

Bayles Murder Probe Unflagging

"I still think of my own son, 10 years old, pat him on the head, and sadly reflect what type of mind it would take to kill and stab repeatedly a boy of that age.

"I just don't understand it."

That was the almost tearful reflection of Lt. Joseph G. McAtee of the Indianapolis Police Department's homicide branch at the thought of the stabbing murder of 10-year-old Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles.

"I just can't understand it," he repeated, "and I wonder what that boy went through from when he was kidnaped until he was dragged from a car on that Henry County road."

Conferring with Deputy Chief Ralph F. Lumpkin and homicide Capt. Raymond A. Koers yesterday, McAtee said they had concluded the man hours in the investigation, concern from the public and the effect of making the public aware of the type of crime, make the Oct. 3 murder the biggest case in recent history.

LUMPKIN said the early morning murder has prompted one of the city's most intensive investigations of any homicide.

"As long as we have one shred of information to check,

the investigation will be intensified and detectives will be assigned full time to the case," he promised.

"The whole department is dedicated to apprehending the killer of this young boy," Lumpkin said. "It was such a vicious crime."

McATEE, a longtime homicide investigator, said 194 possible suspects have been checked and cleared by city and state police since Mike's murder.

He said the information was obtained from police informers, letters to the homicide branch, telephone calls, information gathered by detectives, and a check of known sex offenders.

Police still have not determined a motive for the slaying but believe it was a sex offense.

McAtee repeated Lumpkin's pledge of diligence in the investigation, and said more than 100 policemen have worked on their own time and he hoped any person with information would notify the department.

Meanwhile, homicide Sgt. Robert J. Tirmenstein, and

Turn to Page 4, Column 1