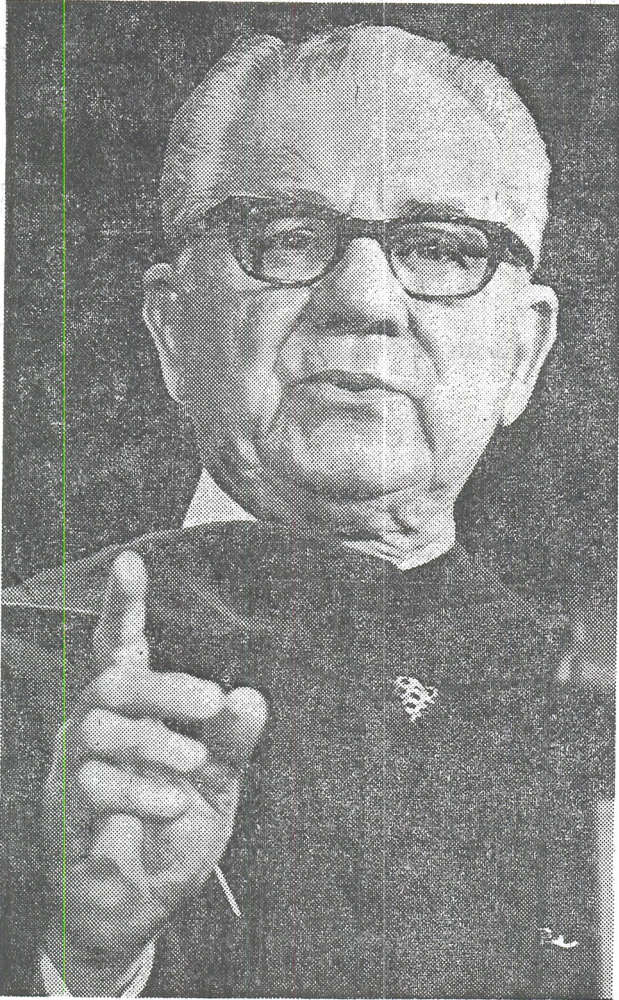


Warns GWU Graduates**Jaworski: Law Needs Cleansing**

By Jay Mathews

Washington Post Staff Writer



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Leon Jaworski talks to George Washington graduates.

Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski told 300 graduating law students yesterday that "far too many members of our profession in recent years have failed to live up to the standards of professional responsibility."

Speaking at the spring commencement of George Washington University's National Law Center, Jaworski said a cleansing of the legal profession "will come only as a result of constant self-discipline."

Jaworski, who received a master of laws degree from GW in 1926, made no specific reference to any of the Watergate-related cases he is now prosecuting. "Let me emphasize, really and truly, what I am undertaking to say is not to be construed as referring to any aspect of that matter but in a broad and a general sense," he told the graduates, parents, friends, and faculty who greeted him with a standing ovation in the university's Lisner Auditorium.

His remarks obviously referred to the point repeatedly made in news accounts of how many lawyers have been indicted or convicted for crimes related to the Watergate affair.

"Recently a national magazine carried an article designed to question the status of the legal profession as an influence on society because of some scars it carried," Jaworski said. "The implication was that the profession may

be losing its place of honor in our society."

"That far too many members of our profession in recent years have failed to live up to the standards of professional responsibility, and failed in even worse respects, is not to be denied," he said. "But the immoralities do not begin and end with the legal profession. Not that this should be of any comfort to us, but it is fair to face the total situation as it exists."

Of one fact we may be certain," Jaworski said. "No profession—and least of all the legal profession whose efforts are based on trust and honor—can long withstand the encroachment of iniquities within its ranks."

The 68-year-old special prosecutor said "there is another guilt more widespread—that of too many lawyers viewing with indifference the upholding of the high standards of professional conduct that we insist are ours. And there is yet another—that of too many of our members dismissing with a deaf ear the cries for improvements in the administration of justice, which is our sacred trust."