

# Officer Who Pursued Clues on 'Son of Sam' Facing Police Charges

By LEONARD BUDER

The Bronx detective whose activities helped spark speculation that David R. Berkowitz, the so-called "Son Of Sam" murderer, might have had an accomplice when he killed some of his victims, will face departmental disciplinary charges because of his actions in that case.

The detective, Henry Cinotti of the 44th Detective Squad, has been placed on "modified assignment" pending a department hearing. Officers on modified assignment do not carry guns or shields and perform mainly clerical duties.

Deputy Chief Edwin T. Dreher, commander of Bronx detectives, said that the investigation into the possibility that Mr. Berkowitz had an accomplice had been concluded several weeks ago without uncovering any such evidence.

Detective Cinotti could not be reached for comment. Another detective in the squad said he was on vacation.

Mr. Berkowitz, who was arrested outside his Yonkers apartment on Aug. 10, 1977, had told the police that he acted alone when he killed six women and wounded seven other persons with a .44-caliber revolver over a one-year period. He is now in the State Correctional Facility at Attica.

## Officials Have Been Skeptical

Although the specific charges against the detective have not yet gone through departmental channels and consequently are not a matter of public record at this time, department sources said that police authorities were displeased and embarrassed by the way Detective Conotti handled the investigation. From the start, police officials have been skeptical that Mr. Berkowitz had an accomplice.

One sore point reportedly involved a trip by Detective Cinotti to Minot, N.D., to inquire into the possibility of a link between Mr. Berkowitz and the late John Carr.

John Carr, who was 31 years old when he died of gunshot wounds in Minot in February 1978, was the son of Sam Carr, a Yonkers neighbor of Mr. Berkowitz. Mr. Berkowitz, who did not personally know Sam Carr, had referred to the older Carr as his "master" who spoke to him through a dog and ordered him to kill.

Last October, after a number of published reports appeared, police officials acknowledged they were looking into the possibility of an accomplice.

At that time sources in the Queens District Attorney's office also indicated that that office was investigating such a possibility. But a spokesman for District Attorney John J. Santucci subsequently said that the inquiry had produced nothing to support the theory of an accomplice.