

# Detective Fined For His Inquiry On 'Son of Sam'

By LEONARD BUDER

A Bronx detective who investigated whether David R. Berkowitz, the so-called "Son of Sam" murderer, had an accomplice has been fined 30 days of vacation time and placed on disciplinary probation for a year for violating Police Department regulations in connection with his investigation last year.

The penalties were imposed on Detective Henry Cinotti by Police Commissioner Robert J. McGuire, on the recommendation of Arnold N. Kriss, the deputy commissioner for trials, who presided over the detective's departmental hearing. Detective Cinotti, the recipient of 17 departmental awards and commendations during 17 years on the force, had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

In his report to the Commissioner, Mr. Kriss held that Mr. Cinotti had refused to reveal the source of his information in the inquiry to his commanding officer and also had given a "false and misleading" response to his superior. The detective also was said to have given confidential information to a reporter. Mr. Cinotti testified at his trial that the reporter actually was his source of information.

The detective's activities had prompted a secret Police Department re-investigation — conducted virtually entirely by Mr. Cinotti — into the accomplice theory. The new investigation was carried out despite the skepticism and even some embarrassment on the part of many department officials and others who regarded the case as closed.

## Berkowitz Admitted Killings

Last January, Deputy Chief Edwin T. Dreher, commander of Bronx detectives, said the investigation had been concluded without evidence that Mr. Berkowitz had an accomplice when he killed six persons with a .44-caliber revolver in 1976 and 1977. Mr. Berkowitz pleaded guilty to six counts of murder and is now in the state prison at Attica.

During his investigation, Detective Cinotti traveled to Minot, N.D., to look into a possible link between Mr. Berkowitz and the late John Carr. Mr. Carr, who died of gunshot wounds in Minot in February 1978, was the son of Sam Carr, a Yonkers neighbor of Mr. Berkowitz.

Mr. Berkowitz, who was not personally acquainted with Sam Carr, had referred to the elder Mr. Carr as his "master" who spoke to him through a dog and ordered him to kill.

Mr. Kriss was critical of Mr. Cinotti's actions in connection with the trip, including traveling with Maury Terry, a reporter for the Gannett organization's newspapers in Westchester County. Mr. Kriss said that Mr. Terry had actually taken part in the interviews in Minot.

Mr. Cinotti could not be reached for comment yesterday.