

# Saxbe Sworn In At Justice

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William B. Saxbe was sworn in yesterday as the Nixon administration's fourth Attorney General and the 70th person to hold the office since it was created in 1789.

"I will operate this office as to bring credit on the law, on the legal process, on the courts, and on individual lawyers," he pledged after taking the oath administered by Judge Robert M. Duncan of the U.S. Military Court of Appeals.

As Saxbe entered the Great Hall of the Justice Department to the strains of martial music by the U.S. Army Band, he was greeted by sustained applause that had begun as an emotional standing ovation for two of his predecessors, Elliot L. Richardson and Richard G. Kleindienst.

About 460 people, including Justice Department officials and some 300 of Saxbe's friends and relatives from Ohio, attended the ceremony.

As they applauded, Richardson and Kleindienst joined hands and raised their arms in a victory salute and took seats to Saxbe's right on the stage. John N. Mitchell, President Nixon's first Attorney General, was in New York under indictment on charges of obstructing justice in the case of financier Robert L. Vesco.

Saxbe referred to his long wait to be confined for the Justice Department post while the Senate and House passed a special pay bill lowering its salary from \$60,000 to \$35,000. The bill was adopted to skirt a constitutional provision that a member of Congress cannot take a civil job if its pay was increased during his term of office.

Saxbe, who had voted for the Cabinet pay raise shortly after becoming a senator from Ohio in 1969 joked that members of both houses "felt they had to adjust the pay according to my capacity."

He added that he had left "a moment of panic" yesterday morning, realizing that he had resigned from the Senate Thursday evening and was "off the public payroll" until the swearing-in ceremony yesterday afternoon.

"There's nothing that scares a public office-holder more than that," he quipped.

Turning serious, Saxbe said he saw the Justice Department as a protector of the law. "Unless this is defended, unless this is respected by the people, there is no way you can keep a society from drifting into anarchy," he said.

He added that he is a "law and order man" in the sense that he believes in "a society operated in a manner to give each individual the opportunity to express himself without the fear of Big Brother taking over (or) interfering in his personal life ... in the name of protection or in the name of defense."

Saxbe said he would be inspired by the direction to mankind in the Old Testament book of Micah—"to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with thy God."

He was introduced by Solicitor General Robert H. Bork, who had served as acting attorney general since last Oct. 20, when Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus resigned rather than follow Mr. Nixon's order to fire Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Bork alluding to the short tenures of previous Nixon appointees and to Saxbe's 10-year service as Ohio state attorney general before becoming a senator, said, "I find that his capacity for longevity is reassuring."