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54/12/22 Mayor Calls Sheppard Trial Fair, Says Verdict Was Justified by Evidence

Cleveland Plain Dealer

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Mayor Calls Sheppard Trial Fair, Says Verdict Was Justified by Evidence

'Justice Prevailed,' McArthur Declares

Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze, the man responsible for Cleveland police taking full charge of the Sheppard murder case, is completely satisfied with the verdict of second-degree murder.

"I feel," Cleveland's mayor said last night, "that the defendant received a fair trial and that the verdict is justified by the evidence presented."

"I especially would like to commend the Cleveland police department for its fine work in investigating the murder and in preparing the case for trial."

Similar satisfaction was expressed by Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, Cleveland detective chief who spearheaded the probe.

"Justice prevailed," McArthur

and justified by the evidence," said the suburban chief.

Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay could not be reached immediately for comment. At his home it was reported he was "out Christmas shopping."

Reaction of the residents of the quiet, far westerly suburb of Cleveland was much like that of persons everywhere who had watched with intense interest the developments in the spectacular murder case.

Some of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's friends and neighbors who from the fatal July 4 had been convinced of his innocence remained unswayed by the jury's decision.

Others, who had believed he was guilty or who had tried to keep their minds open on the subject until the jury acted, asserted they were "satisfied."



FIELD MARSHAL of the police investigation which resulted in a guilty verdict was Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, chief of Cleveland detectives.

asserted. "I am satisfied with the verdict."

"I would also like to convey my appreciation of the sacrifices made by the 12 jurors during the nine and a half weeks the trial lasted."

Commends Prosecution

"I wish to commend my detectives for their fine investigative work and the prosecutor's office for excellent trial work."

Another official voice quick to line up in support of the verdict was Police Chief John P. Eaton of Bay Village.

"I feel that the verdict is