

Fri., Aug. 1, 1969 ☆☆ San Francisco Chronicle 3

L. A. Coroner**Noguchi Gets
His Job Back****Los Angeles**

Dr. Thomas Noguchi was reinstated yesterday to the post of county coroner, the job he was fired from five months ago amid charges he needed psychiatric care, a settlement.

The Civil Service Commission overruled county supervisors who dropped the pathologist from his \$31,104-a-year post last March 18.

Noguchi said at the end of the hearing he was confident he would get his job back.

The commission heard 21 days of testimony on 60 specific charges against the coroner, five of which were dismissed for lack of evidence. The accusations were some of the most bizarre ever lodged against a public official.

Detailed in a 10-page petter prepared by Lindon S Hollinger, the county administrative officer, they included reports that Noguchi prayed for airplane crashes that would bring glory to the coroner's office and expressed a desire to perform autopsies on county officials, including Hollinger, who were still alive.

Deputy county counsel Martin Weekes charged that as Robert F. Kennedy fought for his life at Good Samari-



DR. THOMAS NOGUCHI
Controversial official

tan Hospital, Noguchi danced in his office in glee and said:

"I am going to be famous. I hope he dies. Because if he dies, then my international reputation will be established."

Isaac blamed many of the allegations on people outside the coroner's office misunderstanding the "graveyard humor" within. He denied all the charges "generally and specifically" and summoned character witnesses to testify on behalf of Noguchi.

United Press

* Godfrey Isaac, Noguchi's lawyer:
see SFEx, this file 31 Jul 69.

NY Times 1 August 1969

**OUSTER OF CORONER
REVERSED ON COAST**

LOS ANGELES, July 31 (UPI)—Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, who supervised the autopsy of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was ordered reinstated today as county coroner, the job from which he was dismissed five months ago.

The Civil Service Commission overruled the county super-

visors, who dismissed Dr. Noguchi March 18, and ordered the Japanese-born pathologist restored to his \$31,104-a-year job with back pay for the last five months.

Dr. Noguchi was accused of having prayed for airplane crashes that would bring glory to the coroner's office and having expressed a desire to perform autopsies on county officials.

Martin Weekes, a deputy county counsel, charged at Dr. Noguchi's hearing that after Senator Kennedy was shot last June, the coroner danced in his office and said in glee:

"I'm going to be famous. I hope he dies. Because if he dies, then my international reputation will be established."

The commission said the county had not produced proof to sustain Dr. Noguchi's dismissal.