

Kinoy urges protection of Constitution

By Thomas Henderson
Of the Emerald

These are dark days for the Constitution, and Americans must "take the offensive" in protecting it, civil rights attorney Arthur Kinoy said Friday.

Kinoy, author of the book

"Rights on Trial," has been involved in a number of famous civil rights cases, including the trials of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and the Chicago Seven.

A self-professed "people's lawyer," he has argued on behalf of blacklisted workers,

draft resisters, civil rights activists and others he considers victims of power. Kinoy currently teaches law at Rutgers University.

Speaking without a microphone, Kinoy's voice boomed through a packed two-room lecture hall at noon in the law school as he drew lessons for the present from struggles of the past.

"There is... an invisible wall between us here, at this moment, and our past," said Kinoy, criticizing the failure of people, particularly in the legal profession, to learn from history.

He related a case where 483 blacks were arrested in Danville, Va., in 1963 for protesting segregation. There was no chance for a black defendant to find justice in a Virginia court, Kinoy said.

The county judge, he said, had a loaded six-shooter on the bench whenever blacks were in the courtroom, even though they were restricted to the last two rows of seats.

According to Kinoy, the only remedy he could offer his clients through mainstream channels was a possible victory in the U.S. Supreme Court in six or seven years.

Instead, Kinoy went for immediate action by resurrecting a radical Reconstruction statute from the 1860s, allowing civil rights cases to be removed from state jurisdiction if the state could not provide a fair trial. After fierce struggles with the established power structure, removal was granted, he said.

Danville, said Kinoy, was an example of people taking the offensive to protect their rights, and serves as a lesson today as

the Reagan administration attacks "the very written Constitution itself."

President Ronald Reagan has resurrected the doctrine of inherent power where the president assumes the authority to suspend constitutional rights and disobey the law when in the "national interest," Kinoy said.

Among Reagan's offenses are his violation of international law, as well as the Neutrality Act of the 19th century, by attempting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, Kinoy said.

"We have to explain to people all over the country the lawless nature of the Reagan administration, in every respect," he said.

Kinoy's appearance Friday was sponsored by the Student Bar Association, National Lawyers' Guild and ASUO.

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National politicians to speak Tuesday

In the rush to grab voter's attention before the November election, two national political figures will be at the University Tuesday, stumping for candidates and issues.

John Anderson, a former representative from Illinois and one-time presidential candidate, and Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., will speak separately as ASUO-sponsored guests.

Speaking at 12:30 p.m. in Room 167 EMU, Weicker will address national security issues and support Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield's re-election campaign.

Anderson will speak at 2 p.m. in Room 150 Geology. He will promote the Mondale-Ferraro campaign with his speech, "Reaganomics and Oregon's Future." A press conference with Anderson will follow in the EMU Forum Room.

Currently a television political analyst and lecturer, Anderson has been speaking for the Democratic presidential ticket since the convention, according to Andre Delattre, the statewide student coordinator for the Mondale-Ferraro campaign.

Though Anderson was a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1979 when President Reagan was nominated, Anderson ran in the general election as an Independent. He captured 6.7 percent of the vote nationally and almost 10 percent in Oregon.

Anderson's speech is also sponsored by the University Democrats.

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