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54/07/12 Doctor in 'Fair Spirits,' Visiting Minister Finds

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Doctor in 'Fair Spirits,' Visiting Minister Finds

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard removed his orthopedic neck brace and appeared to be in good mental and physical condition after nine hours of interrogation in connection with his wife's murder, a visitor said yesterday.

Rev. Alan J. Davis, boyhood friend and Cleveland Heights High School fellow student of the Bay Village osteopathic physician, said he found him without the collar when he visited him at the home of his father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard.

Later in the evening, the North Royalton Methodist minister said, the doctor complained of a tired neck and the collar was replaced.

Comments on Quiz

In all of Dr. Sheppard's public appearance since the Fourth of July murder, the collar has been a fixture. His family first said he suffered a broken neck, later modified to injuries of the vertebrae, in his early morning encounter with an assailant or two in his wife's bedroom and in a pursuit to the beach below.

It was also disclosed that Dr. Sheppard felt he had given all the information he had in the marathon session Saturday and would not again be questioned to any extent. He refused to submit to a lie detector test.

"I think he feels most of the questioning is over now and he has done all he can," said Rev. Mr. Davis. "He is looking forward to being back at work."

Tells of Letters

The minister said he found his friend "not as worn out as I thought he would be" and in "fair spirits."

"I think the talk did him some good," the minister said. "It was not only my visit, but a tremendous number of friends have rallied to him. It has made all the difference in the world. He has had many cards and letters of consolation and support."

Rev. Mr. Davis said arrangements were made for other visits.

The two young men have known each other since their early childhood. They and Marilyn Reese, who became Mrs. Sheppard, were graduated from Heights High in successive semesters — Marilyn first, then Sam, then Alan. The two men had not met in recent years until the pastoral visit.