

# Hahn Assails Long Hearing for Noguchi

The length of the County Civil Service Commission hearing on the discharge of Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, chief medical examiner-coroner, was criticized Tuesday by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Hahn spoke when Supervisor Burton W. Chace moved for a 25-day extension of the 96-day limit on the payment of \$100 a day to each of the three commission members for attendance at regular meetings and employe appeal hearings each year.

Chace pointed out that one of the commissioners already had used up his 1969 time.

Hahn criticized "time-delaying motions" in the Noguchi hearing which began May 12, and said, "It is getting to be just like the Sirhan B. Sirhan trial."

"I wonder if the Dr. Noguchi hearings are being purposely prolonged and delayed," Hahn added.

County Counsel John D. Maharg said there was no reason to penalize the commission for "the verbosity of counsel."

When Chairman Ernest

E. Debs asked if Noguchi's attorney will call 80 witnesses, Maharg commented that the commission can control testimony if it becomes repetitious.

"It appears to me they are dragging this case on," Hahn said. "I hope this isn't just getting to be a filibuster . . . I'm concerned about the delay."

Debs and Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli said the ousted coroner is entitled to his "full day" before the commission. Hahn agreed that he will be permitted all the time needed.

Chace's motion to extend the time limit on commissioners' pay was passed without objection to be effective in the year 1969 only.

The Noguchi hearing recessed Tuesday, will resume at 9:30 a.m. today in the Hall of Administration.