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Rev. Billy Graham on Watergate

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Evangelist Billy Graham, a close friend of President Nixon, said yesterday that the Watergate scandal is a symptom of the "permissiveness, corruption and crime" permeating much of American life.

"What the country needs to do is to get down on its knees in repentance before the Lord," he said.

He said the entire situation "certainly must be clarified, the truth brought out." He added: "We Americans cannot accept corruption as a way of life. Democracy is based on trust confidence."

Associated Press