

Goldberg Cites the Good That Watergate Produced

It is history's way to play puzzling ironies on us, and along this line former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg noted here last night that even Watergate has produced a virtuous spinoff.

The white-haired confidant of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson reminded an audience of 600 at Hastings College of the Law that a few years ago public opinion polls showed a majority "favored serious curtailment" of the Bill of Rights.

But, he said, recent polls indicate that, "as a result of Watergate," there has been "a substantial increase in public concern for protection of citizens' fundamental rights and liberties."

Goldberg, 67, proposed that "perhaps nothing but the wrenching agony of Watergate" could have produced a realization that constitutional rights are "essential for all citizens and not merely safeguards for criminals."

He closed his historically

oriented, carefully footnoted lecture with these words:

"It would appear that the people now seem increasingly to realize that free speech, a free press and the vigilant protection of personal privacy are potent weapons against governmental lawbreaking or overreaching."

"In response to Watergate, the people once again are seeking refuge in the principles of the Constitution . . . I find this renewal of constitutional faith to be the sole beneficial result of Watergate."