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54/08/17 Police Told: 'Stick to End Of Bay Quiz'

Cleveland News

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Police Told: 'Stick to End Of Bay Quiz'

Threatened to Quit Over Release of Doctor on Bail

The Cleveland Police Department today was ordered to continue investigation of the brutal Marilyn Sheppard murder and to "stick with it to the finish" as Safety Director John N. McCormick criticized police complaints on the release of Dr. Samuel Sheppard.

The order was issued by McCormick after police officials threatened to pull out of the case in protest against the release on bail of Dr. Sheppard, whom they view as the No. 1 suspect.

Celebrezze Comments

Mayor Celebrezze promptly seconded McCormick's order and stated that Cleveland police "will not be pulled out arbitrarily."

The mayor asserted that many of the detectives assigned to the case have completed their jobs and will be reassigned to regular duty, but "only because we have exhausted the leads up to this point."

"The release of Dr. Sheppard is not an obstacle to justice," Mayor Celebrezze said. "Al-

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though the action is not common procedure, I consider it well within the sound discretion of the court."

15 Detectives on Case

Police Chief Frank W. Story said that he would make a formal request by letter to Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze for permission to cut down the number of men working on the Sheppard murder case.

"At present we have myself, Inspector McArthur and 15 detectives working on the case," the chief said. "I would like to cut the detectives to eight."

"I want to emphasize the fact that the court's decision to release Dr. Sheppard on bail has not influenced this decision."

Asked if he would discipline police officers who expressed personal opinions about Judge Thomas' decision, Story said:

"Absolutely not! That's a dead issue now."

Says He'll Keep Pledge

"When we took over this investigation we promised Bay Village officials that we would do a good job," McCormick explained. "We'll keep our promise and stay on the job until its finished."

"Frankly, I'm not pleased with the remarks being made by top police officials and I plan to discuss them with Police Chief Story as well as the mayor."

Inspector of Detectives James E. McArthur said he proposed withdrawal of his detectives from the investigation because he felt that it was practically concluded and was still "shocked" by the granting of bail to the leading suspect.

First in His Memory

"In all my years of police investigation I can remember only one previous case in which a defendant in a first degree murder case was granted bail," McArthur declared. "And in that case there was serious doubt as to the guilt of the suspect and prosecutors did not object to his release."

"Now everyone being held in connection with a first degree murder case can cite the action of Common Pleas Judge William K. Thomas as precedent and ask for bail even before we have an

opportunity to present any evidence.

Capt. Kerr Agrees

"This case is just another example that law and order is made only for the poor people and not for those of means," McArthur concluded.

Police Capt. David E. Kerr, chief of the Homicide Squad, concurred with McArthur's latter statement as well as the attack on the jurist's action in granting bail to Dr. Sam.

"End of Investigation"

"We have reached the end of our investigation — that's all there's to it," Chief Story said. "We've run down every bit of evidence and checked out every suspect. We have come to the conclusion that the leading suspect is the man whom we have charged with the crime."

"Therefore I believe that a majority of our men, many of whom have not had a day off in a month, should be relieved of this duty. However, if any new evidence should be uncovered we would re-enter the case without delay," Story concluded.