

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 (AP)—Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and William M. Kunstler both spoke here today and agreed on a need for prison reform, but on little else.

Justice Burger spoke at a dedication ceremony inside Georgetown University's new \$11.3-million law center. Mr. Kunstler and other activist lawyers, speaking from the bed of a pickup truck, denounced Justice Burger at a student-sponsored "counter-dedication" in the street outside.

Justice Burger said the nation's legal system was slowly changing itself for the better. Mr. Kunstler said the slaying of 30 "hero" convicts at New York's Attica state prison showed it was not.

Prison Reform Asked

Justice Burger did not mention Attica. But he cited prison reform among areas in which he would like to see changes.

"No one, literally no one, really understands what we ought to do with the delinquents and misfits of our society, but the real tragedy is that we are not applying what we do know by way of intensive educational training, of counseling, and of aid after release so that a former prison inmate can make the agonizing adjustments that must be made if the release is not to be followed by a return to criminal activity, as it is so often at the present time," Justice Burger said.

Mr. Kunstler, who was a member of the unofficial citizens' group that tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a non-violent end to the Attica riot, phrased his call for change more passionately.

"Remember Attica" has to be the watchword," he said. "Remember Attica and the heroes, the heroes in the finest sense of the word, the heroes who died there."

His voice cracking with emotion, Mr. Kunstler said the convicts had not murdered or mutilated their hostages, as the state authorities had at first reported.

'The Finest Men'

"They were the finest men I have ever known," Mr. Kunstler said.

"They were prepared to die for what they believed in." He said the rioters thought that only by being killed could they bring prison conditions to America's attention. "They knew they were going to die," he said.

In his address Justice Burger reiterated the idea that prompted the student counter-dedication: That the courts are not an efficient tool for deep social change. But he praised Georgetown for placing its school in a slum area six blocks north of the Capitol, and added, "The students need to learn the antiseptic smell of the jail and the less than antiseptic smell of the slums."

Mr. Kunstler said Justice Burger defends "a vile system"

and added, "He is not fit to dedicate that center."

Al Ross, president of the Georgetown Student Bar Association, delivering the same speech at both ceremonies, said Attica showed that "what we call our system of justice, our criminal system of justice, has broken down completely."

Other counterdedication speakers were also critical of Justice Burger's idea that the court suit was "a slow, painful, expensive and often clumsy instrument" of social progress.

Law Professor Speaks

Arthur Kinoy, a Rutgers University law professor, said, "The schools must serve to inspire young people, men and women, young lawyers, to be courageous champions of the rights of people."

He quoted Abraham Lincoln's saying that the nation belongs to those who live in it. "I say to you, this law school belongs to the people who inhabit it," Mr. Kinoy said, his finger jabbing toward the new law center. "You take this law school. Make of it a fighting weapon. Take it."

Catherine Roraback, president of the Lawyers' Guild and a defense lawyer in the Black Panther vase in New Haven, said too many lawyers contented themselves with "pretty words" such as justice, while ignoring reality. "I think what I think of as justice and what others think of as justice are two different things," she said.