



UPI Telephoto

Armed with a grin and black glasses to ward off bright television lights, Rep. Clyde Choate watches the proceedings of the House Elections Committee. Choate is the House minority leader.

Move to Divert Vote Probe Fails

BY JOHN ELMER

Chicago Tribune Press Service

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 14 — A lone Republican joined Democrats today to try to prevent a special legislative subcommittee from launching a probe tomorrow into widespread Chicago vote fraud, but the move was blocked by Rep. Philip Collins (R., Chicago), House Elections Committee chairman.

After huddling at his desk with Rep. Clyde Choate (D., Anna), House minority leader, Rep. Robert Juckett (R., Park Ridge) offered a resolution to turn the investigation over to the Illinois Legislative Investigating Commission.

Ruled Out of Order

Choate pressed for a committee vote on the proposal, but Collins ruled the motion out of order and, after a heated exchange, abruptly adjourned the committee meeting.

The special House Elections subcommittee, which has a 4 to 3 Republican majority, was named by Speaker W. Robert Blair (R., Park Forest) to take up the investigation shortly after the Chicago Tribune Task Force unveiled documented evidence of widespread vote fraud in Chicago.

The Legislative Investigating Commission is a Senate-House unit equally divided among Republicans and Democrats.

Puzzled by Juckett Move

After the meeting, Collins said the special subcommittee, which plans to hear 37 witnesses in Chicago tomorrow, could have been scuttled by a vote on the motion, with Juckett siding with the Democrats.

Collins said he was puzzled by Juckett's decision to join in what he described as "dilatatory

tactics" by Mayor Daley's legislative forces to try to thwart an investigation of vote rigging in areas of Chicago dominated by the Democratic machine.

There was a suggestion that the move might have stemmed from an ongoing leadership fight between Blair and Rep. Henry Hyde (R., Chicago), House majority leader.

However, Juckett said he wanted to have the probe made by the commission because he was concerned that the subcommittee might "jeopardize the rights of the people under investigation" and thereby endanger successful prosecution.

Cites Subpena Powers

Juckett said the commission, with its staff and specifically-stated subpena powers, could handle the job better.

Juckett said he had conferred with Rep. Gerald Shea (D., Riverside) about the resolution before the meeting, and that they had drawn it up together. Shea is Daley's chief House spokesman.

The resolution called for an investigation into charges of vote fraud in all 102 Illinois counties, a point stressed by Choate and fellow Democrats during the debate.

Given Specific Task

Choate said the probe ought to be conducted by the commission and should be carried out not just in Cook County, but thruout the state.

In ruling the resolution out of order, Collins noted that the subcommittee had been appointed by Blair to "look into the specific allegations made by the Tribune Task Force in Chicago."