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57/07/22 Judge Blythin Alarmed Over Magazine's Lie Test for Dr. Sam

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Judge Blythin Alarmed Over Magazine's Lie Test for Dr. Sam

Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin, who presided at the 10-week trial of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, is alarmed by the recent turn in the case.

He feels strongly that public confidence in the police and courts might be shaken if a murder case were "re-opened" by a lie detector test given by men chiefly interested in boosting a magazine's circulation — after the

U. S. Supreme Court had affirmed a conviction.

Blythin wrote out a statement of his position.

"This," he said, "is all I will have to say publicly about the matter, but I want my position to be perfectly clear."

Blythin's statement follows:

"This is my first public utterance on the Sheppard case since the trial, with the exception of two speeches to groups of judges, lawyers and their ladies on the procedure followed and the interesting incidents of the trial. News-men were present at both meetings.

"A new turn has developed. There can be no challenge to the right of the public officials to do the things which are apparently to be done, but there can be a very serious challenge to their propriety and ethics.

"Without discussing actual

guilt or innocence, the fact is that a jury, a Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Ohio have established and confirmed the defendant's guilt under our system of jurisprudence.

"The Supreme Court of the United States has refused to review the matter.

Called Fantastic

"Now, a group of purely private individuals, who are not even citizens of our state, and who have no evidence to offer, are appearing in the interest of increasing the circulation of a monthly magazine and are permitted inside the Ohio Penitentiary to meddle with a prisoner law-

fully imprisoned and all, seemingly without prior consultation with any of the authorities who have the responsibilities involved in the prosecution of the case.

"The entire performance is nothing short of fantastic.

"I believe the attorney general of Ohio should immediately take steps in the name of the state to deny to any individuals or group the right or privilege to designate himself or themselves as a court of last resort or court under any other name in Ohio.

"We have only those courts established under our Constitution and laws. To come in as a court of last resort after

the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Supreme Court of the United States have acted is to place itself above those two courts."

The Hall