

Hopkins graduates hear challenge by Warren

3 Sun 5/26/73

Former Chief Justice Earl Warren yesterday challenged the more than 2,300 graduating students of the Johns Hopkins University to "attack your societal and governmental problems in a more meaningful way than we did in my generation."

The 82-year-old jurist, speaking in a firm, clear voice, drew on historical examples of "boom and bust cycles" from the Roman Empire through the Age of Enlightenment to illustrate hope for the future and caution the graduates not to "fall into an abyss of dependency."

Citing ecology and a "tainted government" as major problems, Mr. Warren admonished that "it will not be enough to cleanse the Augean Stables. If we are to preserve the essence of the republic, we must restore confidence in our government from top to bottom."

A standing ovation

Resplendent in robes of old gold and black with a purple lining signifying the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws that he had just received, Mr. Warren was accorded a standing ovation by the graduates and almost 2,000 guests who crowded into a large circus-style tent set up on the Hopkins Homewood Campus.

Honorary doctorate degrees

also were awarded to two members of the Hopkins faculty—Dr. Ernst Cloos, professor emeritus of geology, and Dr. Owsei Temkin, specialist in the history of medicine.

Thursday afternoon, columnist Victor Zorza, speaking at the Johns Hopkins University undergraduate commencement exercises, compared the historical significance of the Watergate scandal to the storming of the Bastille in the French Revolution; the storming of the Winter Palace in the Russian Revolution and the Boston Tea Party.

The syndicated columnist, who gained his reputation by predicting such events as the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the Sino-Soviet dispute, and the fall of Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev, said that Watergate "could prove to be the beginning of a searching re-examination of the whole [American] system."

Watergate, he told the 563 graduates, was not just an "aberration" but a "symptom," of a system in which the technology of power has "outgrown the capacity of its practitioners to use it."

"Nature of power"

"This is the choice before you," said the Polish-born columnist. "Either you curb the practitioners of power, or they will enslave you—not because they are evil men, but because it is in the nature of power to dominate."

"It is the concentration of power in the White House," he said, "that is responsible for Watergate, no less than the men who handle power."

"And this concentration of power has been brought about not just because such men seek power, but because we have not yet found a way to adapt the democratic system of government to the massive growth in the amount of power—political, economic and military—which has been occurring in recent years."

Mr. Zorza served with the Royal Air Force in Britain during World War II, and wrote for the *Manchester Guardian* there until last year, when he launched an independent Washington-based column. Since January, he also has been a member of the Hopkins staff.