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**Cloud at Graduation: Watergate**

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CENTER MORICHES, L. I., June 23—When the recession had faded and the class of 1974 of the Center Moriches High School had filed out of the gymnasium after graduation ceremonies, Pamela Richter stepped aside to talk to some friends about her plans for the future.

"I don't know what I want to do," the 17-year-old honor student said quietly. "I certainly don't want to have anything to do with government or politics. I've been disillusioned."

Miss Richter was a member of a class of 88 students who had prided themselves on their strong political orientation and social involvement in this lower-middle-income community of 5,000 people on Long Island's South Shore.

But as they graduated last night, to inspirational music and the applause of their parents and teachers, student after student said that recent national events, such as the Watergate scandal, had hurt their hopes about politics.

"It's depressing," said Charles Vosganian as he

toiled with his eyeglasses. "Everything these days is bad news. We don't have a cause anymore, because Watergate has destroyed our faith in politics and those who run political systems."

"I used to be an idealist. We were always told in the classroom that the Presidency was almost sacred, that it was an office for upholding ideals. But we've seen cheap burglaries planned in that office now, and for a 17-year-old kid like myself that's terrible."

His classmate, Kenneth Howell, also 17, nodded in agreement.

"Watergate was a big let-down," he said. "Before this the President was someone you worshipped—at least I did. And now—"

Alfred Webler, senior class adviser, who has been with the Center Moriches High School for 19 years, said that with each Watergate revelation, the class of 1974 grew "more skeptical." Their senses were "battered," he said, dourly. "They were definitely disillusioned about the political process."

During the graduation ceremonies, the class valedictorian and salutatorian articu-

lated their apprehension about Watergate. But the class president, Kathy Gail Bergmann, dissented.

"I was really distraught at first and I was angry because I felt that these people in Washington were ruining it for me and for future generations," Miss Bergmann said. "But someone had to work from within the system to cleanse it and change it. That is my hope. I want to become a United States Senator."

She plans to be a lawyer first, Miss Bergmann said.

John V. N. Klein, the Suffolk County Executive, cautioned the graduating class about being overly skeptical. He recalled the appearance before the Senate Watergate Committee by Gordon Strachan, a former aide to that his word to youth was to stay away from politics because of its corrupting influence.

"His advice seems to me to have been terribly wrong," Mr. Klein said. "Do not stay away. We need more individuals who have a dedication to the principles of government on which this country is founded. I say to you, go out and get involved."