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L.A. Coroner's 'MD' Called Fraud

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LOS ANGELES — (AP) — A man who worked as a deputy Los Angeles County medical examiner for 3½ years has neither a medical degree nor a physician's license, authorities say.

Donald Angus Stuart, 50, was scheduled for arraignment today on one count of perjury and two misdeanor violations of the state Business and Professions Code.

He was arrested yesterday morning when he reported for work.

An Illinois physician's license Stuart listed when he applied for the job on the county coroner's staff was actually issued to a doctor in 1914, officials said.

They said although Stuart claimed to have both law and medical degrees from the University of London earned between 1939 and 1946, the school could not find any trace of him even having attended classes, said Deputy District Aottrney Ralph Mayer.

Coroner Thomas Noguchi said an investigation was prompted recently when Stuart, on the coroner's staff since July 1, 1968, failed to apply for a California license to practice medicine despite repeated requests from his superiors.

Authorities said the felony perjury charge stems from testimony given by Stuart in Civil Service Commission hearings on the dismissal of Noguchi in 1969 since Stuart claimed himself to be an expert medical witness.

Stuart testified against Noguchi, describing him as unstable. But Noguchi was reinstated.

Mayer said an investigation which is not yet complete also makes it "appear that Stuart did practice medicine" as an anesthesiologist in Chicago, Freeport, Bahamas, and in Florida without a license.

Records also show that he served on the staff of the Buffalo (N.Y.) General Hospital from 1954 to 1957.