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54/08/04 Police End Quiz as Doctor Wins No-Talk Strike

Cleveland Press

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Chief Indicates
Case Stronger
Than Previously

Cleveland's top detectives today admitted defeat in their efforts to obtain any "helpful information" from Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard about the July 4 murder of his pretty wife, Marilyn.

They abandoned all efforts to interrogate him after the osteopath went on an "I won't talk strike" in his County Jail cell.

Police Chief Frank W. Story reluctantly announced that the four-day quizzing of the 30-year-old osteopath charged with the brutal slaying of his wife, had "produced nothing of value."

"It's a waste of time to question him any further," Story said. "I've ordered a halt to the questioning. We're not going to get any information from him."

Despite Dr. Sheppard's self-imposed wall of silence, the police chief said, "we have a stronger case than we did a week ago."

STAR WITNESS SUSAN HAYES relaxes in the Rocky River sunshine while awaiting police call to testify in the Sheppard murder case. (Story on Second Front Page.)

—Press Photo by Clayton Knipper
Dr. Sheppard's refusal to discuss the case, Story said, "forces us to proceed from a different angle."

"He's not trying to help either himself or the police," the chief snapped.

**Police Confident**

Story indicated that police are "more confident than ever" of the strength of their circumstantial evidence pointing to Dr. Sam as the murderer of his wife one month ago today.

Story disclosed that Homicide Capt. David Kerr had re-enacted Dr. Sheppard's version of his wife's slaying in the murder home yesterday, and found it "implausible."

Kerr lay down on the couch on which Dr. Sam said he was dozing when he heard Marilyn cry out in terror for help. The homicide captain then leaped to his feet and raced up the stairs.

As he went, he said, he brushed against a light switch and flipped it on. "It seemed the natural thing to do," he related.

But Dr. Sheppard said he had not turned on the light as he ran up the stairs. At an inquest into Marilyn's murder, he testified that he wasn't sure where the light switch was in his home were located.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber timed Kerr with a stopwatch. He noted that it took him six seconds to run upstairs, and

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**Defense Attorneys**

William J. Corrigan and Fred Garmon late today brought the news to Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard that his refusal to answer questions had "worn down" the homicide squad, and police had decided to abandon the unsuccessful quizzing.

They also brought the murder case defendant two letters—one from his mother, another from a friend in Detroit; three magazines—Pic, Speed Age and Hot Rod; three packs of pipe tobacco, each a different brand; an electric razor and a portable radio.
Quiz of Sheppard Is Ended by Police

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40 seconds to deliver 27 hard blows on the bed with a heavy round object—a "facsimile" of the missing murder weapon.

The osteopath chose this one-month anniversary of his wife's murder to refuse to discuss the weather with questioning homicide detectives.

Dr. Sheppard sat stolid and expressionless, wearing his protective neck collar, listening impassively to the steady barrage of questions.

He calmly read a Bible while the detectives talked, rarely replying.

"On advice of counsel," he said occasionally, "I refuse to answer any more questions concerning the case."

Then his eyes went back to his Bible. He didn't bother to acknowledge hearing most of the questions.

Dr. Sheppard maintained his stony silence even when asked repeatedly: "Did you ever hear of an attorney going to the electric chair?"

Meanwhile, his battery of attorneys—now increased to five—continued efforts to block the legal proceedings which are slowly bringing Dr. Sheppard towards trial on the charge of premeditated murder of his pregnant wife in their home at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village.

Asks Writ Dismissal

Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer McMahon filed a demurrer asking dismissal of Chief Defense Counsel William J. Corrigan's writ of prohibition, obtained late yesterday from Appellate Judge Joy Seth Hurd.

The writ bars Bay Village Council President Gershom M. M. Barber from presiding at Dr. Sam's preliminary hearing on the first degree murder charge, which is set for Saturday.

Timothy Mcmahon, Corrigan's associate, agreed at a conference this morning with Weygandt and Appellate Judges Hurd and Julius Kovachy that trial of the petition for a permanent prohibition, set for 10 a.m. Friday at Lakeside Courthouse, could be before the two judges. Their colleague, Judge Lee Sbeel, is vacationing at Cape Cod.

But Weygandt insisted that an out-of-town judge be called in to complete the panel—unless the two judges accept his

Despite reminders of his avowed willingness to "do everything in my power to help solve this terrible murder."

Dr. Sheppard and his family have offered a $10,000 reward for arrest and conviction of the slayer.

Dr. Sheppard's account of his struggles with an apparition that killed his wife is implausible.

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LAST QUESTIONERS of Dr. Sam Sheppard before Chief

Will Call Houk

McMahon said he would call Bay Village Mayor J. Spencer Houk as a witness at the hearing. Houk, a personal friend of Dr. Sheppard, precipitated the legal fracas by disqualifying himself from signing the murder warrant or presiding at Dr. Sam's arraignment.

Corrigan contends that Bar-ber is "without legal authority" to conduct the hearing, which will determine whether Dr. Sam is held for Grand Jury indictment.

Mahon Backs Bay Aide

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon said he would support Weygandt in opposing the writ.

"This," Mahon said, "is the first instance I can recall of an attorney filing a writ of prohibition against a court."

Dr. Sheppard's legal staff now includes Corrigan; his son, William H. Corrigan; McMahon; Fred Garmone, another