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54/08/02 Calls Probe "Inquisition"

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Calls Probe "Inquisition"

Investigation into the murder of Marilyn Sheppard had the "earmarks of a medieval inquisition," according to the Rev. Alfred C. Kreke, pastor of Bay Methodist Church.

In a sermon yesterday morning the Rev. Kreke aimed verbal blasts at authorities who participated in the probe of the killing of Mrs. Sheppard. The Rev. Kreke conducted the funeral services for the slain woman.

The clergyman told his congregation he and his family had returned from a vacation "to find our community the center of an open inquest with a miniature McCarthy at the head."

He said the inquest had been

from "all appearances a carefully planned persecution of not only one individual but the defamation of a family name, a deliberate attempt by publicity seekers and little professional men to undermine in the eyes of the public the qualifications and efficiency of our hospital staff and personnel."

Rev. Kreke said, "I was mortified at the subtle innuendoes and implications suggested in the questioning, which was not conducted as an inquest but as a trial with a prosecutor suggesting most of the questions.

"There were all the earmarks of a medieval inquisition. The morbid, sadistic attitude of the audience reminded one of the blood-letting arenas of Nero's days."