

## SEYMOUR URGES BREAK-UP OF F.B.I.

Wants Bureau to Be Free  
From Political Pressure

By C. GERALD FRASER

Less than 48 hours after he resigned at United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Whitney North Seymour propose dyesterday the breaking up of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Disclosures in the Watergate case have so shocked him, Mr. Seymour said, that he also recommended that "never again" should the United States Attorney General "be selected from among those actively involved in the political machinery responsible for putting the current Administration in office or keeping it there."

Mr. Seymour's statements were part of his commencement address at Carnegie Hall for 475 men and women graduating from John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York.

Mr. Seymour was appointed U. S. Attorney by President Nixon in late December, 1969. He is reported to have quit to return to private law practice where he could double or triple his \$35,000-a-year salary for the Federal post.

### Gray's Action Assailed

Mr. Seymour began his address by saying that the "most important lesson of the Watergate affair is the need to remove criminal law enforcement machinery one and for all from the sphere of politics and the reach of improper influences."

He called Watergate's "most shocking disclosure" the "confession by the acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation [L. Patrick Gray 3d] that he had destroyed documents of potential importance to a pending criminal investigation on orders from the White House."

"Destroying potential evidence is unthinkable," he said. "Taking orders from political leaders on the conduct of criminal."

In analyzing the efficacy of the F.B.I., Mr. Seymour said:

"Over the course of years, the bureau has become a monolithic institution, much too dependent on the personality of the individual who serves as its director, and much too tied up in administrative regulations

and internal checks and balances to do a truly effective job.

"The F.B.I. has escaped criticism for these tendencies because no one has dared to raise a voice against it. But every one of us in law enforcement can cite some of its weaknesses."

United States Attorneys—the more than 90 of them—are in a position to evaluate the work of F.B.I. personnel because the 8,500 special agents in some 59 field offices form the pool of criminal investigators for use by the United States Attorneys' offices.

### Dual Position Noted

Part of the FBI's weaknesses he said, stems from its dual position as the "principal Federal criminal investigative agency" and an agency "particularly responsive to the White House" because it is charged with the maintenance of internal security.

"The F.B.I., as presently constituted, has a built-in conflict of interest between its criminal investigative work and its domestic security activities," Mr. Seymour said.

"The only sure remedy," he said, is to split the agency. He suggested that "part of the F.B.I. be spun off and merged with other Federal investigative agencies to become a wholly independent Federal Criminal Investigative Agency."

Such an agency, he contended, would "help solve many of the troublesome reorganization problems in Federal law enforcement in such fields as narcotics and organized crime, which have caused so much disruption and dissension."

Mr. Seymour, who said on the day he reported the indictment of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell for conspiring to obstruct justice and to defraud the United States that it was a "sad day" for justice, is reported to have been saddened by the role he charged his former boss—the attorney general—of having played as a Nixon campaign manager.

Mr. Mitchell had resigned as Attorney General, but Mr. Seymour said, that office—"a sensitive post"—needs one above politics.

He singled out, on the eve of a primary election, Manhattan District Attorney Frank Hogan for praise.

"There are not many men like Frank Hogan," Mr. Seymour said, "who are able to rise above the political process and establish and maintain a standard independence and impartiality."