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## 54/08/24 Judge talks of his ruling on Sheppard

Cleveland News

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# Judge Talks Of His Ruling On Sheppard

Common Pleas Judge William K. Thomas today characterized as "unfortunate" the criticism leveled at him by members of the police department for granting Dr. Sam N. Sheppard his temporary release on \$50,000 bail at a preliminary hearing last week.

Speaking before the Lakewood Kiwanis Club, Judge Thomas commented:

"I think they were sincere, but it is too bad that high-placed officers know so little about the law."

The jurist explained that at the hearing the state had presented no evidence to support its murder warrant against the young osteopath.

"In asking for a continuance," he told the Kiwanians, "the state delayed presenting its evidence in order to give it to the Grand Jury. But the Constitution says that all persons are bailable with surety where proof is not evident nor presumption great."

"The law applies to all of us," he added.

Judge Thomas also described the operations of Common Pleas Court where for the first time in history all six judges assigned to civil cases will do pre-trial work at the fall session opening in September.

"It will serve as a sensible short cut to long civil litigation and help cut into the court's backlog of 6,900 cases," he said.

Originator of pre-trial work here in June of 1953, Judge Thomas said he discovered that three times as many cases are settled under this system than by employing the formal courtroom approach.

He explained that the basic tool of pre-trial work is to call in all parties involved, and their lawyers, and let each state the case without rules of evidence and the presence of a court reporter.