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54/08/20 Says Lie Test 'No' Was Sam's

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Says Lie Test 'No' Was Sam's

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's refusal to take a lie detector test during the investigation of his wife's murder was "entirely Sheppard's decision" and not dictated by anyone, William J. Corrigan, his chief defense counsel, asserted today.

"I allowed him to make his own decision," Corrigan declared. "He's no kid. I didn't tell him to take it or not to take it."

Challenges Test

While disclaiming responsibility for Dr. Sam's refusal, Corrigan challenged the value of a lie detector test which he said had no standing in any court in the land.

Corrigan also challenged the ability of the persons assigned to operate polygraph machines used in the tests.

"If the polygraph test shows that Dr. Sam is not lying or even that it is inconclusive, wouldn't that help the defendant?" Corrigan was asked.

"Your newspapers have not been telling the truth about the value of the lie detector," Corrigan answered. "Recent studies show that only 10 per cent of the persons operating polygraphs are qualified to do so."