

# Kennedy News

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## Hit Noguchi, Witness Says

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A stunned Coroner Thomas T. Noguchi blurted "Oh, no!" when informed by telephone last June that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had been shot, it was testified at Noguchi's dismissal hearing Thursday.

The witness, coroner's aide Thelma Graham Clark, added that Noguchi told her to "keep me informed."

When Mrs. Clark learned later from Good Samaritan Hospital that the senator had died, the witness told the County Civil Service Commission hearing in the County Administration Building, she again telephoned Noguchi to pass on this information.

Noguchi's counsel, Godfrey Isaac, asked Mrs. Clark what the coroner's reaction was then.

### Normal Response

She replied it was "the normal response of a doctor... one of resignation" and that he told her he would "take care of it."

Mrs. Clark, an employe of the coroner's office for eight years, was called as a witness by Noguchi's lawyer.

Previous witnesses, all called to testify against Noguchi, asserted that Noguchi had expressed hope that Kennedy would die so that the coroner would receive international recognition for performing the autopsy.

They also testified that Noguchi had expressed sa-

tisfaction over helicopter and airliner crashes and had said that more were needed.

But Mrs. Clark said that she observed "shock" in Noguchi as his reaction to disasters.

### Kind Treatment

She testified that she never saw Noguchi take pills, never heard him swear or threaten anyone and that she never noticed any racial prejudice or erratic behavior on his part.

Mrs. Clark said Noguchi always treated her and other employes in the office with kindness.

Isaac told the commission he plans to call "a minimum of 50" witnesses from the coroner's staff to testify to Noguchi's competence.

Earlier, Dep. County Counsel Martin Weekes explored the possibility of whether Noguchi had enough knowledge about psychiatry and drugs to bluff his way through a series of psychiatric tests.

### Found Normal

Weekes recalled for further cross-examination Dr. Frederick J. Hacker, a Beverly Hills psychiatrist who testified Monday that he found Noguchi normal after examining him.

Weekes asked Hacker if, during his examination, he asked Noguchi whether he had any psychiatric training during his medical course at the University of Nippon in Japan or later during his internship.

Hacker replied that he had asked Noguchi if he studied psychiatry in medical school and that Noguchi replied that he had taken one course in psychiatry.

The deputy county counsel asked Hacker if he had inquired of Noguchi whether he had had any previous psychiatric examination.

"I asked him if he had ever had any psychiatric treatment, and he answered no," Hacker said.

"Did you specifically ask

Dr. Noguchi whether he had a psychiatric examination before yours?" Weekes asked.

"No," the psychiatrist replied.

Responding to questions by Isaac, Dr. Hacker said he found Noguchi "an extremely dedicated individual" who may have been "over zealous" in his "large plans for helping mankind."

The hearing will continue at 9:30 a.m. today in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room in the Hall of Administration.