



[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

7-23-1957

57/07/23 Bar Raps O'Neill's "Mistake" on Sam

Cleveland Press

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!



Bar Raps O'Neill's "Mistake" on Sam

By BILL TANNER

Leaders of the Cleveland Bar Assn. today described as "an unfortunate mistake" and a "danger to judicial procedure" Governor O'Neill's original decision to allow Dr. Sam Sheppard to undergo a lie-detector test.

They commended Gov. O'Neill for his later action in reversing himself.

The executive committee of the bar met this afternoon to discuss a protest to the governor on the ill-fated lie test which was to have been administered by Argosy magazine's "Court of Last Resort."

"Allowing that magazine group to come into the state was an implication that the administration of justice has broken down in this county," said L. B. Davenport, a former president of the bar.

He is not a member of the bar's committee but requested the meeting to be called "to support Judge Edward N. Blythin and to inform the public."

Called Fantastic

"Judge Blythin called it fantastic and it was," said Davenport. "I followed the Sheppard trial closely and feel every deference was made to Dr. Sheppard.

"I'm a little sick of people coming in from the outside and making it appear that we don't give the accused an even or better break—which we do."

Davenport said he was at a loss to explain O'Neill's reasons for authorizing the test in the first place. Several members of the bar's executive committee felt the same way.

Opposes Outsiders

"I'm a Republican and so is the governor," said J. Milton Costello. "He's a good attorney and former attorney general. I can't imagine what got into him. He must have gotten some poor advice."

Costello said "there are plenty of legal methods to



L. B. DAVENPORT, attorney, calls Sheppard lie-detector test a "danger to judicial procedure."

bring new evidence before a court—there is no need for an outside group to come into the state."

J. Walter Stewart, past president of the Bar Assn., said he is most disturbed by the "affect on the administration of justice that a thing like this can have. People become aroused when a man has been convicted in the courts through due process and then a private organization steps in."

He said he considers the name "The Court of Last Resort" as "presumptuous, heinous and misleading to the public."