanced any new information, but he did assert all she said was consistent with what she offered investigators on other occasions.

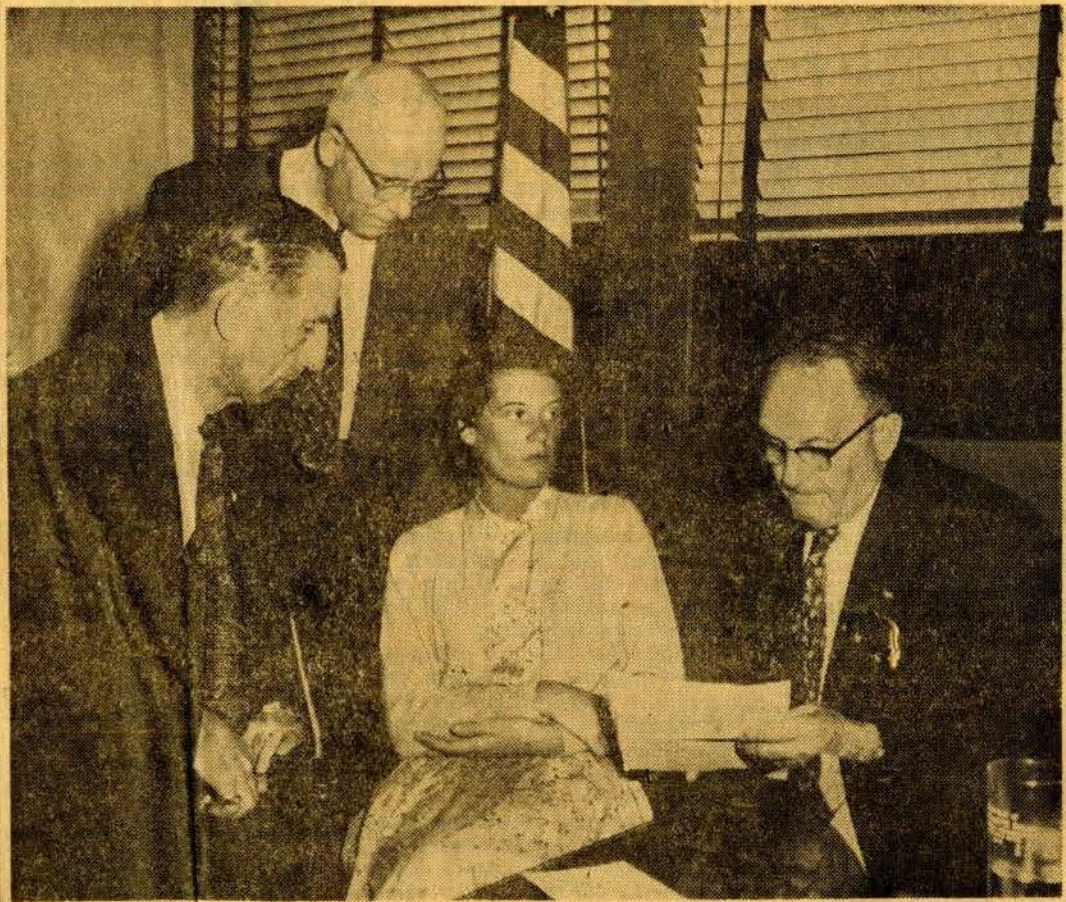
"Progress is being made," Story said.

But he added he was not yet ready to recommend that the results of his probe be turned over to the grand jury.

Miss Hayes' trip to Los Angeles was made at the expense of the city of Cleveland, Inspector McArthur said.

He and Story related that there were no current plans to bring any other prospective witnesses here from California.

Policewoman Irene Such Neal was the first of her unit to be assigned the watch of Miss Hayes. She will be relieved at regular intervals by other policewomen, Story said.



MISS SUSAN HAYES, STAR WITNESS, TELLS HER STORY. Here she poses with the men who questioned her at Central Police Station. The men (left to right) are Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon and Chief of Police Frank W. Story.