

# Vote Board Blocks G. O. P. Election Judges: LEAP

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Leaders of Project LEAP, a voters' watchdog group, yesterday charged the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners with blocking LEAP efforts to stop phony Republican election judges from serving in precincts with a history of vote stealing.

Forbes Shepherd and Sheldon Gardner, officers of LEAP, made their complaints at a meeting of the board.

Meanwhile, Edmund J. Kucharski, Cook County Republican Committee chairman, charged that only 139 of the 561 applications of Republicans seeking to be judges on Nov. 7 have been approved since Sept. 5.

### Joint Complaints

The joint complaints come one day after Stanley T. Kusper Jr. Democratic chairman of the election board, announced that his office needs 1,335 more judges for the November election—985 Republicans and 350 Democrats.

Kusper turned the LEAP complaints over to the other Democratic board member, Francis P. Canary, who Kusper assigned as a "one man committee" to report back his findings later to the board.

LEAP officers charged that less than one out of every three names submitted by them since Labor Day to serve as judges have been appointed by the board.

Their applicants, they said, had requested assignment in some of the hundreds of precincts where Tribune reporters found that Democratic precinct captains were casually assigning regular Democrats to be Republican judges, allowing Democrats a free hand in controlling the vote in polling places.

### Difficult Time

"We're having a difficult time getting judges appointed," Shepherd told the board. "They are being rejected under circumstances we find hard to understand."

Kusper demanded that Shepherd submit specific instances where an individual had been



AP Wirephoto

### Nixon Honors Police Decoy

Susan Johnston, 26, a veteran of eight years with the Kansas City police, is one of 10 officers presented awards nationally by President Nixon. She has often worked as a decoy in one of the city's high sex crime areas.

rejected before he would discuss the cases.

The meeting of the board was a continuation of the battles between Kusper and Shepherd over the assignment of election judges.

Both Kucharski and LEAP officials charged that many of their applicants were not being appointed because board employees claimed the names could not be found in the office binders.

However, Kucharski charged that a member of his staff, William Kincaid, had personally interviewed some of the applicants who said they had voted for years in their home precincts.

Kucharski further charged that some of the applicants were new voters, they were registered weeks before their applications were submitted.

Kucharski likened the cir-

cumstances to the March primary, when more than 450 judges submitted by him to the board were allegedly lost in the offices of the board of election commissioners.

Kucharski said he has a goal of assigning Republicans to 605 precincts where he anticipates cheating in November. Of Kusper's charges that 83 of those precincts have no Republican vacancies, Kucharski said:

"We don't know who the Republican judges are in those 83 precincts and have been unable to find out their background or anything else about them, yet they are supposedly representing the Cook County Republican Central Committee."

### Cards Not Filed

At the board meeting, Marie Suthers, the Republican member, told Shepherd that the board office has thousands of binder cards which have not been placed in the binders, which could account for the staff not being able to find the applicants' cards. She said the applicants would be appointed when the cards are filed.

In an interview later, Mrs. Suthers said the board could avoid the problems of assigning Republican election judges if it would give her five extra persons to prepare for the assignment of Republican judges.

She also told Shepherd that that board had decided unanimously not to shift Republican judges from precincts to accommodate those submitted for that precinct by LEAP and Kucharski.

Kucharski also charged that Kusper has authorized the acceptance of Republican judges "over-the-counter" without consulting his office.

He added that Kusper has made it impossible for him to check the voting records of those Republican judges appointed—"over-the-counter."