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Press 5-10-55

State Pledges to Keep Case of Sam Open

By TOM BRADY

Dr. Stephen Sheppard, loyal brother of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, has won this unique commitment from the Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office:

Although the state's attorneys remain convinced that Dr. Sam bludgeoned Marilyn Reese Sheppard to death last July 4, they will continue to investigate all "new angles" and fresh evidence.

The promise was obtained by Dr. Steve in a dramatic two-hour session with Assistant Prosecutors Saul S. Danaceau and Thomas J. Parrino at the Criminal Courts Bldg. yesterday afternoon.

It came as Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin was rejecting Dr. Sam's plea for a new trial on the grounds of "new evidence" presented by Prof. Paul L. Kirk of the University of California.

Having visited Dr. Sam in his fourth floor cell, Dr. Steve impulsively stopped off at the prosecutor's office on his way out of the building.

Dr. Steve quoted Dr. Sam as saying:

"I don't know how long it will take—it may be 10 years or 20 years before I get out—but I'll find the person who killed Marilyn. I'll never stop trying . . ."

The convicted osteopath's older brother argued that Kirk

Prof. Kirk hits judge's ruling. Page 2.

had definitely proven that "the real killer" was left-handed. He identified a Bay Village man—"completely cleared" by the authorities—as "starting a motor boat left-handed, although he writes right-handed."

"I'm convinced that Sam is innocent," Dr. Steve said. "You are apparently convinced that he's guilty."

"That's right," Danaceau replied.

The prosecutor added: "We're not here to get convictions at any price. Our object is to see that justice is done. If anything turns up which can change our firm belief in your brother's guilt, we're willing to consider it. But nothing of the sort has been presented."

Danaceau and Parrino insisted that the Cleveland Police Department had made a thorough investigation of all aspects of the murder of Marilyn Sheppard, and had not—as Dr. Steve claimed—"bungled" the case.