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Chief Justice Burger addresses invited audience at dedication yesterday of Georgetown law center from balcony overlooking entrance hall.

Burger: Courts Can't Reshape Society

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Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, dedicating the new Georgetown University Law Center here yesterday, cautioned Americans not to look to courts to reshape their society. As he spoke, about 1,000 persons held a counter dedication outside, challenging his legal philosophy.

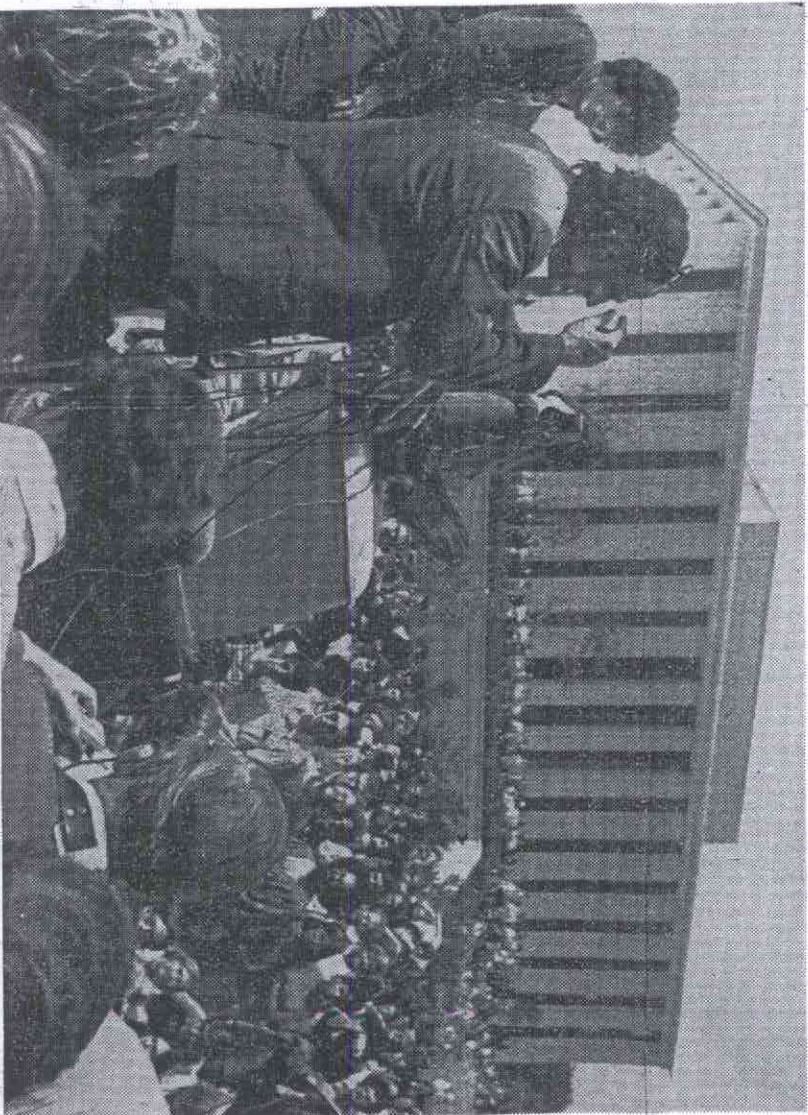
Burger told 1,300 invited guests attending the formal ceremonies inside the \$11.3 million complex that in recent years courts have made significant changes in such areas as reapportionment, civil rights and consumer protection.

However, he said, those decisions resulted from "The application of long available constitutional guarantees to existing situations not previously presented to the courts.

"Thus for the most part, it was the legislation flowing from the political process that was the source of the progress we sometimes credit to judges."

"... Although the litigation process is one factor in change, it is a slow, painful, expensive and often clumsy instrument of progress unless one is content to measure progress in terms of generations and centuries."

Burger praised the innovative programs of the Georgetown law school in which students work with prosecutors, defense lawyers and defend-



Photos by United Press International.
Outside law center (in background), about 1,000 listened to Attorney William Kunstler in counterdedication.

ants.

"But law schools have an even more basic duty to convey to their students the reality that fundamental changes in the democratic system are made largely through the political process of the popular government . . . "he said.

"The challenge before the new Georgetown law center, at the beginning of its second century, is to train students . . . in the understanding of the legislative and administrative processes (as well) as to train them in litigation," Burger said.

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GEORGETOWN, From B1

Alfred Ross, president of the student bar association and a leader of the street rally, made a brief speech inside.

"This cannot be considered a day of celebration," he said, but instead "is a time of sadness and mourning" in light of the "senseless murders" at Attica state prison in New York.

System Criticized

Ross termed the killings at Attica "the latest and least equivocal manifestation" of what is wrong with the country's criminal justice system.

He then left the center, doffed his coat and tie, and wearing jeans, made the same speech outside. The counter-dedication had no effect on the formal ceremony in the building.

Attorney William Kunstler told the crowd in the street that Burger was "not fit to dedicate this building" because "he represents a vile system."

It was Burger's scheduled address that sparked the idea of a "counterdedication" in the first place.

Speaking from the back of a pickup truck, with the Capitol dome as a backdrop, Kunstler said the law center should be dedicated to those who had died for social change.

Kunstler said the Attica deaths proved again that "the only way you are noticed is when your blood runs in a dusty prison yard."

Difficult Phase

Attica, said Kunstler, "was a microcosm of the United States" and of "every place where people who are oppressed struggle for a ray of

sunshine and a chance to walk erect."

Burger's speech made no mention of the events at Attica, but the Chief Justice briefly described the prison phase as "the most difficult, the most neglected and the least understood" of the criminal justice system.

"No one really understands what we ought to do with the delinquents and misfits of society," he said.

Another speaker outside was Arthur Kinoy, professor of law at Rutgers University. He criticized an earlier speech by the Chief Justice calling for law schools to teach "the necessity for civility."

"Who is to teach civility to the governor of New York State?" Kinoy asked to applause.

Also outside, Marion Barry, director of Pride, Inc., who is seeking election to the District board of education, called the ceremony inside "irrelevant" compared to the street dedication.

He said lawyers and law students have a responsibility to do something for the black community that surrounds the new complex, "or you'll be irrelevant, too."

Founded in 1870

The law building at 600 New Jersey Ave. NW, replaces a Victorian structure at 508 E St. NW, which had been used since 1891. The law school was founded in 1870 and is the oldest Catholic law school in the nation.

Honorary doctor of law degrees were presented during yesterday's dedication to Burger, William A. Shea, a New York lawyer, and posthumously to Ralph H. Dwan, a Washington lawyer.

The building was designed by Edward Durrell Stone, who also was architect of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The law center is named Bernard McDonough Hall in honor of a 1925 graduate who gave \$1 million toward its construction.

The ceremonies continue today with former Chief Justice Earl Warren speaking at a noon dedication of the Charles Fahy Reading Area. Judge Fahy, a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals here, is an alumnus of the school and a veteran of 50 years of law service.