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Freedom for Sam

Cost \$83 an Hour

BY JAMES FLANAGAN

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, after only 30 hours of freedom, appeared to sleep on the ride back to County Jail in the sheriff's car.

Dr. Sam, who had walked out the front door of Criminal Court a free man at 12:25 a. m. Monday under \$50,000 bail, was led back in the County Jail rear door in handcuffs at 6:30 p. m. yesterday.

He was grim-faced and serious, but apparently unworried at his re-arrest on a first degree murder warrant.

Costly Freedom

His freedom cost him slightly more than \$83 an hour, figuring that the \$50,000 bail cost \$2,500, the usual fee charged by bondsmen for that size bail.

In County Jail as he changed from the charcoal gray suit he wore to his murdered wife's funeral, Dr. Sheppard told deputies the freedom was worth the cost.

He had spent most of the day with his only child, Samuel R., nicknamed Chip. As the Grand Jury was returning the indictment, Dr. Sam was being driven from his brother Stephen's home in Rocky River to his father's home at 23048 W. Lake Rd., Bay Village.

At 5:30 p. m. a reporter went to the front door of the freshly-painted home and inquired for Dr. Sam.

"He's having a bite at the moment," replied the father.

"Have you heard that the Grand Jury returned the indictment?" the reporter asked.

"No" said the father, appearing slightly upset, "but Sam will be here when they come."

At 5:55 p. m. the dark blue sheriff's car arrived at the home. While Deputy Joseph Ostrowski remained at the wheel, Deputies Carl Rossbach and Harvey G. Weitzel picked their way across stepping boards on the fresh porch paint.

Admitted by Father

They were admitted by Dr. Sam's father as newsmen raced from the Bay View Hospital parking lot, adjoining Dr. R. A. Sheppard's home, to the front yard.

Rossbach found Dr. Sam finishing dinner, eating a piece of his favorite cherry pie. Rossbach, without mentioning the charge, handed the indictment to Dr. Sam. Dr. Sam stuffed it into his pocket without glancing at it.

"Could I have time to finish and gather some things?" Dr. Sam asked.

The deputies permitted him to finish but kept him in sight at all times as he assisted his mother in collecting his clothing.

Mrs. Sheppard packed his orthopedic collar and clothing in one paper shopping bag. Pipe

tobacco and shaving gear went into a smaller brown paper sack.

She then kissed her son and the father shook hands with him. Rossbach handcuffed the prisoner who draped a brown suede jacket over the cuffs. Weitzel picked up the bags.

The three left by the front door. A reporter asked Dr. Sam whether he had anything to say. Dr. Sam stared at the reporter for a second, then said: "I have nothing to say."

The sheriff's car traveled fast, sometimes hitting 65 miles an hour. Dr. Sam's head was resting on the seat most of the way. At County Jail he donned a white T-shirt and blue hobby jeans. He was last seen being taken back to his fourth floor cell. His radio, which he had left for cellmates, was playing as he entered.