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# Rogers Hails Public Service

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Secretary of State William P. Rogers told a group of summer interns yesterday that it would be "harmful and distressing if young people were discouraged from entering into government in the current context of things."

As reported by State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray, Rogers made repeated, if veiled, references to the scandals being uncovered in the Watergate hearings and investigations. He urged the group of about 50 college students not to be discouraged "by what they read and saw on TV" but rather to accept the challenge and "improve what they didn't like."

Bray said Rogers called the current campaign financing system "rotten," so bad that "otherwise honorable men ... can be corrupted by it."

"When there is so much money floating through the political system," Bray quoted Rogers as saying, "with so little effective accounting, that fact invites evil." He suggested "three simple devices" to improve the current system: that no contribution over a small

amount should be made in cash and that there should be an unequivocal system of accounting for campaign donations from the moment of donation to the withdrawal for expenditure; that there should be a limit to the total of contributions any individual can make, and that there should be severe and unequivocal penalties for violations.

He expressed general agreement with the proposal made by Sen. J. W. Fulbright and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that ambassadorships should not be used to reward political contributors. He urged, however, that the rules not be inflexible but that persons who have contributed more than a certain amount bear the burden of proving that they are "particularly well qualified" for the post to which they have been nominated.

Bray said that the secretary's remarks represented his own personal views and not an administration position. He would not say whether the suggestions had been discussed with others in the administration.

Rogers reportedly went on to affirm his belief that the U.S. government is an hon-

orable government and that the overwhelming majority of government servants are totally honest. He urged that those who had a bent for government service not be dissuaded by the present scene.

In response to a question Rogers said it was his net impression that the Watergate scandals "had not yet had a discernible effect" on American foreign policy, Bray reported. But the secretary said he had detected concern among foreign leaders that Congress might not support the administration on some foreign policy matters. So far, however, Rogers expressed satisfaction with congressional action on the two issues he had been most concerned with, troop reductions and economic and security assistance legislation.

Yesterday's meeting took place in the John Quincy Adams room on the department's eighth floor, a magnificently furnished reception area filled with antique furniture and carpets where diplomatic functions are held. Rogers refused to allow reporters to attend but permitted Bray to report on what he said.