

A 'Crisis of Confidence In Lawyers'

Hollywood, Fla.

The large number of lawyers involved in the Watergate scandal has resulted in "a crisis of public confidence" in the law profession and the foundations of justice, the president of the American Bar Association said yesterday.

The bar has an obligation to determine for itself what went wrong and whether the profession is in danger of losing its objectivity, professional independence and detachment, Robert W. Meserve told a Florida Bar Association convention.

The number of lawyers accused of wrongdoing in the Watergate affair and related developments "stagger belief," Meserve said. He noted that these ranged from a former attorney general to the acting head of the FBI and the President's own special counsel.

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