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## 54/09/16 Bar Group's Survey Aims at County Detective Squad

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Plain Dealer, Thurs., Sept. 16, 1954

# Bar Group's Survey Aims at County Detective Squad

BY NATE SILVERMAN

A sweeping survey of crime enforcement procedures in the county with establishment of a county detective bureau as a chief aim has been launched by a Cuyahoga County Bar Association committee as a result of squabbles arising in the Sheppard murder investigation.

The 41-member committee, it was learned yesterday, has decided to meet with various county and city officials, investigate complaints filed by lawyers for Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard and make recommendations designed to improve enforcement and clarify authority of the officeholders.

## Sweeney Is Target

Chief target of the group at the start of their work was Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney.

A. L. Kearns, chairman of the committee, said the group had invited Sweeney and Cleveland Police Chief Frank W. Story and Detective Chief James E. McArthur to a meeting Tuesday.

It was expected the three would be asked about complaints filed by William J. Corrigan, attorney for Dr. Sheppard, concerning the treatment of Sheppard and his attorneys after the grand jury returned a first-degree murder indictment.

Members also want to discuss with them the proposal for a county law enforcement agency, for which Sweeney previously has said he had neither the man power nor the funds.

In addition, bar members want to discuss with Story and McArthur complaints that police have violated a gentleman's agreement with the bar that prisoners be allowed to see their lawyers promptly and not held incommunicado.

Due for invitations to future meetings with the committee are

County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan, Coroner Samuel R. Gerber and grand jury foremen.

Explaining the aims of his committee, which is working in conjunction with the bar's criminal courts committee, Kearns said: "Our purpose is to bring about a situation in which the county sheriff will actually be a sheriff in fact as well as law."

"While he has been a diligent law enforcement officer," the committee chairman said, "he hasn't been aware of the law enforcement powers he has and he hasn't assumed them all."

"He has devoted himself as others before him mainly to the duties of operating county jail and serving writs and processes. That's not the limit of his powers as far as the law is concerned."

In the Sheppard case, the committee reported, Coroner Gerber had gone "far beyond his jurisdiction" in becoming a law enforcement officer and taking charge of the investigation.

"We don't condemn him for it," Kearns said. "We feel he has done a good job even though he did overstep. He did it because no one else would do it."

Named by Bar President Harry Auslander to serve on the committee on co-ordination of county law enforcement were:

Kearns, Stephen M. Young, Leonard P. Franks, A. R. Roman, John Toner, Benjamin Reich, Michael Pusti, Norman S. Minor, A. R. Fioretti, Arthur W. Fiske, John J. McMahon, Wilfred P. Hodous, Morris Morgenstern, Hugh McNamee, Karl D. Kammer, Mary K. Ryan, Addie P. Miller, David Kirschbaum, Joseph Patlo, Herman S. Pressman, Alfred A. Frost, Gus K. Allen.

Martin T. Baumann, Anthony P. Carr, Rudolph A. D'Amico, Paul White, Bruce Hertzbrun, William J. Kraus, Charles C. Cook, Michael A. Picciano, Salvatore Precario, John L. Lockheed, James A. Hoffman, John P. Butler, William Saunders, Joseph Berger, Joel Krupman, Simon Amdur, Joy B. White, George Cooper, Myron Friedman and Harry Payner.