

## 2 Policemen Face Trial in Gun Death

Charge Involuntary  
Manslaughter in  
Reporter Killing

WED MAY 6 1964  
Complaints charging involuntary manslaughter were issued Tuesday against two Long Beach detectives for the "horseplay" slaying of a Long Beach newsman.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Manley J. Bowler said he decided to prosecute Creighton Wiggins Jr., 29, and Errol F. Greenleaf, 32, on the basis of his investigation and a coroner's jury verdict.

Both were arraigned later and ordered back to Long Beach Municipal Court May 29 for a preliminary hearing before Judge Merrill Lilley.

The jury ruled Monday that the fatal shooting of William B. Hunter, 35, Long Beach independent reporter, was involuntary manslaughter and both officers were accountable.

### Death in Pressroom

Hunter was killed instantly by a bullet from Wiggins' gun as he sat in the police headquarters pressroom.

Wiggins and Greenleaf, it was testified, were playing a game of "cops and robbers" when the accident occurred.

Bowler called the episode an example of "extreme, gross negligence" and commented that everyone, particularly police officers, should exercise care in the handling of firearms.

The two detectives were dismissed from the force after the coroner's jury returned its verdict.

Wiggins, however, refused to accept the dismissal notice served on him late Monday, according to the city manager's office, saying he already had submitted his resignation.

Long Beach Police Chief William J. Mooney said he received Wiggins' resignation in the mail Tuesday morning.

It will be turned over to the city's Civil Service Commission. Wiggins has until May 11 to appeal his dismissal before the commission.