

Saxbe Denounces Politics Reflected by Watergate

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — Watergate illustrates that the public has come to accept as part of politics "lying to the people, twisting the truth" and "using public position for private gain," Attorney General William Saxbe said. These actions "simply have no place in public life," he said.

In an address to the graduating class of Ohio State Law School in Columbus, the Attorney General made his strongest pitch yet to isolate himself and his shell-shocked department from the scandal. His comments were even stronger than those of his Cabinet colleague, Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar, who has said he was "shocked, offended and discouraged."

One of Mr. Saxbe's predecessors, Richard Kleindienst, has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge in connection with statements he made about the 1971 settlement of the government antitrust suit against International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. Another predecessor, John N. Mitchell, is under indictment for Watergate-related allegations.

Mr. Saxbe formerly was a Senator from Ohio who often criticized the Nixon administration on Watergate. But since being named by the President as Attorney General five months ago, he has seesawed on the scandal, usually siding with Mr. Nixon.

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