

Kusper Aides Testify in Vote Fraud Probe

Two top aides of Stanley P. Kusper Jr., chairman of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, testified yesterday before a federal grand jury investigating vote fraud and a possible conspiracy by board employes to conceal voting irregularities.

"I know nothing," said Mrs. Stephanie Steckl, Kusper's secretary, after she left the grand jury room following her second day of testimony. She said the jurors had treated her "fine," and did not know whether she would be asked to testify again.

Also testifying yesterday was Patrick McCarthy, chief

investigator for the board, who heads an eight-man division budgeted at \$84,000 a year. These investigators, The Tribune has disclosed, never initiate investigations of vote fraud and act only when charges are made by the public or news media.

Eight board employes have been subpoenaed to testify as part of the federal probe initiated by Tribune task force disclosures of vote fraud.