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## 56/10/30 Dr. Sam's Case Is Reopened

Cleveland Press

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# Dr. Sam's Case Is Reopened

Investigation of the 27-month-old murder of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard was dramatically "reopened" today.

The "reopening" was announced by Assistant Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau while the United States Supreme Court was weighing the final appeal of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, Bay Village osteopath serving a life term for second degree murder.

Danaceau's announcement was followed by a blunt refusal by the Cleveland Police Department to participate in the "reopened investigation."

Mayor Celebrezze and Police Chief Frank W. Story said Cleveland policemen could not be assigned to the case "because of a manpower shortage."

Celebrezze and Story indicated they believed that Danaceau, a candidate for Common Pleas judge at next Tuesday's election, was "playing politics" with the case.

Danaceau said he was still convinced that Dr. Sam is guilty, but was on the trail of "new facts" which may clear up some mysteries of the sensational case.

**Although Danaceau declined to disclose any details, The Press learned he was checking a "hot tip" that "another person"—a man—was in the Sheppard home on the murder morning of July 4, 1954.**

Dr. Sam was convicted on the state's contention

there were only three people in the house when Mrs. Sheppard was bludgeoned to death—the victim, her husband, and their sleeping seven-year-old son, Chip.

The Press learned that the "tip" obtained by Danaceau was the statement of a woman in a West Virginia institution. She claimed knowledge that "someone else" had dropped in at the Sheppard home on the murder night after Mr. and Mrs. Don Ahern, earlier visitors, had left.

Police were seeking to locate the "someone else" she identified for questioning.

The informant, identified as a former "call girl," said the mysterious visitor was the operator of a

Cleveland vice racket. She suggested that he was known to both the Sheppards.

Danaceau held an emergency conference this morning with Safety Director John McCormick and Chief Story, requesting that homicide detectives be assigned to the reopened inquiry. They then consulted Mayor Celebrezze, who announced the refusal.

Danaceau then announced that Sheriff Joseph Sweeney would assign deputies to work on the case.

"It's repugnant to me to see any innocent person convicted of anything," Chief Story declared. "I'd go out on my own time and exert every effort to

Turn to Page 9, Column 1

Cress 10-30-56

# Danaceau Reopens Dr. Sheppard Case

(Continued from Page 1)

clear anyone who might have been falsely convicted.

"But this lead is no better or worse than any of 65 others we've investigated thoroughly."

Celebrezze said the city of Cleveland had not yet been paid by Bay Village for the work of the Police Department in investigating earlier phases of the Sheppard murder case.

"In view of our manpower shortage," he said, "no member of the Cleveland Police Department will be assigned to an investigation outside our own jurisdiction."

Danaceau said the "reopening" followed a telephone call he received last week.

As a result of the call, he said, he was out of town from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m. last Friday, "visiting a neighboring state and interviewing some

people."

"The people I talked to had nothing to do with the original investigation or the trial," he said. "They gave me information of a very serious nature which warrants further investigation."

Danaceau insisted that the new information might "help us to get the truth of what really happened on the murder night."

Detectives who worked on the case informally discounted the "new information."

There was a direct clash of opinions between Danaceau and the Homicide Squad over the significance of the woman's statement.

The detectives refused to give it credence. Danaceau insisted that it "deserves further investigation."

"And it will be investigated," Danaceau said.

He dismissed as "nonsense" the suggestion that he would permit politics to influence his judgment as a public official.

Fred W. Garmone, Dr. Sam's associate defense counsel, announced that he was "ready to assist Danaceau in his investigation, and cooperate with him to the fullest extent."

"We're even willing to share the expenses," Garmone said. "We are still fully convinced that Sam is innocent, and time will eventually prove him so."

### Lawyer Uninformed

William J. Corrigan, Dr. Sam's chief defense counsel, said he was uninformed about the new development.

Corrigan recalled that, during the earlier investigation, a Garfield Heights woman



PROSECUTOR SAUL DANACEAU (left) conferred today with Sheriff Joe Sweeney and Deputy Sheriff Dave Yettra on the "reopened" Dr. Sam investigation.

had come to him with a story about having been driven to the vicinity of the Sheppard home on the tragic Fourth of July by a man who picked her up in a bar.

She said the man had gone into what might have been the Sheppard home, and come out "with blood on his shirt." He identified the informant as a drug addict.

"I turned her statement over to the police," Corrigan said, "but nothing ever came of it."