

Rogers Asks Steps to End 'Rotten' Vote Financing

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—Secretary of State William P. Rogers discussed Watergate today and said that the American system of financing political campaigns was so "rotten" that otherwise honorable men "can be corrupted by it."

Talking to 50 college students who had spent the summer as interns at the department, Mr. Rogers offered what he called "three simple devices" to improve the system:

¶All campaign contributions should be by check except for

"a relatively small amount" in cash, with "an unequivocal system" of accounting for all expenditures.

¶A limit should be placed on the total that any individual can contribute, not only in one year, but over a series of years.

¶"Severe and unequivocal penalties" for violations should be enacted.

This was the first time, that the former Attorney General and close associate of Mr. Nixon had spoken on Watergate since April, when he called for full disclosure of the facts.

No Questions on Rumors

Newsmen were given a report on what Mr. Rogers had told the interns by Charles W. Bray 3d, the department spokesman.

Mr. Bray was asked if any of the interns had asked Mr. Rogers about the reports and rumors about his leaving his job and becoming either Ambassador to the Soviet Union or a Supreme Court Justice when a vacancy occurred.

The spokesman said that no such questions had been asked, but that Mr. Rogers had "emphatically and repeatedly" told the others that he would never consider either a Supreme Court or an ambassadorial appointment.

Mr. Bray said that Mr. Rogers had told the interns that he was favorably inclined to recommendations by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to put restrictions on

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the rewarding of political contributors with ambassadorships.

Mr. Rogers, according to Mr. Bray, said that big contributors should be forced to demonstrate that they were "particularly well qualified" for an ambassadorship.

The committee had recommended that any contributor of more than \$5,000 or \$10,000 be regarded as unacceptable

unless there were special circumstances in his favor.

Mr. Rogers told the interns that they should not be discouraged by the Watergate revelations, since, in his opinion, this is "an honorable Government," and "the overwhelming majority of Government servants are totally honest."

In referring to the campaign practices, he said, "So much money is floating through the political system with so little effective accounting for it, that it invites evil."