

Admonition by Saxbe-- 'No More Dirty Tricks'

Coeur d'Alene, Ida.

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday "the message has got to get all over the country—there will be no more dirty tricks for any reason."

In the keynote address before the convention of the National Association of Attorneys General, the top U.S. law enforcement official said the young people of the nation are watching to see whether "our system of justice really does work."

"It seems to me that we have to be scrupulously fair in a number of ways," he said.

Saxbe also said, "It is hardly reassuring when one man goes to prison for years for theft while another man involved in a conspiracy to steal our freedom is in and out of jail in the wink of an eye."

"No one is suggesting the thief should not go to jail," Saxbe said. "He should. And so should the man who is convicted of failing the public trust."

But Saxbe, questioned by a reporter, said it was not his intent to suggest disappointment with the mostly light sentences handed to those convicted of Water-gate-related crimes.

"I was talking about the whole concept of the judicial process and some of the problems that all attorneys general have," Saxbe said.

"I've been asked in Washington many times what I think about the sentences and I say every time that I will not second guess these judges."

Saxbe also mentioned former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. He said, "There are people who say that prisons are outmoded, that no one should go to jail. But, at the same time, with Agnew, they say, 'throw the book at him.'"

"If prison is a correctional institution, what can you expect to correct in an Agnew? What can prison do that has not already been done to people like them to humiliate them?"

Saxbe also announced what he termed a nationwide campaign by the Justice

Department to reduce the theft of stocks and bonds and eliminate their use by criminals.

He said estimates of the amount of stolen and counterfeit securities range as high as \$50 billion a year.

He said the department will soon be circulating a detailed plan outlining steps to prevent securities thefts. He said the plan would give business and financial leaders "something they can do that is easy, practical, and modest in cost."

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