

Oust 175 Fake Poll Judges, G.O.P. Urges

BY PAMELA ZEKMAN

The Cook County Republican Central Committee asked the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners to prevent 175 allegedly fake G. O. P. election judges who served in the March primary from serving again in November.

A G. O. P. spokesman said he had been assured the judges' names would not be submitted for certification.

Meanwhile, a federal grand jury continues an investigation of vote fraud which was disclosed by The Tribune. U. S. Attorney James R. Thompson is directing the investigations. Ten witnesses testified yesterday and indictments are expected this week.

The indictments will reportedly charge election judges, precinct bosses, and some voters with depriving persons of their constitutional right to equal protection of the laws and intimidation of voter's challengers, or precinct watchers.

Follows Tribune Reports

The announcement of action by the Republican Committee follows Tribune Task Force reports that scores of judges with long Democratic voting records, many of whom were recruited by Democratic precinct captains, served in the March primary as Republican representatives. They served in precincts where reporters uncovered dozens of cases of voting irregularities, including forged ballot applications.

Bill Kinkade, the Republican committee's director of ballot security, said the judges to be removed served in the primary by "special appointment"

of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners without court certification. They filled vacancies in 175 precincts in 17 city wards.

"They were among the people who worked in precincts where our files showed many irregularities in the primary. On that basis we want them removed," Kinkade said.

Assured by Clerk

Kinkade said he received assurances from the board's chief clerk, Dennis Galvin, that the names of these judges would not be presented for court certification as previously planned. He said he has submitted a new list of 75 substitutes and that the party will need an additional 100 legitimate Republican volunteers to fill the remaining vacancies.

"We want desperately to fill them with people we are sure of," he said. "Our objective is to get at least one judge of ours in each of these precincts so we have some assurances that our interests in an honest election will be safeguarded."

The judges to be removed were among some 400 would-be Republicans who were appointed by the board after the mysterious disappearance of 457 applications for judges submitted by the Republican Party to serve in the primary. Because of the 11th hour nature of their appointment, they were not court-certified before the primary.

Kinkade's action was taken to abort board plans to have these 175 judges court certified as planned on Sept. 29.