

Inouye Has

Doubts on Next Probe

Washington

A Democratic member of the Senate Watergate committee expressed "grave doubts and fears" yesterday about the panel's forthcoming inquiry into campaign "dirty tricks."

"You already have state laws covering libel, larceny, and fraud," Hawaii's Senator David K. Inouye said in an interview in his office. "Should this matter be a federal concern?"

"If we decide that it should, then where do dirty tricks end and where does crime begin?"

Inouye said opinions would vary widely on where Congress would draw the line between improper or unethical campaign conduct and acts that should carry criminal penalties.

A lawyer and 14-year veteran of Congress, he recalled that a quantity of his own campaign literature was once destroyed by a man who collected it regularly on the pretense of distributing it.

But Inouye said this "dirty trick" was punishable by a state law against larceny.

Referring to hearings that will resume September 24, he said, "we will try to confine our testimony to extreme-type cases. But in just about every case there is a state law to prevent it."

He said the inquiry into campaign misconduct "certainly" will include Democrats as well as Republicans.

Most of the committee's remaining work, Inouye said, will involve campaign financing. Noting that executives of five companies so far have admitted contributing corporate funds to President Nixon's re-election campaign, in violation of federal law, he remarked, "We may want to find out why." *Los Angeles Times*