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54/08/19 Fight Release Of Dr. Sheppard On New Bail

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Cleveland News, "54/08/19 Fight Release Of Dr. Sheppard On New Bail" (1954). *All Articles*. 436.
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Fight Release Of Dr. Sheppard On New Bail

Investigation of the Marilyn Sheppard murder mystery marked time today as county prosecutors prepared to wage a stubborn fight against release of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, the victim's husband, on bail.

The 30-year-old osteopathic surgeon is being held in County Jail under a first degree murder indictment returned late Tuesday by the County Grand Jury.

He had been free under \$50,000 bail set the day before. Then he was taken into custody again on the indictment.

In pledging a vigorous fight against the defense bid for bail, John J. Mahon, an assistant county prosecutor, declared:

"I can't see any reason why this man should be entitled to bond. He's charged with first degree murder and we believe he should stay in jail until he's ready to go to trial."

The new bail tussle is expected to come up tomorrow when Dr. Sam is arraigned before Common Pleas Judge Arthur H. Day and asked to enter a plea of either "guilty" or "not

guilty" to the first degree murder charge.

William J. Corrigan, chief defense counsel for Dr. Sam, said he would ask Judge Day to schedule a hearing on his application for bail so that he might present evidence and witnesses to "refute the presumption of guilt contained in the indictment."

When it was suggested that one of the witnesses may be Dr. Sam, Dr. Richard Sheppard, an older brother of the defendant,

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Fight New Bail To Free Sheppard

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said the accused, was willing, and even anxious, to take the stand to deny murdering his 31-year-old pregnant wife.

Cranks Would Confess

Dr. Richard also disclosed that the Sheppard family has received numerous offers from persons offering to confess to the murder of Marilyn for specific sums.

He said the family considered the offers nothing more than crank letters and threw them away.

One offer, pencil-printed in block letters, was from a man who asked for \$100,000 "to care

for my family." Two other offers proposed payment of \$25,000 with one declaring that he was "resigned to death in the electric chair."

While the new legal fight was awaited, John J. Mahon, an assistant county prosecutor, disclosed that a palm print found on a desk in a first floor den in the Sheppard home at 28924 W. Lake Rd., Bay Village, was that of the couple's son, Samuel Jr.

Many Prints Taken

Mahon said identification of the print would strengthen the state's contention that there was no evidence to show that anyone other than members of the family were in the house at the time of the murder.

Dr. Sam has contended that his wife was brutally hacked to death by an "intruder" who had knocked him unconscious and ransacked the home.

Palm prints of dozens of persons have been taken since the murder victim's battered body was discovered on July 4 but it was not until Tuesday that police were able to obtain those of the Sheppard's son who has been at a summer camp.

New Skirmish Due

No other developments were reported in the murder probe as prosecutors and defense attorneys prepared for a new legal skirmish when the 30-year-old surgeon is arraigned on the first degree murder indictment at 9:15 a. m. tomorrow.

Story Making Report

Police Chief Frank W. Story informed Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze that a report was being compiled showing the number of "extra hours" which Cleveland detectives had put in while investigating the Bay Village murder.

He said the report to be presented on Friday would also show the amount of mileage traveled and the cost of photographs and other materials used in the probe.

Corrigan's plans for seeking new bail under which Dr. Sam would be released from custody while awaiting trial in October were outlined at a brief hearing before Common Pleas Judge William K. Thomas in which a first degree murder warrant issued by Bay Village officials and a previous \$50,000 bail was terminated.