

Goldwater, Helms Echo Nixon Speech At YAF Convention

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Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) told the Young Americans for Freedom convention last night that "the Watergate situation is being used by the liberals to try and discredit and destroy the mandate of 1972 and the conservative policies upon which it was built."

Goldwater said in prepared remarks that he is "in no way condoning or justifying or excusing the crimes committed in the Watergate break-in and related activities. I see these

activities as directly opposed to the principles which I believe conservatism incorporates," said Goldwater.

But Goldwater said an attempt is being made to exploit Watergate "to discredit everything the administration achieved or promised which runs counter to the liberal thesis of unlimited government, excessive federal spending, endless engineering in the area of social welfare, unilateral disarmament and a policy of isolationism in foreign affairs."

Goldwater said the 1972 election was a vote of confidence in an administration which ended the Vietnam war on honorable terms and promised decentralization of government authority and reductions in federal spending at home.

He said that Watergate would never have happened if the Nixon staff had been made up of experienced professionals "strongly committed to the principles of conservatism," but that it was the liberals, not the conservatives, who first "promoted the idea that dissenters should choose what laws they would obey and which they would ignore."

He said that the "vicious double standard" in no way excuses the crimes of Watergate, nor obscures the fact that conservatives, because of Watergate, "will have to fight and fight hard to retain the ground they have won over the past 10 to 15 years."

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), in a morning speech to YAF members also accepted President Nixon's thesis that the lawlessness of social activists in the 1960s created the climate for the Watergate abuses of 1972.

"I wish he had been somewhat more precise about the bums who were trying to destroy this country throughout the 1960s, thus giving the motivation to the Watergate stupidity," said Helms.

"I have no taste for bugging and burglary, but I have an absolute abhorrence for the kind of traitorous conduct which triggered a crisis in trying to protect the security and the safety of this republic," he said.