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PRESS 7-9-54

Dr. Sheppard's Statement Issued to Answer Gossip

Conscious that he is the subject of intense gossip throughout Greater Cleveland, Dr. Samuel Sheppard decided to make a public statement of "where I stand in this case."

His statement included the \$10,000 reward offer for "the arrest and conviction of the murderer of my wife."

When the statement was typed by clerks at Bay View Hospital, Dr. Sheppard examined it carefully and signed each copy. The copies were then distributed by his attorney, William J. Corrigan, to reporters. Here is the text:

"Since Sunday morning I have been confined to bed except for the time when I was taken to my wife's funeral.

"I was severely injured when I was attacked by the person who murdered my wife, and I am still suffering from shock and pain.

"I learned after I returned from my wife's funeral yesterday that the report has been widely circulated that I have refused to talk about my wife's murder.

"I have never refused to talk to any authorities and give them all the information I could.

"I have related the incidents as nearly as I could remember them to the mayor of the city of Bay Village, to the police of that city, to detectives from the Cleveland Police Department, and have answered the questions of the county coro-

ner and the detective from the county sheriff's office.

"I have told them all I can now recollect.

"Any restrictions that have been made on questioning by

the authorities have not been made by me. They were made by the doctors who have been attending me.

"I have lived an honorable

life. I have, with my family, authorized my attorneys to post a reward of \$10,000 for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of my wife."