



State Acts on Vote Fraud

BY GEORGE BLISS

A special Illinois legislative committee was named yesterday to probe disclosures of widespread vote fraud in Chicago and to introduce sweeping new legislation aimed at curbing "the massive vote stealing here."

House Speaker W. Robert Blair (R., Park Forest) said he has ordered an investigation by the House Election committee into the Chicago Tribune Task Force disclosures of vote fraud in the March primary election.

Blair appointed Rep. Philip Collins (R., Calumet City) chairman of the House Election committee, to head the special investigative subcommittee. Collins said the first hearing of the subcommittee will be held Friday in the State of Illinois Building, 160 N. LaSalle St.

'It's High Time'

"It's high time Chicago rid itself of one of the worst reputations in the nation for ballot juggling," Blair said. "The disclosures by The Tribune Task Force demand a full public airing and prompt legislative action in the next session of the General Assembly to prevent such abuses in the future."

At the same time Blair indicated the possibility of a federally supervised election in certain Chicago wards in the November Presidential election. He said such an election will be needed unless there are quick steps taken to clean up the present Chicago election processes.

Mayor Daley, questioned briefly in an impromptu press conference, said, "No one is in favor of vote fraud."

He told reporters he continues to have confidence in Stanley T. Kasper Jr. chairman of the

Task Force Report



Abuses of a key regulation governing the appointment of election judges here has allowed hundreds of Democratic election judges to absorb the jobs of Republican poll judges. Story on Page 2.

Board of Election Commissioners, and Kasper's conduct of his office.

"We always have these charges about this time of year," he said. "There's a lot of difference between proof and accusation. If anyone is guilty, they should be punished."

34 Witnesses Called

Collins said he is sending telegrams to 34 people named in the Tribune Task Force to appear as witnesses at the hearings. He said if they do not respond to the telegrams

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they could be subpoenaed to appear. Collins added that he will "invite" Stanley T. Kusper Jr., chairman of the Chicago Board of Election commissioners, to testify.

The aim of the committee, Blair and Collins said, is to pass legislation creating a strong and bi-partisan State Board of Elections, which could closely supervise local election boards where there are no checks and balances and only perfunctory attempts by political prosecutors to halt election frauds.

Collins said several measures, in the legislature because of the "stubborn refusal of support by the Chicago Democratic machine," also will be introduced when the General Assembly convenes in November. He said among the bills systematically beaten back by the Democrats over the past three sessions of the General Assembly are:

- Registration files open to public inspection.
- Restriction of methods of assistance to voters in the voting booth.
- Prevention of the arbi-

trary replacement of election judges by election authorities.

A state election board, Collins said, would place election processes under one body and not broken up thruout the state. If there are accusations of corruption in a local office, the state board would be able to step in and conduct a bi-partisan probe and take any action necessary, he added.