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54/12/21 Dr. Sam Adopts Role Of Patient

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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DR. SAM ADOPTS ROLE OF PATIENT

Tells Reporter Jury Fills
Part of Surgeon

BY JOHN G. BLAIR

Faith in God has sustained Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard during the ordeal of waiting to learn his fate, the Bay Village osteopath last night told the Plain Dealer.

In his first direct communication with a newspaper since his trial began, Dr. Sam likened the jury to a surgeon performing a serious brain operation.

Answering this reporter, Dr. Sam said:

"When one of my patients is in need of a serious brain operation, I expect that patient to display faith in God and his surgeon.

Courtroom Tense

"It now becomes necessary for me to practice what I have expected of others!"

Dr. Sheppard gave his answer moments before he was brought down from his fourth-floor cell to sit by as Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin sent the jury back to its hotel.

While he told how he was able to stand the hours of anxiety, Dr. Sam declined to comment when asked if he planned to resume his practice immediately if the verdict is "not guilty."

The courtroom was as tense as any surgery during a touch-and-go operation when Dr. Sam entered it at 10:17 p. m.

But the youthful osteopathic neurosurgeon was as calm as

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any confident and highly skilled surgeon with a patient's life in his hands.

However, there was a trace of grimness on his face, paled from long incarceration. He indicated some tension by frequently wetting his lips with his tongue.

Gazing about the court, he focused his eyes on his brothers, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard and Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, and their wives.

The brothers gave Dr. Sam a comforting smile while Dr. Sam sat at the trial table beside his lawyers, William J. Corrigan, Fred W. Garmone and Arthur E. Petersilge.

Juror Howard Barrish took a quick look at the defendant as the court was told to rise when Judge Blythin left the bench. Dr. Sam had kept his gaze on the jurors trying to fathom their minds.

Dr. Richard Pleads

Dr. Sam's family clustered around him when Deputy Sheriff James Kilroy handcuffed the defendant's wrist. Dr. Sam talked to Petersilge while reporters edged in trying to catch the conversation.

"Please, please let them confer," Dr. Richard pleaded.

As Dr. Sam left the room, Dr.

Richard clasped the defendant's left hand with his right and said: "Good night."

Earlier there was a similar scene when Dr. Sam was brought into the court to sit by while the jury was sent off to dinner about 5:30 p. m.

As Deputy Sheriff James Kilroy removed the handcuffs from Dr. Sam's wrist, the defendant looked across the smoky haze and smiled at his brothers.

Talks to Garmone

Walking across to the trial table, the prisoner was greeted by Garmone. Dr. Sam, looking more at ease than his counsel, placed a firm hand on Garmone's shoulder.

Then, while they waited for the jury to enter, the prisoner talked earnestly to Garmone.

When the jurors filed into the box Dr. Sam studied their faces closely. Then he glanced away for a moment, only to return his scrutiny to the five women and seven men.

Dr. Sam spent the long day reading a biography of the late Dr. George Crile, famed Cleveland surgeon, Dr. Richard said.

Called Philosophical

Dr. Richard said the defendant was philosophical about the situation he faced.

He was prepared for any eventuality, Dr. Richard added. One had to be or break under the strain, the eldest of the three Sheppard brothers said.

Whatever prescription for living Dr. Sam was following, it seemed to be correctly compounded. There was no sign of cracking as the young doctor gave Dr. Steve a firm handshake and headed back to his cell.

Dr. Sheppard - PLY 12-21-54

What sustains you through these hours of waiting?

When one of my patients is in need of a serious brain operation I expect that patient to display faith in God and his surgeon.

It now becomes necessary for me to practice what I have expected of others!

H. S.

If a not guilty verdict is returned do you plan to resume your practice immediately - ?

no comment

CRISIS. Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard gives his philosophy on waiting for his verdict in his own handwriting in a reply to a Plain Dealer reporter's question, but has no comment on whether he plans to resume practice immediately if acquitted.