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## 54/08/01 Sam's Father Parries Queries

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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# DR. SAM'S FATHER PARRIES QUERIES

## Calms Dr. Steve; Declines to Discuss Chip

BY TALBOT HARDING

"We have nothing to talk to you about," Dr. Richard A. Sheppard told the reporter at the door yesterday afternoon.

His face was tired, sad, almost resigned, but calm, as if he had reached some decision.

A moment later he was joined by his son, Dr. Stephan A. Sheppard, elder brother of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.

While he was in his mother's house, Dr. Steve wore a tight-fitting blue-gray denim swordfisherman's cap, with an embroidered yacht club emblem. His eyes were hidden by large, heavy dark glasses, although the shadows in the dignified old house were deep.

"Has Chip (Dr. Sam's son) been told of the events of last night?" the reporter asked.

### Silenced by Gesture

"I'm sorry, but we really have nothing—," the elder man began, but his son interrupted with a sound and was silenced by a gesture.

The reporter repeated his question, and the father began his answer again. But Dr. Steve broke in.

"What events? What events?" Dr. Steve demanded.

The reporter and the father continued to talk.

Hands on hips, Dr. Steve interrupted again, this time more loudly: "What events? What are you talking about?"

The reporter explained that he referred to the arrest and committal to County Jail of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Chip's father.

### Son Departs

"Aw, get out; get off of it, get off of it," Dr. Steve said.

"Steve, go now," his father said, gently, reaching out a hand and touching his son's arm. Steve, who has been the family spokesman, went.

Dr. Sam's father continued his polite, now apologetic denials of  
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# Dr. Sam's Dad Parries Queries

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information, and the reporter left.

At the home of Mayor J. Spencer Houk, the mayor and his wife, Esther, showed the strain of the days since Dr. Sam called them, early in the morning of July 4, to ask them to

come over to his house.

"We have done everything, we have been leaning over backward the whole time," Mrs. Houk said. "Yet when we went downstairs for Spence to take the lie detector test Parrino (Thomas J. Parrino, assistant county prosecutor) treated us

like criminals, when we were trying to co-operate."

## Doubt Test's Validity

"Before he gave me the test," Mayor Houk said, "Cowles (David L. Cowles, who administers the lie detector test for the Cleveland police) pointed at me impressively. Then he said: 'Murder will out.'"



Both the Houks now doubt the validity of the testing procedure.

"Dr. Sam was right to refuse," Mrs. Houk said. "Spence told the truth and yet he's doubted. Once they said he passed it with flying colors, and he should have. Now they say something else."

She was indignant, too, that her daughter, Lynette, 14, had been questioned about what time she got home the night of the murder.

"She was here in time to see the late movie (on television) with me, a movie that ends at 12:30," Mrs. Houk said. "Yet some gossip told the police she came home at 2:30 in the morning with a girl friend to stay the night and we sent the girl friend away, giving as the reason that we'd just received an important phone call."

### **Rules Out Resignation**

Mayor Houk was positive that he will not resign.

"I'm not thinking about resigning and haven't thought about it," he said. "My present term, my second, has three years to run, and later in the term I'll begin thinking about whether or not to run again."

At his last election Mayor Houk was unopposed, both in primary and general elections.

Calmer man of all who has had to do with the case is Richard S. Weygandt, law director of Bay. A report that the Sheppard family had been in touch with him while he was studying the evidence against Dr. Sam galled him.

"I have neither talked to nor seen any member of the Sheppard family at any time, other than Dr. Sam," he said, "and the first time I ever saw or talked to him was at the hearing after his arrest."

### **Takes Responsibility**

Weygandt also made it plain that the decision to arrest Dr. Sam was his and that the procedures followed in the issuance of the warrant were those he recommended.

John P. Eaton, Bay chief of police, had a clarification to make.

"I have been quoted as saying Mayor Houk told me about the gift of the wrist watch to Susan Hayes and that the mayor told me Dr. Sam flew into violent rages and that he told me the Sheppards had disagreements," the chief said.

"I relayed that information to the Cleveland police the morning of the murder, quoting Mayor Houk as its source. But I must have been wrong about the source. I was talking to many people that morning, and have not been able to trace who it was that told me. As we now know, the information about the watch was correct."

### **All Quiet at Hospital**

"Mayor Houk says he is not the one that told me, and he must be right. If he says he didn't tell me that he didn't and I have been in error."

At Bay View Hospital all was quiet, all outwardly normal. On the indicator board behind the receptionist's desk, doctors on duty have glowing green lights beside their names and those off duty are indicated by red ones.

Four Sheppards, father and three sons, are listed on the board. Since the board has been up, at least one of the four has been marked by a green light. But last night all four had bright red lights by their names.