

Saxbe Urges Local Governments To Pass Tough Campaign Laws

TOLEDO, June 7 (AP)—Attorney General William B. Saxbe suggested today that state and local governments enact tough campaign-spending rules modeled after a law approved this week by California voters.

Saxbe, in his second speech in two days on political and campaign reform, cited the California vote on Proposition 9, which requires candidates to disclose contributions over \$50, limits campaign spending and prohibits political contributions from lobbyists.

"Other states and even localities—should consider following suit, for the problems we have developed in Washington, D.C., are not limited to the nation's capital," Saxbe told the Toledo Area Governmental Research Association.

"The effects of Watergate have spread far beyond the federal government and have prompted considerable soul-searching by many groups in the private sector," he said.

On Thursday, Saxbe called the Watergate incident "the greatest cloud in our history." He said it "has now been so branded on the national consciousness that the concern over public morality has reached a level perhaps unmatched in our history."

He noted today that 11 major corporations have pleaded guilty to making illegal contributions and that 10 business executives have pleaded guilty or no contest to similar charges.

"Those cases show . . . that business can also have its seamy side, and that crime is not limited to those who deal in drugs or rob banks or mug people on the streets," he said.

Saxbe said a greed for greater and greater profits and an increase in the number of businessmen who cut corners and ignore the law could wreck the free enterprise system. Saxbe pointed to major oil industries as large businesses being investigated for possible antitrust violations.