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Press 3-31-64

Ohio to Fight Dr. Sam's Bid for Hypnosis

The state plans to oppose Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard's petition to the Ohio Supreme Court demanding he be allowed to undergo hypnosis in an effort to prove his innocence of murder.

Attorney George H. Faust applied to the court in Columbus yesterday for a writ of mandamus ordering Maury C. Koblentz, state corrections chief, to permit such an examination.

Governor DiSalle previously refused permission, saying it would "establish a dangerous precedent."

Prison officials say allowing such a test would open the way for other convicts to ask similar treatment, and would nullify the finality of court conviction.

Faust said a hypnotic examination by Dr. William J. Bryan Jr. of Los Angeles would help Sheppard recall events at the time of his wife's murder in their Bay Village home.

These recollections, he maintains, might help prove the prisoner innocent. The doctor is serving a life sentence for the slaying.

Koblentz said he didn't believe the prison administration has the authority to permit the test.