



*Delivered
9/1/82*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 3465, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90054

April 16, 1982

Honorable Peter F. Schabarum
Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Ste. 856
Los Angeles, CA 90012

70-1
Dr. Noguchi

Dear Supervisor Schabarum:

With regard to the current situation involving Doctor Thomas T. Noguchi and the office of Chief Medical Examiner-Coronor, the Los Angeles County Medical Association would like to make the following points:

- *It is absolutely essential that Los Angeles County have an independent medical examiner.
- *The Coronor's office must be headed by a highly qualified and thoroughly competent forensic pathologist.
- *The professional competence and qualifications of Doctor Noguchi as a forensic pathologist are not in question.
- *Activities that Doctor Noguchi participated in with this Association have benefited the health and safety of the community, particularly in regard to his assistance in helping develop "Guidelines for Discontinuance of Cardiopulmonary Life Support Systems Under Specified Circumstances," which have received international acclaim.
- *The Life Foundation which Doctor Noguchi founded is a vital resource for development of tissue and organ banks.

We would appreciate it if this information is made part of the record concerning Doctor Noguchi. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Freilich
Michael I. Freilich
President

MIF:gl

cc: Each Supervisor
Executive Officer
Thomas T. Noguchi, M.D.

LAW OFFICES

FILED

ISAAC & MARKS

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
315 SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE
SUITE 300

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90212
(213) 278-1366 AND 879-0105

'82 APR -6 AM 10:13

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

GODFREY ISAAC
ROSALIND MARKS

OF COUNSEL
ROBERT L. MILLER

April 5, 1982

Civil Service Commission
County of Los Angeles
222 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

70-1
Dr. Noguchi

RE: THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, M.D.

Gentlemen:

THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, M.D. hereby appeals his suspension of thirty calendar days, effective as of March 29, 1982. He requests a Hearing before the Civil Service Commission. This appeal is based upon the improper, arbitrary, calculated and discriminatory action of the Board of Supervisors.

When questions were raised about the operation of the office of Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner, the Board asked outside experts to investigate Dr. Noguchi's Department. The Board of Supervisors chose one Chief Medical Examiner out of the many available in the United States. That forensic pathologist, Dr. Leslie Lukash, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner of Nassau County, New York, is a respected professional with impeccable credentials. Dr. Lukash concluded: "The County must realize that, in order to elevate the Coroner's Office to a position of excellence, it must provide the economic support to reassure the Chief Medical Examiner and his staff of its confidence in the existing management team to enable them to carry out the necessary changes. "It is my feeling that Dr. Noguchi, Mr. Wilson, and Dr. Cornbloom (sic.) are doing the best job possible after consideration is given to whatever resources are currently available." (Emphasis added.) Dr. Lukash' report was made available to the Supervisors before they wrongfully suspended Dr. Noguchi. The Grand Jury of Los Angeles County made an independent audit of Dr. Noguchi's department and felt so strongly in support of Dr. Noguchi that they called a press conference to criticize the Board of Supervisors. Several members of the Board then spent "two hours" with grand jury members with the avowed purpose of manipulating the conclusion of the grand jury. Some may interpret that as obstruction of justice.

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Civil Service Commission
County of Los Angeles
April 5, 1982
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The physician staff of Dr. Noguchi overwhelmingly supported him and sent a petition so indicating to the Board of Supervisors. The Board received telegrams and letters supporting Dr. Noguchi. With the above support of Dr. Noguchi from the Board's own chosen expert, the County Grand Jury, the forensic pathologists and others, the Board saw fit to do what it wanted to do and carried out its pre-determined decision and wrongly suspended the Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner. The action of the Board was transparent and improper. This can be characterized by one Supervisor's reported comment on the one week delay of suspending Dr. Noguchi when the Supervisor stated to the press that it would not look good to suspend Dr. Noguchi right after the Grand Jury's publicized support of the Coroner.

On March 12, 1982, Dr. Noguchi was advised, in writing, that the Chief Administrative Officer requested the District Attorney of Los Angeles County "to review the factual material developed from the administrative investigations to determine whether a criminal investigation should be initiated." The District Attorney later reported that the material did not warrant an investigation.

The County attempted to go so far as attempting to prosecute Dr. Noguchi as a criminal merely to try to remove him from office. The reason for the County's improper, insidious and frightening improprieties was that, in truth and in fact, they have no sufficient grounds on which to suspend or discharge Dr. Noguchi. If the merit system and Civil Service are to survive and if the vested rights of Dr. Noguchi are to be protected, the Civil Service Commission must find Dr. Noguchi's suspension to be improper and reinstate him with full back pay. There are those who state that because the Commissioners are appointed by the Supervisors, they will vote with the Board no matter what the evidence proves. We believe that the Civil Service Commission has the capacity to render an independent judgment and will not allow this inequity to exist.

The Board of Supervisors appear to be attempting to invade the independence of the Medical Examiner. They desire to control that office. It is essential to the proper administration of justice that the Chief Medical Examiner not be subject to pressure from politicians. The Coroner must be free to render impartial opinions and to call for inquests where he deems it appropriate and necessary. Politics must be kept scrupulously separate from such

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matters as the death of Ron Settles or the inquest called to investigate the Ben Weingart situation. Political instructions inhibiting the Chief Medical Examiner may constitute obstruction of justice.

Dr. Noguchi responds to the grounds for suspension as follows:

1. His management of the Department has not been deficient. There are many changes that could be made and there are conditions that are correctable with proper funding, personnel and equipment. However, attention is called to the conclusion of Dr. Lukash which the County has in its possession: "Again, I wish to categorically emphasize that the incumbent Chief Medical Examiner and his staff are doing an excellent job in operating the Medical Examiner's Office after recognition is given to the resources available to him at the present time."

2. Dr. Noguchi has had an open relationship with the Chief Administrative Officer and with Supervisor Antonovich to the extent necessary or required. In 1976, Dr. Noguchi requested a management review because there were some problems and he sought assistance. Dr. Noguchi's Department compares favorably with other County Departments.

3. Dr. Noguchi's "outside activities" are matters for which many, including Supervisor Antonovich, who is in charge of the Coroner's office, have highly praised him. Dr. Noguchi has a keen interest in earthquake disaster prevention. In the event of serious earthquake, the work Dr. Noguchi is doing as chairperson of the Coroner's Service Committee of the Governor's Task Force may save literally tens of thousands of lives in Los Angeles County. In that event, he will be a hero. His efforts are to save lives and benefit the living.

Outside activities have always been allowed and were part of the inducement by the County to get first rate physicians and others to work for County pay, which is substantially less than that of private physicians at the same level. The Board, itself, has and does recognize this. To attack Dr. Noguchi for outside activities is an exercise in hypocrisy, while they are ratifying its appropriateness with relation to others.

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Civil Service Commission
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4. Dr. Noguchi is charged with inappropriate delegation of certain functions. To illustrate Dr. Noguchi's so-called "poor judgment" in his choice of Ronald L. Kornblum, M.D. as Chief of the Forensic Medicine Division, the Board has named Dr. Kornblum as acting Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner of Los Angeles County. It would seem that the Board, in fact, approves of Dr. Noguchi's choice. The Chief Deputy Coroner has been Richard Wilson, formerly with the Chief Administrative Officer's department, and his designation was approved by both the Department of Personnel, County Counsel, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors.

5. Dr. Noguchi has rendered some outside services on a fee basis. This has been allowed, and even encouraged, by the County. He was permitted to engage in 24 hours of outside activities, for pay, each week. In any one year, the time which Dr. Noguchi so spent was a fraction of that to which he was entitled. He has continuously reported these activities to the County and they cannot condone and allow it for years and now seek to use it against him.

6. As Chief Medical Examiner - Coroner of Los Angeles County, Dr. Noguchi has had a duty to the public to report on the deaths of prominent movie celebrities. The media interest in such deaths is brought about by public demand to know what caused these tragedies. It is the duty of the Coroner to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding death. The Coroner's report then, by law, becomes public. The news people literally pursue the Coroner for some statement. Failure to make a statement leads to unfounded, incorrect and sometimes unfortunate rumors being circulated. It is the responsibility of the Coroner to determine what he should report. Apparently, the Board does not like and has used as a "charge" statements of Dr. Noguchi characterizing the Board Order about public statements. The Order speaks for itself. The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees free speech. Coroners are not excluded from that constitutional provision.

This letter is not intended to cover every evidentiary detail, but rather as a summary of the basis for Dr. Noguchi's appeal. Obviously, at the Hearing, numerous witnesses and many documents will be involved.

Sincerely,

ISAAC & MARKS
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

By _____
GODFREY ISAAC

LAW OFFICES

ISAAC & MARKS

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Civil Service Commission
County of Los Angeles
April 5, 1982
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Accepted, Approved & Adopted
as Notice of Appeal

THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, M.D.

GI/TN/md

cc: James A. Mize
W. A. Masterson, Esq.

96 Briarwood Terrace
Ventura, California
April 17, 1982

Board of Supervisors
500 St. Temple Street
Los Angeles, California

70-1
Dr. Noguchi
Los Angeles

Dear Sirs:

I have been following the news about Dr. Noguchi with great interest because I would like to tell you about a personal experience some years ago.

He had a very close family friend, Eddie D'Ascoli who lived in a downtown hotel. He was in his seventies, had been a friend of our family for years and because he had no family, he adopted us as his family. At one time he lived in our home for an extended period. Incidentally he was also from our native state of New Jersey where he had buried both his parents in Summit, N.J. and where we were supposed to accompany his body upon his death for burial. The people in the hotel even to the maid was aware of this.

He was a tailor for Louis Rath men's clothing for many years besides his family were nobility of considerable means before coming to this country and he was a man of personal possessions upon his death plus insurance policies and an account at Coast Federal downtown.

We know that we were supposed to be notified in the event of illness or death because he had a will drawn to that effect.

Even after he moved into the hotel, he used to spend weekends and holidays with us and we visited him weekly or whenever we came to Los Angeles for any reason.

We had not heard from him nor been in Los Angeles for a couple of weeks when one day I had an appointment and went to see him. When I knocked on his room the maid was in the hall and was surprised to see me. She asked me "Didn't you know?" I asked her what she meant and she told me that he had been found dead in his room shortly after I was there before. It was a great shock to me and she did not want to say more but advised me to go to the hotel desk where I was told the coroner's office arrived after being notified, sealed the room until they were finished and left a box of "rags" belonging to Eddie for us which they gave me.

I learned through contacting Sr. Nogueira's office that the body was shipped to a mortuary in Summit N. J. for burial and this has always bothered us because it was not the way Eddie wished it. And we have always wondered what happened to his expensive clothing, jewelry, other personal and expensive things as well as his insurance

policies and his account at Coast Federal?

We know these far exceeded the cost of so coldly and cruelly shipping his body to the mortuary in New Jersey without any regard for his personal wishes. There certainly are many unanswered questions. Draw your own conclusions because we certainly have our own. You can imagine what our feelings are about anyone who would handle an elderly persons last wishes so callously.

I'm sure there must be many other cases such as ours over the years and I sincerely hope you take the appropriate action.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,
Mary E. Jackson

Michael K
200 Delta
90731 Ca.

Dear Sirs,

As a tax payer I question all of the publicity and the money spent on the allegation on Thomas Naguchi. Tell me, who is paying for this? I wonder if he isn't being railroaded because top names have stuck their noses where they didn't belong. I would like to know who is running the coroner's office? Naguchi or movie stars?

I feel he has the right to publicize related facts about murders or deaths regardless of the people involved. Would this come about if the people were just ordinary citizens? I certainly hope you are going to be fair in your judgement of this case for I feel the job must be one of the most depressing and thankless professions in our society.

I am sure that not one of
you would trade jobs. I know I
would not!

Respectfully,
Michael A. Dub

CCNY
B

MS 1000 10

Spears,

70-1

The fate of Governor Thomas D. Wignall in your hands; and I hope you, Wignall as the leader of the people of Los Angeles, will make the right decision. It seems to me like Mr. Wignall has indeed done a magnificent job of county governor. The thing that really irked me was when I heard that he spent so much time on his other job. What the hell is our government becoming? Mr. Wignall (along with many other elected officials) spend more time on outside work than they spend time on what we taxpayers are paying them for. I feel it should be a honor to be elected or appointed to a public position and that all else should come second. All of Mr. Wignall's time, and a little extra, should be devoted to serving the people of Los Angeles to the best of his ability. Therefore, I feel Mr. Wignall should be relieved from his duties as governor. Let's get people in those public serving positions who care and want to work for us!

Sincerely,
 Charles W. Stone
 28612 S. W. 10th St.
 54th Ave. N.W., 90132.

William Lindsay
466 N. Central
San Pedro Calif.
90734

78-1

Dear Board of Supervisors,

This letter is concerning the demolition of
demotion of Thomas Hopuchi. The County Coroner
of favors the demolition or dismissal, because if an in-
dividual cannot do his job the way it is supposed
to be done, he should be demoted to a position
which he can handle. Everyone makes mistakes,
but Thomas Hopuchi made some errors that
could have been avoided. ~~The~~

We has a job very important to
society and society expects him to do an
honest job. Thank you for reading my
opinion, and could you please write back
letting me know the decision.

Respectfully Yours,
William D. Lindsay

47-1 Topaz St.
Los Angeles
Calif 90032

Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple St
Los Angeles, Calif
Gentlemen!

70-1
Dr. Noguchi

The council wants to take over the police department and the supervisors want to take over the coroner's office. Somebody evidently wants Mr. Noguchi's head on a platter. He's damned if he reports the results and he's damned if he doesn't.

It seems to me you are bowing to the pressure of a certain vocal group, are those in the entertainment field the "untouchables"? If anyone drinks heavily or uses drugs they must expect to be found out or don't do it. President Reagan's man (Allen) was dismissed and the press admitted they wanted to see if they could get him - and they did!

Incidentally is Mr. Harry Hufford the gentleman who was using the looters to Lacey Hall?

I hope Mr. Noguchi gets a fair shake,
concerned citizens

Mr. & Mr. Raymond Diaz

Dr. Noguchi
March 11, 1982

To whom it may concern -

I may be from Orange County, but I could come and kiss every single one of you for suspending "Fugucci," but 30 days is not long enough, to be it should be permanent. In August ~~of~~ 1975 my father passed away in his home in Branda Hills at 4:45 A.M.; they came and picked up his body at 11:30 A.M. Granted he may of lived in Branda Hills, but isn't he in charge of all coroners offices in Los Angeles & Counties? If it isn't I apologize for my thoughts when it came to the things I said after my fathers death. But I don't apologize for calling him an "egotistical asshole," the man doesn't deserve the position he has held this long. Thank you for letting me speak my mind.

Mrs Nelson

March 10/82

Dr. Noguchi

Pg. 1

I, a private citizen feel the
suspension of Thomas Noguchi as a
set-up against him.

Because of him not going along with
the Board of Supervisors. Who seem
to act or not act, on the Screen Actors
Guild pay so. The Supervisors are
very political, and a pay from a
member of the acting field seems to
make them act!!

Nothing was ever said about Mr.
Noguchi until the deaths of William
Holden, Natalie Wood and now John
Delashy. As it should be, he told
it like it was. Not in a sensationalized
or editorializing manor. But as a
coroner - at a press meeting.

Because he didn't not cover up
evidence, is mainly why he's at this
point (gun point) now.

Freedom of the press - be it bad or good!! Pg. 2

I'm a case with a famous person or a major case. I feel the public has a right to know the truth.

You as Board of Supervisors also must up-hold the truth. I feel at this point you are not, you are listening to Big names, and Big money.

Karen Lawrence

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
BOYD 41 111-1111

385 1176 15 91 22

1117



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

1104 NO. MISSION RD., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner
(213) 226-8021

March 15, 1982

"SERVICE TO THE LIVING"

- Accident and Disease Prevention
- Criminal and Civil Justice
- Scientific Research

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Gentlemen:

7/1/82
Dr. Noguchi

The undersigned Deputy Medical Examiners for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner are convinced that:

1. A personal and professional injustice is being done to Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner in the present proceedings now under way;
2. They constitute a threat to the essence of the Medical Examiner concept, which has long been staunchly advocated by the entire medical profession as a solution to the glaring deficiencies and abuses inherent in the office of the Coroner as once constituted. It attempts to ensure that the performance of duties touching on virtually every aspect of community life will be done not only with the special knowledge of the physician, but will be done as an independent, unbiased, neutral party, free of political influence and manipulation;
3. We know as fact that Dr. Noguchi is a competent Forensic Pathologist and a decent man.

Very truly yours,

Robert V. Bucklin
Robert V. Bucklin, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

Eugene Carpenter
Eugene Carpenter, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

Joseph H. Choi
Joseph H. Choi, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

Joseph Lawrence Cogan, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

Honorable Board of Supervisors

March 15, 1982

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Irwin L. Golden, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

Eva T. Heuser, M.D., Pathologist



Ronald N. Kornblum, M.D., Forensic Pathologist



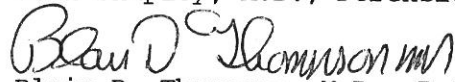
Sara K. Reddy, M.D., Pathologist

Sharon I. Schnittker, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

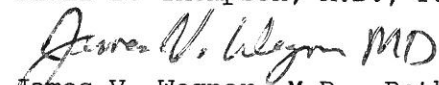


William Sherry, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

Joan Shipley, M.D., Forensic Pathologist

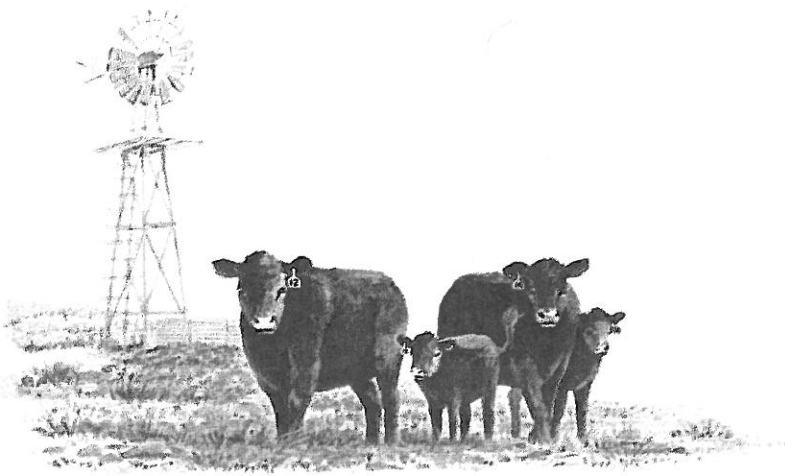


Blair D. Thompson, M.D., Pathologist



James V. Wegner, M.D., Pathologist

EC:mp



RONY RIVER RANCH

Black Angus Locker Beef
Ward Jr. & Val Roney
16819 W. Snoq. Rvr. Rd. N.E.
Duvall, WA. 98019
206-788-1145

Los Angeles Board of
County Supervisors
500 W. Temple
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Dear Board Members:

I am getting more and more distressed at your treatment of Coroner Thomas Noguchi, as reported in the Associated Press & WPI (which I realize are not always factual).

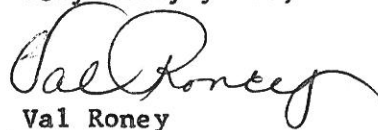
Mr. Noguchi did all of us a big favor by reporting the real cause of the deaths of Bill Holden and Natalie Woods.

The disease of alcoholism and drug abuse are so prevalent in the United States and they are characterized by denial to which you are inadvertently contributing. It doesn't hurt the public to know that alcohol and drug abuse do cause death; in fact, the more it is known, the more inclined many people will be to avoid such abuse.

I hope you'll get off Mr. Noguchi's back and get more supportive of the prevention and education fields. He deserves laudation, not discipline.

I would be very interested in your rebuttal.

Very truly yours,


Val Roney

70-1

