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## Coroner Role Investigative, Says Medina

The entire thrust of the office of coroner should be investigative, according to Dr. Ignacio Medina Jr., candidate for the post.

Speaking yesterday at the Press Club of New Orleans, Medina said "the coroner's office doesn't need surgeons, gynecologists and so forth, but it needs someone with forensic experience."

Citing an example of how the office could be misused, Medina said the case of the death of Mary Jo Kopeche case "was horribly mishandled by the coroner, who signed the death certificate without even looking at the body."

**NOW THE CASE** is costing the state of Massachusetts thousands of dollars, he said. If it hadn't been mishandled, "it would have been history by now," Medina added.

Dr. Medina was assistant coroner under Dr. Nicholas J. Chetta from 1950 until last year.

Medina and three other assistant coroners resigned their posts after Dr. Chetta's death in May, 1968. Gov. John J. McKeithen appointed Dr. Carl Rabin to serve as coroner in the interim.

**DR. MEDINA** pledged to carry on the plans for the coroner's office laid out by Dr. Chetta.

He said he is endorsed by the Orleans Parish Medical Society, the Criminal Court judges and the Alliance for Good Government.

Voters should consider the quality rather than the quantity of endorsements, he said.