

Sam Erwin Cites the Sins of Watergate

Honolulu

Senator Sam Erwin said yesterday the men who brought America Watergate were driven by a "lust for political power which blinded them to the laws of God as well as to the laws and ethics of man."

The chairman of the now-defunct Senate Watergate committee spoke to several thousand members of the American Bar Asso-

ciation at a breakfast prayer meeting on the final day of the group's national convention.

Erwin said, "As long as I have a mind to think, a tongue to speak and a heart to love my country, I shall deny that the Constitution confers any autocratic power on the President, or authorizes him to convert George Washington's America into Gaius Caesar's Romeo."

Erwin was frequently interrupted by thunderous applause, and said with indignation, "Watergate disgraced the presidential election of 1972."

The North Carolina Democrat said that although there have been other U.S. political scandals, "that fact does not excuse Watergate. Murder and stealing have occurred in every generation since earth began, but that fact has not made murder

meritorious or larceny legal."

"One shudders to think," Erwin said "that the Watergate conspiracies might have been effectively concealed" without the work of a free press, the Watergate committee, "and the dedication and diligence of special prosecutors Archibald Cox and Leon Jaworski and their associates."

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