

CHICAGO (UPI) — Final but unofficial canvass figures from the Nov. 3 election today gave Illinois' 27 electoral votes to President-elect Kennedy by a razor-thin 8,656 votes.

The GOP charged the Democratic-dominated Board of Election Commissioners Wednesday made a "farce" out of its attempt to question 460 election judges about alleged voting irregularities.

These were the latest developments in the raging controversy over the presidential balloting for the Prairie State's crucial block of electoral votes.

Republicans hope to reverse Kennedy's victory here and thus whittle down his margin in the electoral college to 273 votes—just four over the required 269 for election to the presidency.

Alcorn Hits Irregularities

If this were to happen, the GOP feels, enough southern electors might be tempted to withhold their votes from Kennedy to throw the election to the House of Representatives.

Meade Alcorn, general counsel for the GOP National Committee in Washington, joined local Republicans Wednesday in charging voting irregularities in Chicago.

The GOP attorney said that "countless reports of irregularities in Cook County (Chicago) have been made...I have no doubt that Illinois...could wind up in the Nixon column."

Bowing to the Republican demands, election officials Wednesday called 460 election judges from 92 precincts for questioning about the reputed voting "irregularities."

Create Mob Scene

The judges created a mob scene in City Hall when they bowed up for the hearing. Republicans charged the election board was deliberately creating organized confusion to whitewash the hearing and prevent an honest investigation.

Mrs. Marie Suthers, only Republican member of the election canvassing board, began to get mad when the four Democratic canvass board members refused to let George H. Dapples, attorney for a newly formed Nixon re-entry committee, question the judges.

She finally washed her hands of the affair and stormed out of the hearing room when her Democratic colleagues refused to allow her to return from a precinct where 22 voters lived and 84 died.

Proclaim Canvass Official
After the hearing was over, the election board, in a surprise move, proclaimed the board's canvass of the Nov. 8 election as official. Mrs. Suthers refused to sign the city proclamation but the board said it was official anyway without her signature.

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