

Cranston Talks of Nixon, 'Contempt'

By Denise Kalette

It would be "tragic and dangerous" if President Nixon were found to be in contempt of the Supreme Court, Senator Alan Cranston (Dem-Calif.) said yesterday.

Last year, the President said he would comply only with a "definitive order" to release tapes of Watergate-related conversations, Cranston told the graduating class of Golden Gate University School of Law in commencement exercises at the Palace of Fine Arts.

"Noncompliance could lead to a constitutional crisis of monumental proportions," he said.

Recent concentration of power in the White House has made it inevitable that this power would be abused, the senator said.

Congress has been guilty of letting power slip right through its fingers, he continued, but "there is fortunately a growing sense of responsibility."

The balance of power among the presidency, the Congress and the judiciary must be preserved, in order to preserve the liberties of

individuals, Cranston said.

He also urged the graduates to participate in legal services programs to provide legal help to those who may not be able to afford it.

He cited legislation which he has supported to create a legal services corporation for the poor as an effort to provide legal services to the poor as well as to the rich.

A total of 175 doctor of jurisprudence degrees were conferred yesterday to members of the 1974 graduating class of Golden Gate's law school.