



# U.S. to Widen Vote Probe

BY RONALD YATES  
AND WILLIAM MULLEN

United States Atty. James R. Thompson said yesterday his office will widen its investigation of voting irregularities to include all wards and precincts where evidence compiled by The Chicago Tribune indicates fraud.

Thompson vowed to end the widespread vote fraud as revealed in The Tribune's investigation of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

#### Would Be Ashamed

"Evidence revealed in The Tribune is an indictment of the way elections are held in Cook County—if I ran my office the way [Stanley T.] Kuper runs his," Thompson said in a press conference, "I would be ashamed to hold office."

Documents and other evidence compiled by Tribune Task Force investigators after a four-month fraud investigation have been turned over to Thompson for presentation to a federal grand jury.

Thompson praised The Tribune's investigation of election fraud.

#### Cast Aside Apathy

"Bold investigation and reporting such as this are in the highest traditions of a free, zealous, and crusading press," he said.

"I hope The Tribune's disclosures will spur the citizens of Chicago to cast aside their traditional apathy to vote fraud and corruption," he continued.

"I hope Chicago's citizens will also demand that the election officials of this city redeem the constitutional right of all citizens not only to have their votes validly cast and counted, but to insure that their honest votes are not diluted by those false and fraudulent votes to which no candidate, Republican or Democratic, is entitled."

Thompson said that The Tribune's Task Force reporting team has been working closely with his office since a reporter was placed in the Election Board's office to work undercover.

"The Chicago Tribune, its investigative Task Force headed by George Bliss, and investigative reporter William Mullen are to be congratulated for the journalistic enterprise displayed in the examination and reporting of how the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners conducted the March, 1972, primary election," he said.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, director of Operation PUSH, said yesterday his organization supports a widened federal investigation of the election commission.

#### Known for Long Time

"We have known for a long time the inequities of the electoral system in Chicago," the Rev. Mr. Jackson said, "but The Tribune has provided us with documented proof of what is going on and has made the public aware."

He said the widened investigation should include seizing all records in the Election Board's office for close examination and the suspension of all

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Tribune Photo by James Arato

James Thompson at press conference.



Today's back page and the story in the columns below continue The Tribune's exposure of widespread vote fraud.

A special report on election judges by George Bliss and William Currie, members of The Tribune's Task Force, is on the back page.

# Vote Fraud Disclosures Are Lauded

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board commissioners pending the investigation.

"Since the board is a creature of the court, we recommend that the entire board be put into some sort of receivership so that all records are impounded," he said.

## Suggests Temporary Board

"We further recommend that a temporary board be established to better reflect the population of the city."

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said his group, which has been conducting voter registration drives in the city's predominantly black wards, also has compiled evidence of irregularities in the board's offices. He said he would reveal the evidence at a press conference soon.

## Effect of Crooked Elections

Bernard Carey, Republican candidate for state's attorney in the November election, said The Tribune revelations illustrate how crooked elections affect not just Chicago, but the rest of the county and state.

"The [Tribune] series is recommended reading for suburbanites," Carey said. "You may feel that vote fraud in Chicago where there have always been scandals but never any reform is no concern to you. But you must realize that your vote in a county race is diluted by those stolen in Chicago where the motto is: 'Vote early and often,' and the Democratic Party has their votes counted before the polls open."

He said the polls in Chicago are officially open from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. on election day," but the heaviest voting is from 4 a. m. to 6 a. m. when the machine's people vote."