

Excerpts From Addresses To College Class of 1973

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Following are comments excerpted from addresses to members of the college class of 1973:

"One problem which Watergate elucidates is the paucity of time and thought we give to the question of public morality in this country . . . The tawdriness of current revelations should be no excuse to shun an active role in the political process. In fact, I believe it should provide further incentive and determination to alter the circumstances which led to the abuses."

—William D. Ruckelshaus,
acting director of the F.B.I.,
at Ohio State University.

"To be sure, Watergate is a scandal that exposes some serious weaknesses in our system. But in the long run, it may prove more significant as a demonstration to the rest of the world, and more importantly to ourselves, of the strength of our system."

—Senator Robert P. Griffin,
Republican of Michigan,
at Northwestern
Michigan College.

"There is no partisan or political advantage to be gained from Watergate. We can all take pride that the strongest voices urging a full and fair investigation of the case are voices in the President's own party."

—Senator Edward M.
Kennedy, Democrat of
Massachusetts, at
Syracuse University.

"So I want to use this brief time to lay out my view of a problem that is common to Waterville and to Washington. The problem is a basic one of government—how to make sure those in power keep the trust of those they lead . . . What does come clearly through this mass of raw and often contradictory information is a picture of men in power who lost their moorings."

—Senator Edmund S. Muskie,
Democrat of Maine,
at Thomas College.

"When my contemporaries ask me, 'What is the impact of the Watergate scandal on the young?' I have to reply, 'Very slight! They are not surprised. Their basic response is "What would you expect?" That is too bad; but it's so.'"

—Kingman Brewster Jr.,
president of Yale University,
at Yale baccalaureate service.

"All of the juicy scandals we've had to read about lately have made it easy for us to overlook a pervasive defect in American society . . . We have permitted, at every level of decision-making in this country, the crass exercise of power . . . The legacy of Watergate must be a catalyst for the political and moral future of America."

—Stephen M. Soble,
valedictorian,
at Syracuse University.

"Surely it is a black perspective to be proud that no blacks are accused [of Watergate wrongdoing] . . . But then, you can't abuse power if you ain't got it! And surely it's a black perspective that the Watergate hero is the black night watchman. What a deft blow to racial stereotypes. He wasn't sleeping on the job."

—Christopher F. Edley,
executive director of the
United Negro College Fund,
at Tuskegee Institute.

"When my generation messed things up, it was frequently by failing to shun utopian promises and settle for pragmatic gains . . . Br [Because of pollution] we are told we should . . . dismantle our technology. There is another, more rational approach. The technology that causes pollution can also cure it."

—Vice President Agnew,
at Drexel University.

"The fact that the Federal budget has in recent years gotten out of control should be a matter of concern to all of us. Indeed, I believe that budgetary reform has become essential to the resurgence of our democracy."

—Arthur F. Burns,
chairman, board of governors
of the Federal Reserve
System, at the School of
Government and Business
Administration, George
Washington University.

"I would like to remind us that the revolution which women are trying to make is one so long and so deep and so serious that it makes all the Watergates of the world seem like very small patriarchal episodes . . . Most important, I think, is to realize that we are indeed talking about a revolution and not just a reform."

—Gloria Steinem,
editor at Simmons College.