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# U.S. Acts to Protect Vote

BY GEORGE BLISS  
AND WILLIAM MULLEN

The federal government announced yesterday of a special task force of prosecutors to combat Chicago vote fraud in the Nov. 7 Presidential election. Federal agents meanwhile continued to round up 40 persons named in federal grand jury indictments for vote fraud.

United States Atty. James R. Thompson announced the new task force yesterday after, he said, he had consulted with U. S. Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst.

Thompson made the announcement when he made public the names of the 40 persons named in the federal indictments growing out of an intensive four-month investigation by The Tribune of election fraud.

#### 28 Persons Arrested

Of the 40, Thompson said, 28 have been arrested so far, 2 have been located in Wisconsin and California, 4 have indicated they will surrender tomorrow, and 6 are missing.

They include 3 Democratic precinct captains and assistant precinct captains; 18 Republican election judges; 16 Democratic election judges; and 3 others.

Thompson said that the grand jury will continue its investigation of vote fraud in the March 21 primary election here and that the new task force already is mapping strategy to prevent

**Task  
Force  
Report**



**List of 40 Cited  
by Federal Jury**  
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vote fraud thru civil and criminal remedies.

#### Called "Most Massive"

"The grand jury will continue between now and Nov. 7," he said, "and we will continue to develop a program to prevent fraud in November. Together, this will give us the most massive investigation of fraud ever done anywhere in the country."

The task force will be headed by first Assistant U. S. Atty. Joel Flaum; Samuel Skinner, Thompson's chief of the criminal investigations division; John Simon, chief of the civil division; and Richard Ciecka, assistant chief of the criminal investigations division.

Twelve indictments naming the 40 persons were returned by the grand jury here Friday to Chief Judge Edwin

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Times Photo by William Kelly

U. S. Atty. James R. Thompson discloses vote fraud indictments at Federal Building press conference.

# U. S. Moves to Insure Honest Election Here

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A. Robson in Federal District Court. Judge Robson suppressed the indictments until noon yesterday to give a unit of 90 federal agents time to round up the persons named.

The grand jury first began its hearings more than six weeks ago.

The hearings centered on the findings of William Mullen, the Tribune reporter who uncovered more than 1,000 election law violations while working undercover for three months in the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners' offices in City Hall.

Evidence gathered by The Tribune was turned over to the U. S. attorney's office and used as the basis for the indictments announced yesterday by Thompson.

## What Study Uncovered

The Tribune disclosures included ballot applications used to amass illegal votes in wards thruout the city, unchallenged control of election polling places by Democratic precinct captains, and hundreds of Democrats working illegally as Republican election judges.

"First, by the time our investigation into vote fraud in the City of Chicago is completed, no fair minded person will doubt that there is, and has been, vote fraud on a massive, pervasive scale," Thompson said.

"Democrats, Republicans, or independents—we are all a little poorer as citizens, and democracy is degraded when election officials do not fulfill their responsibilities to protect and count our votes."

The indictments against the 40 come under the Civil Rights Act of 1966, which guarantees a qualified voter the full value of his vote.

Two separate sections of the act are being used in the indictments. The one under which most of the indictments

were issued provides a maximum penalty of a \$10,000 fine or 10 years of imprisonment, or both, for conspiracy.

The other section under which several persons were indicted prescribes a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine or one year imprisonment, or both, for deprivation of rights.

Thompson said he could not comment on the indictments because the persons now await prosecution.

## Latest of Tremors

The announcement of the indictments was the latest reverberation since The Tribune began disclosing widespread election fraud in a series that began last Sunday.

The disclosures have since set off a public outcry for election reform, a federally supervised election, and the dismissal of Stanley T. Kasper Jr. as chairman of the city election commission.

Last Friday, a subcommittee of the Illinois House Elections Committee started hearings in Chicago on new election laws and regulations.

During that hearing, a parade of witnesses told of massive vote fraud and terror tactics used in precinct polling places on election day.

Thompson also sharply criticized Stanley T. Kasper Jr., chairman of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, who has claimed his office is not responsible for the frauds taking place at the precinct polling places.

"The election board is overlooking a few things," Thompson said. "It is the Board of Election that hires, supervises and issues orders to judges of elections in the precincts.

"If that is not responsibility for vote fraud, I don't know what is. When you have control of the Board of Election and the police for 50 years, you are going to find vote fraud."