

Anti-Semitic Tone Charged

Saxbe Comments Attacked

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Attorney General William B. Saxbe has come under strong criticism from religious leaders and two members of Congress for what they consider anti-Semitic remarks he made during a news conference Wednesday.

And the formal "clarification" he offered late Thursday did nothing to alleviate the situation, Howard M. Squadron, head of the American Jewish Congress said yesterday.

Squadron demanded that Saxbe resign or be fired by President Nixon.

The uproar was touched off by comments Saxbe offered at his regular midweek coffee-and-doughnut press conference about why he has ordered a study of the "Attorney General's list" of subversive organizations.

The appeal of communism among intellectuals has waned since the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Attorney General explained, adding, "The Jewish intellectual . . . was in those days very enamored of the Communist Party. "Some of these," he went on, were Americans and some were foreign.

In the ensuing three days, denunciations of the remark as anti-Semitic and demands that Saxbe retract it or resign began to pour in.

Among those heard from were Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), Rep. Robert F. Drinan, (D-Mass.) and officials of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the National Council of Churches, the United Methodist Board for Church and Society, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Jewish War Veterans and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League.

The Attorney General offered an amplification late

Thursday in which he said he had long believed "there was a great deal of anti-Semitism in the Communist witchhunts of the later '40s and early '50s."

"Much of it was directed at some highly visible Jewish intellectuals who were considered sympathetic to Russia," he went on. "Because of the Soviet posture toward issues of importance to Jews, this is no longer the case today, and I believe this change can best be seen by the totally different type of individual involved in the terrorist groups now operating."

The "clarification" and the original remark "demonstrate a way of thinking that classi-

fies people by ethnic stereotypes," said Squadron.

Roy Milenson, an adviser to Javits on Jewish affairs, said the clarification suggested to him that Saxbe and his aides take "dumb pills."

Saxbe ran into similar flak in February, 1973, while he was still in the Senate, when he told a group of Ohio newsmen, that he opposed linking U.S.-Soviet trade policy to Soviet Jewish emigration, and added:

"If the Zionist Jews believe that we are going to fight to the last drop of the farmer's blood, then I'm not going to be part of it." Saxbe later apologized for that remark.