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54/08/19 Brother Says Police Aimed to Play on Dr. Sam's Concern

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Brother Says Police Aimed to Play on Dr. Sam's Concern

A statement asserting the innocence of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was released yesterday from the home of his brother, Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard of Rocky River.

A reference in the statement to "insulting and abusive" questioning by police which resulted in the suspect's refusal to talk was amplified by his eldest brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard.

"They told Sam that his mother had suffered a heart attack and that she was near death," Dr. Richard said. "They told him that the hospital was falling down, that we were all suffering and all because of him."

"On our visits to the jail we observed Sam was much concerned with our mother's health and with conditions at the hospital. When we reassured him Sam told us how his concern had been aroused by his questioners. Thereafter he refused to put up with any more of it."

Discusses Timing

The two-and-a-half-page statement, signed by "Sam H. Sheppard," contained one other new item.

"I have since learned that the timing of my arrest and the reason that I was held incommunicado from my attorneys was because someone had the idea that I was addicted to dope and all that had to be done to solve the crime and get a confession from me was to hold me until the craving for dope would break me down," that portion of the statement said.

The statement concluded with the words: "I am not guilty."

It opened: "I am not guilty of the murder of my wife, Marilyn. How could I, who have been trained to help people and devoted my life to saving life, commit such a terrible and revolting crime?"

Follows Pattern

The statement, with more detail, followed a pattern established in Dr. Sheppard's announcement of July 8 in which he also denied responsibility for his wife's death and reported the posting of a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer.

"I was severely injured when I was attacked * * *" began the July 8 account.

"I was severely injured in the encounter * * *," begins the sec-

ond paragraph of the new statement, which relates the extent of his injuries.

"I have related the incidents as nearly as I could remember them to the mayor of the city of Bay Village, to the police * * *," read the July 8 report. "I have never refused to talk to any authorities * * *"

Similar paragraphs in the new statement read in part:

"I have told the police and other officials who questioned me all I knew about the murder of my wife. I have done this freely and willingly * * *"

"I related all I knew to the coroner, the police at Bay Village, the detectives * * *"

Much of the statement was a listing of the hours and places at which he had undergone questioning, an issue which has been stressed by his attorney, William J. Corrigan, on numerous occasions.

Some authorities appeared "genuinely interested in solving the crime, but the Cleveland police seemed to have made up their minds that I committed the crime and concentrated in solving the crime by attempting to secure a confession from me," the statement read.

Complains of Hearing

Dr. Sheppard also complained that he and his son had been barred from their home "not by the order of any court but by the police."

In his statement he said that at the time of his original arrest he had been "brought before a magistrate that has now been determined to be a biased and prejudiced person."

"I was deprived of counsel and was thrown into jail," he added, "and when my attorneys appeared at the jail they were refused admission."

A concluding paragraph said: "During the week after my arrest I was questioned by relays of Cleveland detectives hour after hour, as long as 12 hours at a stretch; and the entire questioning had only one purpose, to secure a confession from me of a crime I did not commit."

Dr. Richard, the eldest of the brothers, said he "presumed" the statement was typed by Dr. Stephen.

Declines to Comment

"Sam doesn't type much," Dr. Richard said.

Dr. Stephen, who was resting at his home when a reporter called in answer to his announcement that a statement was to be released, declined to come to the door to discuss the statement. His wife passed the papers to the reporter.

He also refused to discuss the preparation of the statement with Dr. Richard, who telephoned at the reporter's request. Dr. Richard explained that Dr. Stephen had not rested well the night before.

Dr. Richard also reported he had walked in on a discussion over issuance of the statement at Dr. Stephen's home the afternoon the grand jury indicted Dr. Sam. Present were Dr. Sam, Dr. Stephen and Corrigan.

Dr. Sam had made a start on the statement while still in jail, Dr. Richard related. He said Dr. Sam had presumably completed it in longhand before being taken back to County Jail.