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NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM

Won't Request Aides to Stay, Coroner Says

The newly appointed Orleans Parish coroner says that he considers as final the decision of the four assistants who sent him a letter of resignation this week.

Dr. Carl H. Rabin, who was appointed coroner by Gov. John J. McKeithen last week, said he will not ask the four assistants to reconsider, as he had previously announced he would.

Dr. Rabin also met with the staff of the coroner's office yesterday and assured them that their jobs were secure.

THE FOUR assistants who resigned are Dr. Ignacio Medina Jr., Dr. S. K. Kepner, Dr. Gerald D. Martin and Dr. Lloyd LoCascio. In their letter of resignation they charged that Dr. Rabin's appointment was politically motivated.

They also charged that the governor ignored the traditional line of succession in the coroner's office.

Dr. Medina had been serving as acting coroner since May 25, when Dr. Nicholas Chetta died. Dr. Chetta had been parish coroner since 1950. The four assistants favored Dr. Medina for the post.

DR. RABIN, who underwent eye surgery last week, said he will take over his duties after Labor Day.

He said the four assistants will be in charge of the office until their resignations become effective, midnight, Aug. 31.

Doctors and attorneys, Dr. Rabin said, are now in the process of searching for replacements for the four assistants. The new assistants will be "good, experienced and capable physicians," he said.



DR. CARL H. RABIN

DR. RABIN HAS denied that his appointment was made because of political pressure and said it was made fairly.

The coroner's office, Dr. Rabin said, will not be overloaded with work because of the departure of the four assistants. He said most of the autopsies are performed by the pathologists, none of whom resigned.

"This is a well-run office," he said, "and I intend to keep it that way."

Dr. Rabin said staff morale is high and he would not try to replace anyone.

"They're doing a good job and I'd be foolish to replace them," he said.