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Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/07/15 Sheppards' Attorney Rules Out Lie Tests for Family" (1954). *All Articles*. 294.

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Sheppards' Attorney Rules Out Lie Tests for Family

(Photo on Picture Page)

None of the members of the Sheppard family will take a lie detector test "and you can regard that as definite," Arthur

E. Petersilge, attorney for the family, told the Plain Dealer last night.

The lawyer commented on the refusal yesterday of Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard to submit to polygraphic examination. A not her brother, Dr. Richard N., also declined when the request was made by Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon.

"I also advised Sam (Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard) not to take the test," Petersilge said. "The polygraph is inconclusive and depends on somebody's interpretation.

"It could be a wrong interpretation. In any event, such evidence is not admissible in court under Ohio law."

Asked whether any principals in the case, besides the three Sheppard brothers, had also declined to take the lie test, Mahon replied: "I won't answer that."

The prosecutor has been questioning residents of Bay Village and officials of the suburb in an attempt to solve the murder of Marilyn R. Sheppard, wife of Samuel. Neither Stephen nor Richard "had anything new to offer," Mahon reported.

Calls Lawyer

Richard was interviewed first. He was quoted as saying he would "think it over" when he was asked about the polygraph.

When Stephen initially assented to the test Mahon and his aide, Thomas J. Parrino, suggested that they go immediately to the police laboratory at Central Station.

Then Stephen hesitated, the prosecutors said, and telephoned Petersilge. After conversing with the attorney Stephen said his answer was no.

Mahon said he had not yet decided whether he would press the issue.

6. P.D. 7-15-54



CHANGES MIND ON LIE DETECTOR TEST. Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard (left) at first consented to a polygraphic examination, but reversed himself after speaking to his attorney. Dr. Richard N. Sheppard (right) told county prosecutors earlier he would "think it over." Both are brothers of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, who also declined a lie test.