



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University
EngagedScholarship@CSU

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

9-11-1954

54/09/11 Dr. Sam's bail plea stalled

Cleveland Press

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Cleveland Press, "54/09/11 Dr. Sam's bail plea stalled" (1954). *All Articles*. 548.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/548

This Book is brought to you for free and open access
by the Newspaper Coverage at
EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for
inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator
of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information,
please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.



The Cleveland Press

The Newspaper That Serves Its Readers

Final

42 Pages—7 Cents

NO. 24065

CLEVELAND, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1954

Phone CHerry 1-1111

SCRIPPS-HOWARD

DR. SAM'S BAIL PLEA STALLED

Blythin Sets Hearing for Next Friday

Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard winced with obvious displeasure today as his attorneys lost repeated efforts to enter into the record of his bail hearing his denial that he killed his wife without placing the Bay Village osteopath on the witness stand.

The hearing was postponed until next Friday at 9:15 a. m. after a series of clashes between prosecution and defense attorneys.

Dr. Sheppard made an angry outburst when his chief defense counsel, William J. Corrigan, consenting to the hearing delay, told Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin:

"Sam has been in jail for quite a few weeks now, and he's used to the routine. A few days won't make much difference. . . ."

The osteopath leaned towards his other attorneys, Fred W. Garmone and Arthur E. Petersilge, and blurted: "Just a few days, he says. . . ."

Dr. Sheppard was then manacled and taken from the second floor courtroom in the

Criminal Courts Bldg. to his fourth-floor cell.

He will have to spend at least another week in jail, and his murder trial—date of which Judge Blythin won't set until the bail action is completed—was delayed at least that much.

Verbal sparring between Corrigan and Assistant Prosecutors John J. Mahon and Saul S. Danaceau marked the tense



BROTHERS. Dr. Stephen Sheppard and Dr. Sam, discussed defense strategy during a brief recess in the hearing before Judge Edward Blythin.

Dr. Sam's Bail Plea Stalled by Recess

(Continued From Page One)

morning hearing.

At one point, Danaceau asked Corrigan: "Do you want a soapbox to make a speech?"

"What?" Corrigan demanded. Danaceau repeated his question.

This exchange came after Corrigan had asked Dr. Stephen Sheppard:

"Do you know that since July 4 the Cleveland police and county officials have done nothing but try to prove Sam did it?"

The judge ordered the question stricken from the record.

Blythin upheld a series of prosecution objections which blocked admission into evidence of transcripts of previous statements in which Dr. Sam denied the wife-slashing accusation.

"This witness is present in the courtroom," Mahon challenged. "He can speak for himself."

"The way to enter his statement is to put Dr. Sheppard on the witness stand to testify before this court," Danaceau asserted.

Corrigan and Garmone were rebuffed when Judge Blythin refused to admit into evidence Dr. Sheppard's written statement to Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach and his testimony at Coroner Samuel R. Gerber's inquest.

Dr. Sheppard fidgeted nervously at the defense table, frequently closing and covering his eyes, as the legal wrangle proceeded.

Corrigan threatened at one point to prolong the hearing by calling every witness who testified before the Grand Jury which indicted his client for first-degree murder.

Blythin had sustained a prosecution objection to admission into evidence of a list of the witnesses who appeared before the jury.

"The court ought to have them," Corrigan said, "because I will call all of them. I know that the testimony of none of them, or all of them collectively, will sustain a first-degree murder indictment."

But Blythin still refused to admit the list.

Corrigan later said he would call the Grand Jury witnesses—who included Susan Hayes, an extra-marital friend of the accused, and Dr. Lester T. Hoversten, the Sheppard house guest prior to the murder—"only if necessary."

Sam Breaks Down

Dr. Sam broke down and wept, dabbing his eyes with a handkerchief, when his brother, Dr. Stephen Sheppard, described the dinner party at which Marilyn informed the family that she was pregnant.

Dr. Stephen told of interviewing Billy O. Williams, 27, in jail at Trenton, N. J. Williams, Dr. Stephen said, had confessed the murder of Marilyn.

Rossbach's testimony gave a vivid picture of the difficulties investigators encountered in attempting to question Dr. Sam during the week after his wife's murder.

Corrigan asked him: "Do you recall Sam Sheppard tossing about on the bed and saying, 'Let me talk . . . get out and let me talk?'"

Rossbach replied: "I recall him complaining about a headache and asking us to get out."

His questioning of Dr. Sam was usually in the presence of his attorneys, Rossbach said, and sometimes Dr. Stephen prevented interrogation by saying Sam wasn't feeling well or was under sedation.

Ordered Expulsion

When Dr. Gerber was called as a witness, Corrigan faced the official who had ordered him expelled from the Normandy School inquest in Bay Village.

Corrigan's attempt to introduce the inquest transcript into evidence brought immediate objections from Mahon and Danaceau.

The defense counsel argued that the transcript contained Dr. Sam's sworn statement about the crime.

"It is a self-serving declaration," Mahon replied.

Blythin sustained the prosecution objections.

Mahon said Corrigan had no right to question witnesses about their Grand Jury testimony.

"I can ask them what they know," Corrigan answered.

Blythin said this was a hearing on Dr. Sheppard's motion for bail—not a review of the Grand Jury proceedings.

Dr. Sheppard is entitled to bail if he can refute the prosecution claim that the "presumption of guilt is great."*