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9-13-1954

54/09/13 Corrigan will call jury's witnesses

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Cleveland News, "54/09/13 Corrigan will call jury's witnesses" (1954). *All Articles*. 559.

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Corrigan Will Call Jury's Witnesses

MURDER

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Defense Attorney William J. Corrigan said today he would carry out his threat to subpoena state witnesses who testified before the grand jury in his effort to free Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard on bail.

The attorney is seeking to show that the prosecution did not have sufficient evidence to warrant indictment of the Bay Village osteopath for the first degree murder of his wife, Marilyn.

Among grand jury witnesses, on whose testimony the indictment was based, were Homicide Detectives Robert Schottke and Patrick Gareau, and Bay Village officers.

Common Pleas Judge Edward

Blythin warned Corrigan that if he subpoenaed grand jury witnesses to a bail bond hearing they could not reveal what had transpired in the grand jury room.

Prosecutors said that Corrigan was "merely looking for information," and that his fight for bail for his client is "diversionary."

Judge Blythin recessed the bail hearing until next Friday at 9:15 a. m., because of previous court commitments.

Corrigan also insisted to police that they should return a psychopathic prisoner being held in Trenton, N. J., on an auto theft charge, for questioning here in

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the July 4 bludgeon slaying of Marilyn Sheppard.

The prisoner, Billy O. Williams, 27, is alleged to have confided to Dr. Stephen Sheppard brother of Dr. Sam, that "deep down in my mind I'm sure I did it," when asked if he killed Mrs. Sheppard.

Capt. David E. Kerr, head of the homicide bureau, said Williams was mentally unbalanced and was apparently trying to avoid extradition to Florida where he is wanted on a kidnaping charge.

After a conference between Kerr and Assistant Prosecutor John Mahon it was decided to send Detective Patrick Gareau to Trenton to interrogate the prisoner.

Meanwhile, Ralph Rudd, chairman of the Cleveland Civil Liberties Union, charged today that Dr. Sheppard's civil rights are being endangered by publicity given the murder case.

Rudd implied that the wide publicity given the spectacular murder case indirectly imposed "pressure" upon members of the County Grand Jury who "would have to explain and justify" their action to friends and neighbors.

"And in view of the newspapers' insistence upon Dr. Sheppard's guilt, arrest and indictment, in view of the fact that nearly everyone in Cleveland has been talking about the case, and in view of the general belief in the suspect's guilt, how could the grand jurors have escaped a feeling that they must indict?", Rudd declared.