

Richardson's Tough Talk On Reform

New York

Former Attorney General Elliot Richardson called last night for immediate legislation to plug loopholes in campaign finance laws and to avoid the abuses demonstrated by the Watergate scandals.

In a speech to the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Richardson employed some of the strongest language he has used so far to denounce the scandals.

Noting that the Watergate break-in itself was at first considered a prank in some quarters, Richardson said:

"Not to be laughed off, however, was the coverup of the break-in or the ensuing effluent of rancid revelations—from 'dirty tricks' and the high-pressure inducement of illegal campaign contributions to abuse of intelligence-gathering techniques and institutions."

He said the investigation must continue and "the gaps and omissions must be accounted for."

Even then, he continued, government officials will face an enormous task of restoring public confidence.

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