

Bayles Case Suspect's Return Expected Today

By WILLIAM E. ANDERSON

Robert E. Schmidt is expected to be returned to Indianapolis today from Phoenix, Ariz., to face criminal charges in the kidnap-slaying of Jerry M. (Mike) Bayles, 10-year-old paper carrier.

Schmidt, an indicted criminal sexual psychopath who escaped from Central State Hospital Oct. 10, will waive extradition and return with a team of Indianapolis and state police detectives, according to Charles E. (Northside Charlie) Johnson, Indianapolis attorney.

Johnson will represent Schmidt, the attorney advised Marion County Prosecutor Noble R. Percy.

Johnson told Percy that Schmidt was to make no statement to detectives except in Johnson's presence.

INVESTIGATORS believe they have sufficient evidence for an indictment against Schmidt, although the investigation will continue, Indianapolis police

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Capt. Raymond J. Koers of the homicide branch said.

Indianapolis Police Homicide Detective Sgt. Robert J. Tirmenstein, State Police Sgt. Martin W. Werling and Sgt. Keith Young, a state police crime laboratory expert, arrived yesterday afternoon at Phoenix.

The suspect, 47, was arrested in his apartment there late Monday.

DEPUTY Police Chief Ralph F. Lumpkin said investigators last week received "vital" information that put them back on the trail of Schmidt, who had been a suspect shortly after Mike Bayles was slain. The boy was kidnaped and slain Oct. 3 as he started delivering *The Indianapolis Star* on the Westside.

Schmidt's name was originally brought up on Oct. 5 following a meeting of state police and Indianapolis investigators. State Police Sgt. Robert E. Burcham was assigned to check on Schmidt and other criminal sexual psychopaths at Central State.

HOWEVER, Capt. Robert K. Gray, head of the state police criminal investigations division, said police were told that Schmidt, on a work-release program during the summer, had been removed from the program for "violations of the terms" of the program.

And although Schmidt occasionally was given a weekend furlough, hospital records showed that he had not been on furlough during the week of Oct. 3, Gray declared.

Schmidt was not ruled out as a suspect, Gray said, but the information discouraged police from probing too much further into that aspect of the case.

AFTER the suspect escaped from the hospital, it was learned from hospital authorities that Schmidt could have been missing earlier from the grounds up to eight hours without being detected.

That information, coupled with the facts that the abduction of Mike took place across the street from the

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