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7-29-1954

## 54/07/29 Head of Bay Council Blasts Arrest Delay

Cleveland Press

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### Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/07/29 Head of Bay Council Blasts Arrest Delay" (1954). *All Articles*. 105.

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# Head of Bay Council Blasts Arrest Delay

PRESS 7-29-54

"Another silly 12-hour delay. Another reason for our community to be made a laughing stock by Clevelanders."

The charge against continued inaction in the Sheppard murder case was made by Gershom M. M. Barber, president of the Bay Village Council.

Meeting in special session last night, the Council had just approved payment of \$1000 to Cleveland police for their help in the Sheppard murder investigation. It was the first payment of \$5000 previously appropriated.

The action took but five minutes. As councilmen started from the hearing room they discussed the latest strategy session in the case. This was the meeting at Cleveland's Police Station where Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk and Police Chief John Eaton again balked at arresting Dr. Sam Sheppard, husband of the slain victim.

Barber and Councilman

criticism against Mayor Houk and Chief Eaton.

"Why couldn't they get Weygandt (Law Director Richard Weygandt) out of his office and get his advice immediately?" Barber demanded.

This remark was in reference to the action of Mayor Houk in delaying the strategy session on the arrest to today in order that he would have the advice and be accompanied by his law director.

In his many years of police work, Barber charged, Chief Eaton always has shied away from controversial cases where false arrest suits could be filed.

"Do you think anyone on Council would get the preferred treatment Dr. Sam has been getting in this town?" Barber inquired. "I don't think I would be treated in that manner."