

Jewish Leader Assails Rabbi

New York

A prominent Jewish leader described a rabbi who is backing President Nixon's position on the Watergate scandal as an "apologist for rampant immorality."

He "aspires to out-Watergate Watergate in the name of fair play and with one foul swoop to pervert democracy and degrade religion," Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler said yesterday.

Rabbi Schindler, president of the million-member Union of American Hebrew Congregations, issued the statement concerning Rabbi Baruch M. Korff, who as leader of a group supporting Mr. Nixon met with the President Tuesday in San Clemente.

Rabbi Korff, of Providence, R.I., is president of the National Citizens Committee for Fairness to the Presidency.

Rabbi Schindler said Rabbi Korff represents neither the views of "Judaism nor of the Jewish community."

It is "unthinkable that any clergyman, much less a rabbi, would put his seal of approval, without a hint of qualification," Rabbi Schindler said.

"Apparently Rabbi Korff aspires to be the Jewish counterpart of President Nixon's paid cleric apologist, Father McLaughlin," Rabbi

Schindler said.

The Rev. John McLaughlin, a Jesuit, is on Mr. Nixon's staff.

Concerning the two clergymen, Rabbi Schindler said:

"Neither, alas, reveals himself to be a descendant of the prophetic traditions to which both are heir.

"Watergate and all that goes with the name is a moral abomination. Fortunately, neither speak for the predominant majority of their co-religionists who can only be embarrassed by their words and deeds."

Associated Press