

# Synanon Sees Threat in State Demand

SANTA MONICA—Synanon House may have to close if regulations newly proposed for operation of "places of aid" for narcotics addicts are approved by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

This is the observation of Fred Nicholas, attorney for the controversial beachfront, self-help center for narcotics addicts.

"With one exception the proposed regulations are fair," he declared. "Synanon should have no problem conforming with the majority of the regulations."

## Provision Cited

He pointed out, however, that one requirement would "obviate the need of a 'place of aid' such as Synanon."

The exception, Nicholas said, is the provision that "no resident may be admitted to a place of aid unless he presents a written report certifying that a physician has conducted a physical examination of the resident during the 24-hour period immediately prior to admission, and that in opinion of the physician, the resident is (a) not suffering from withdrawal symptoms, and (b) is not currently addicted to the use of narcotics.

He said Synanon would present evidence on this issue at a public hearing on the regulations, set for 9:30 a.m. March 9 in the State Building, Los Angeles.

## Problem Seen

"If the requirement remains it would mean a user would have to kick the habit without help," he observed. "On the basis of this requirement no addict would be able to come to Synanon for assistance. This is the major problem in the regulations."

Synanon, he stated, realizes that it will have to comply with the regulations as well as with city and county zoning ordinances.

In the meantime a series of discussions between Nicholas and City Atty. Robert Cockins is under way in an effort to reach an amicable solution to the bitter, prolonged battle between the city and Synanon.

The discussions, Nicholas declared, may lead to relocation of the center. He and Cockins will resume their discussions today in an effort to work out a compromise which will prove satisfactory to the city as well as Synanon.

A number of avenues, all of which involve relocation, are under discussions, he said.