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## 54/09/17 Hits False Leads In Murder Case

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Sept. 17, 1954

# HITS FALSE LEADS IN MURDER CASE

## Cullitan Says Sheppard's Rights Are Intact

**BY SANFORD WATZMAN**

Other suspects named so far in the Marilyn Sheppard murder case—other than the husband of the Bay Village woman—were characterized as “so many red herrings” yesterday by County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan.

The state's attorney criticized the Sheppard family and their legal aides for their “baseless suggestions” and asserted that the rights of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard “have been scrupulously observed.”

Cullitan issued his commentary on the case as his staff prepared to go forth again today into court room battle. They will oppose the release of Dr. Sam pending his first-degree murder trial on bail requested by his attorneys.

### Resume Hearing Today

Recessed on Saturday, the bail hearing will be resumed at 9:15 this morning before Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin. Eleven persons were placed under subpoena by Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan and Fred W. Garmone.

“Homicide Detective Patrick L. Gareau has just returned from Trenton, N. J.,” Cullitan said, “where he checked the story of Billy O. Williams regarding the murder of Marilyn Sheppard.

“It is quite evident . . . that this man's story deserves no credence. He lies, and a check where he worked in New York shows that he could not have been in Ohio at the time of the murder.

“This is of a pattern with the many other baseless suggestions made in this case as to who killed Mrs. Sheppard. In all my experience of almost a quarter century . . . I have never seen so many red herrings dragged across the trail of a murder by the defendant's lawyers and his family.

“First, it was intimated and a setup left in the home to indicate that a burglar or a dope fiend had committed the crime. This was abandoned and the sugges-

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# Cullitan Calls Other Suspects in Murder 'Red Herrings'

Disbro, 28919 Westlake Road; Miles Davis, 375 Kenilworth Road in the suburb, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Knitter, 785 Kenilworth Road, Sheffield Lake.

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tion made that a maniac of some kind had done it.

"Then the finger of suspicion was pointed at a man who was killed in an automobile accident and, after that, at a man charged with two homicides in Washington.

"The next . . . was a relative of Marilyn Sheppard. Next, it was Dr. Lester T. Hoversten (a July guest at the Sheppard home), who was supposed to be in Europe.

"Then Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village was accused by Sheppard's brother. Next it was reported that a burglar was loose in Bay Village who might be the man.

"All these leads have all been checked out carefully and thoroughly and have been found to have no credibility whatsoever.

"May I say further that Sam Sheppard's rights under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as always in this office, have been scrupulously observed.

"As a matter of fact, as a prime suspect he was more tenderly and considerately treated than any suspect in my recollection. Indeed, some of the authorities bent over backwards to favor him.

"Within a few hours after the murder was committed his lawyers and his family had him in custody, and it was with difficulty that the authorities could interview him.

"A reading of the record shows that the complaints that have been made about his treatment before and after his arrest are entirely baseless."

Subpoenaed a second time by the defense was Mayor Houk, who was still in "satisfactory" condition last night at Lakeside Hospital, and former Grand Jury Foreman Bert R. Winston.

● Others were:

The mayor's son, Lawrence (Larry) Houk; Bay Village Police Chief John P. Eaton and Patrolman Fred F. Drenkhan; Sheriff Joseph M. Sweeney; Mrs. Don J. (Nancy) Ahern; Robert Spawicki, 4511 E. 49th Street; Helen F. Schuele, 28944 Westlake Road, Bay Village; Jean