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54/09/17 Dr. Steve challenges prosecutor's charge

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Dr. Steve Challenges Prosecutor's Charge

Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard, spokesman for the Sheppard family, issued a new statement during the recess of the hearing on bail for Dr. Sam today in answer to County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan's reference to other suspects as "so many red herrings."

Cullitan cited the latest "suspect," Billy O. Williams of Trenton, N. J., as a case that followed the pattern of the "baseless suggestions" of the Sheppard family and their lawyers.

Williams, who said he murdered Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, had a work record that showed he could not have been in Ohio when the crime was committed.

The statement given out by Dr. Steve follows:

"Frank T. Cullitan, the county prosecutor, publicly blasted the family of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard on Sept. 17, 1954. He criticized us for doing precisely what each of five conflicting investigating agencies requested us to do from the outset.

Cites Police Request

"We were specifically asked by the police and detectives to give the authorities all possible leads regardless of how remote they might seem to us. This we have done.

"We were also directed to search hospital and clinic files as well as to probe our own experiences and memories in an attempt to dredge up any and all possibilities.

"Now we have been castigated for doing just those things which were requested and demanded of us. Our efforts have been characterized by the prosecutor as an attempt to drag 'so many red herrings' across the trail.

"This ill-chosen flourish of Mr. Cullitan reveals with great clarity the attitude of the prosecutor's office. Within recent years the American public has learned

that officials that accuse others of the 'red herring' maneuver are often using it themselves or else deliberately closing their eyes to the true nature of affairs.

"Dr. Sam is completely innocent of this crime. We intend to continue our efforts despite the opposition and criticism of those in the prosecutor's office to pursue every lead available to us and we refuse to complacently seize the nearest suspect in order to make our task less arduous.

"The family and friends of Dr. Sam will never rest until the real murderer is apprehended. We are not convinced that all of the suspects have been actually and completely checked out.

"We intend to continue to help in any way available to us and refuse to be intimidated by any officials with closed minds."

County Prosecutor Cullitan charged that the Sheppard family and their attorneys had produced at least a half dozen suspects in the murder, but all had turned out to be "red herrings."