

# Civil Service Hearing for Noguchi Demanded

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Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi's attorney Monday demanded that the County Civil Service Commission hold a public hearing on charges which led the Board of Supervisors to fire the coroner last Tuesday.

"Members of the Board of Supervisors have publicly questioned his sanity and mental competence, well knowing that they were not qualified to make such comments, based upon hearsay and without any examination," attorney Godfrey Isaac stated in his formal petition.

Referring to the lengthy charges by L. S. Hollinger, county chief administrative officer, relayed through the Board of Supervisors to Dr. Noguchi, Isaac said the pathologist denies every allegation.

## By-Pass Charged

He has excellent education, training and experience, Isaac said, and was appointed through the Civil Service merit system "even though certain special interest groups wanted to by-pass regular channels to favor a man of their own choosing."

Isaac said he was referring to efforts by the USC and UCLA medical schools, with County Medical Assn. support, to eliminate Dr. Noguchi from consideration when

he was named coroner in 1967.

The Civil Service Commission will consider Isaac's petition at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

It is required by law to schedule a public hearing and probably will fix a date six or eight weeks ahead.

Isaac said a conservative estimate would be that the hearing will last two weeks.

## Distortion Claimed

He called the county allegations "distorted, discriminatory and untrue" and demanded that Dr. Noguchi be reinstated.

"He was discharged without being given the opportunity to prove the charges false," the petition said.

Isaac said the supervisors were "well aware" that the coroner's facilities are inadequate and poorly equipped, while Dr. Noguchi has repeatedly demanded modernization.

In a countercharge, Isaac accused the Board of Supervisors and Hollinger of being "derelict in their duty" to provide adequate facilities.

He said they sought to disguise their failure to act in the public interest by discharging the coroner.