

Supervision Urged On Campaign Ethics

State Representative Mike Bradner and Terry Miller today called for the creation of a bi-partisan approach to the supervision of campaign ethics and practices.

They said they have asked the State Chairmen of both parties to invoke a temporary measure by requesting that all 1968 candidates sign "Fair Campaign Practices Pledges."

In addition the two young Fairbanks lawmakers said they

have requested Democratic State Chairman Jalmer Kertulla and Republican State Chairman Bob Davenny to create a bi-partisan "Fair Campaign Study Committee."

"The purpose of the Fair Campaign Pledge would be to provide an immediate partial solution, and the study committee would be charged with determining a long-range means of supervising campaign ethics,"

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Supervision of Campaign Ethics . . .

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Bradner and Miller said.

They said they hoped that the result would be that "mud-slinging" and "vilification" could be held to a minimum in 1968, while the study committee has time to come up with the form of a permanent Fair Campaign Ethics Committee.

Miller and Bradner pointed out that such committees in other states function very well, and stand ready to alert the public against bad practices.

"The very existance of such a committee provides a powerful incentive for men in public office to toe the mark," they said.

Bradner and Miller said they have specific proposals to make to the bi-partisan study committee about how an ethics committee might be composed.

They said they also recommended that local district study committees be formed to aid the statewide study committee. Such a committee would review and study the campaign situation in 1968, and then come up with specific recommendations in the "cooler atmosphere" following the campaign year.

The two legislators said that such a "Fair Campaign Ethics Committee" might be made up of members of both parties and a certain number of independents. They explained that the process of filing complaints

would have to be carefully worked out so candidates could not "mis-use" the committee to gain publicity.

Such a committee might "censure" offenders or ask the respective parties to take action against offending candidates.

In addition, the committee could publish campaign ethics guidelines and policy.

Bradner and Miller acknowledged that supervision of campaign ethics and practices will prove difficult, and said this was exactly why they asked the temporary "pledge" so the study committee could work out the permanent committee.

Bad campaign practices and ethics tends to hide the real issues, the qualification of respective candidates, and also discourages some of our finest people from seeking public office, they explained.

"In addition recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court have made it virtually impossible for one public figure to sue another," they said.

"This means a man holding public office may find himself substantially libeled and yet legally helpless. The court precedents mean that either men in public office clean up their own house through campaign ethics supervision or they may be the victim of the next vicious attack," Miller and Bradner said.