

Noguchi's Attorney Asks for All Particulars on County Charges

3-11-69 L.A. Times

Exhaustive information on the county's suspension of Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, chief medical examiner-coroner, was sought Monday by his attorney, David S. Smith.

In a letter to L. S. Hollinger, county chief administrative officer, and County Counsel John D. Maharg, Smith asked for:

The name, address and telephone number of each person who has supplied information concerning Dr. Noguchi.

Copies of written documents pertaining to these persons and contents of oral communications pertaining to them.

Copies of written documents received from Dr. Noguchi relating to charges against him.

Copies of all documents Hollinger and Maharg have prepared, have used or intend to use concerning Dr. Noguchi.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to act today on Hollinger's formal charges against Dr. Noguchi

but Hollinger said Monday that he and Maharg may not have them completed this morning.

The board suspended the coroner from his \$31,104-a-year post for 30 days last Tuesday after Hollinger in a brief summary accused him of behaving erratically, threatening subordinates with bodily injury and forcing them to perform demeaning chores.

The suspension of Dr. Noguchi took place after he withdrew his resignation, submitted a week earlier but never formally accepted by the supervisors.

If the supervisors vote to discharge the coroner, he will have 10 days to request a hearing before the three-member County Civil Service Commission. The only appeal from a commission decision is in the courts.

Besides Smith, Dr. Noguchi earlier had retained attorneys Herman F. Selvin and Frank F. Chuman to represent him. Monday he added another, Godfrey Isaac of Beverly Hills.