

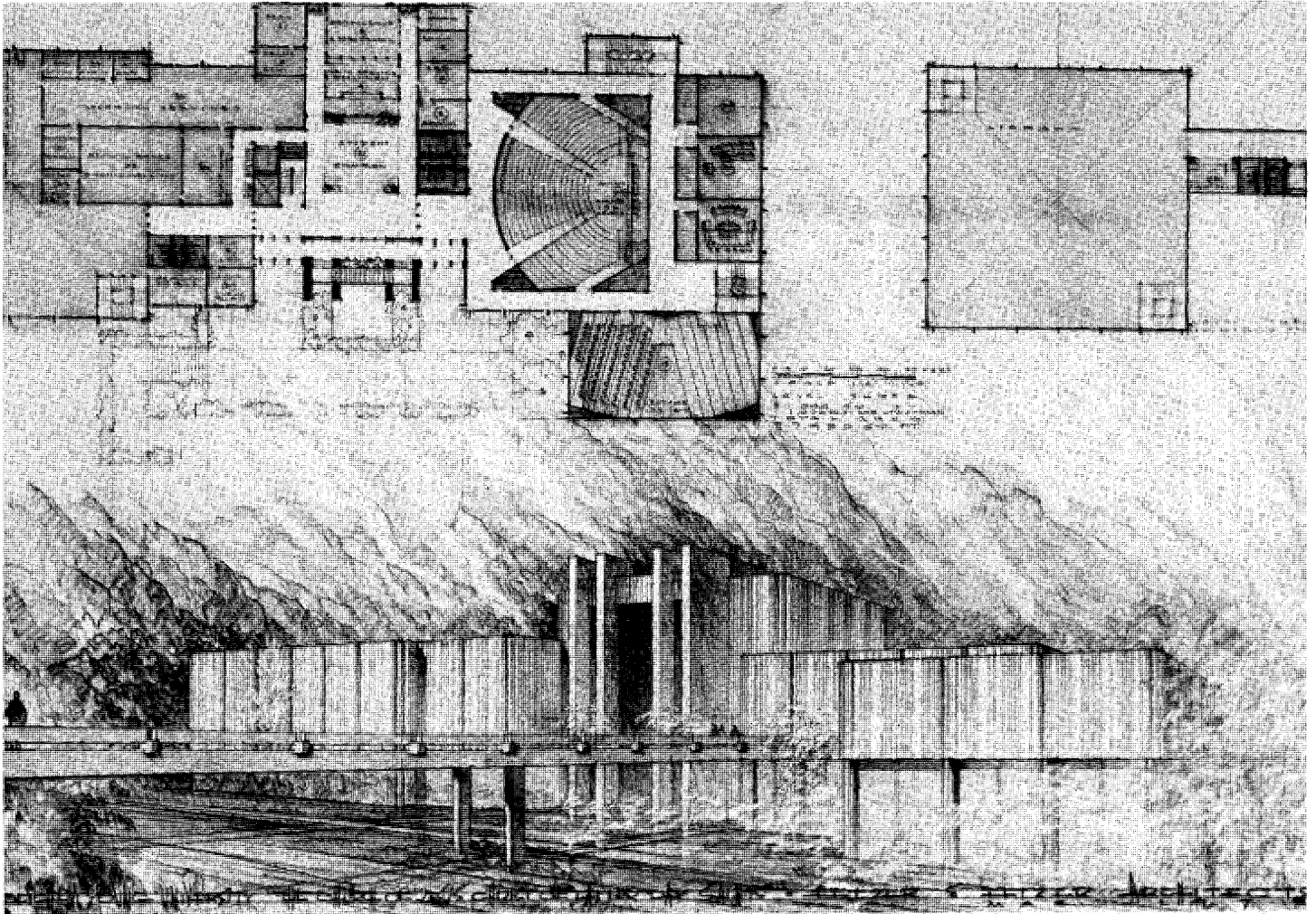
In 1897 J. Whitely, a teacher of civics and public law at the University of Utah, wrote to the President of the Brigham Young Academy, later to become Brigham Young University, expressing his desire to establish a law school in Utah, proposing a law course at Provo as a "branch of the Academy." Two years later a Mr. Saxen of Provo approached the Academy President with another offer to institute a law school, offering to donate his law library. He felt confident he could prepare students for the bar after a two-year course of study. How-

ever, neither suggestion was acted upon.

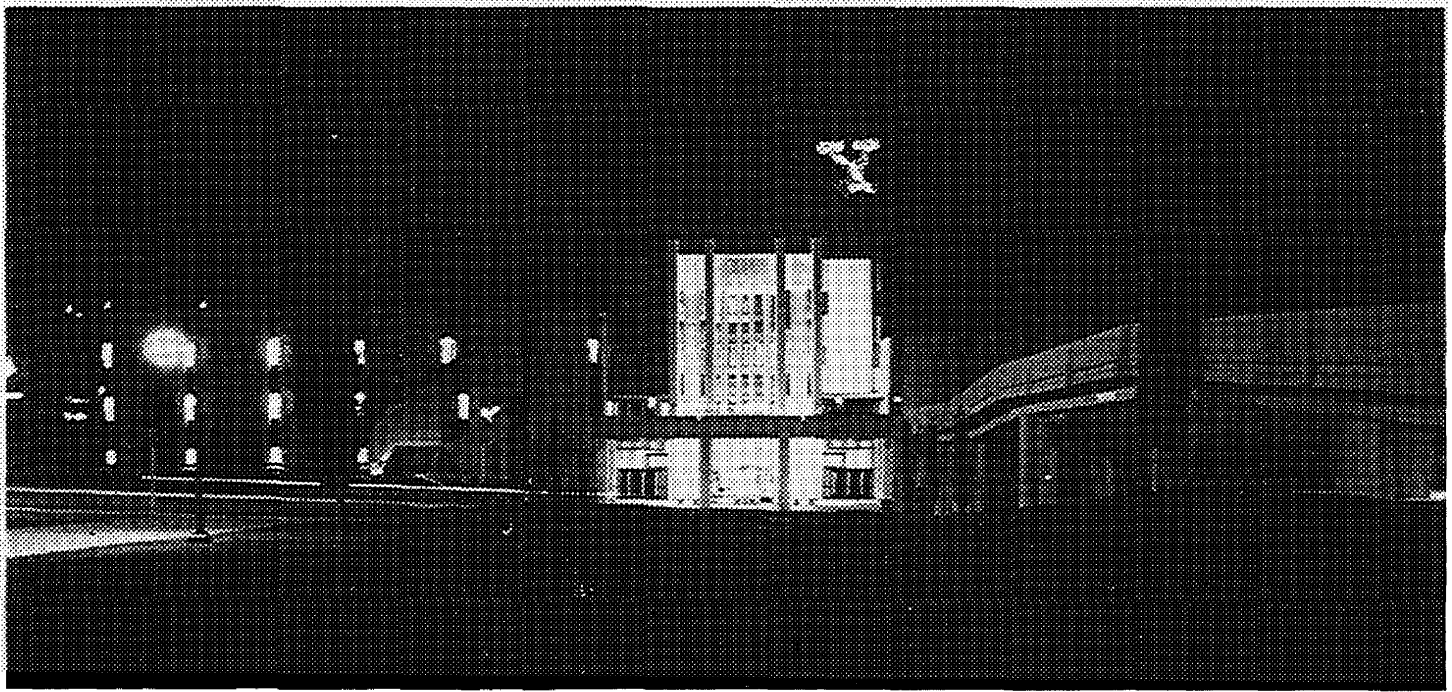
The Academy received a third offer in 1901 from a group of Utah attorneys volunteering to serve on the faculty without pay. But because of financial difficulties Brigham Young Academy could not support a law school at that early date. In the meantime Brigham Young Academy grew from an obscure academy to a prominent American university with a full-time studentbody of over 25,000. Seventy years later, on March 9, 1971, the Board of Trustees determined that a law school should be established at Brigham

Young University.

On November 9, 1971, it was announced that Rex E. Lee, a thirty-six-year-old Arizona lawyer, would be the founding dean of what would be known as the J. Reuben Clark Law School. Dean Lee had taught anti-trust law at the University of Arizona Law School for several years in addition to his full-time practice. He had also established a superior scholastic record at the University of Chicago Law School and had served a one-year clerkship with United States Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White.



J. Reuben Clark



The "Y" on the mountain behind the law school, lighted every year at Homecoming.

Once the dean was selected it was his task to recruit faculty members. Sensing the need for academic experience and believing the faculty to be the key component to the law school's success, Dean Lee focused on recruiting faculty members who were already teaching at prestigious law schools. The turning point came in the winter of 1972 with the appointment to the faculty of three scholars of national reputation: Carl S. Hawkins of the University of Michigan, Edward L. Kimball of the University of Wisconsin, and Dale A. Whitman of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.

Of equal significance were the appointments that same winter of two prominent courtroom veterans: Woodruff J. Deem, District Attorney of Ventura County, California, and C. Keith Rooker of Salt Lake City. The early affirmative decisions of these five men to join the new faculty were instrumental in attracting other faculty as well as the charter

class of students, many of whom were qualified for admission to the nation's best-known schools.

In selecting the charter class, the law school received between 400 and 500 applications. After the screening process 157 applicants were accepted. Coming from twenty-five different states, the initial number of students was typical of the class size anticipated for future years.

Named for the internationally known attorney, statesman, and church leader, the J. Reuben Clark Law School was formally opened for instruction on August 27, 1973. Nine faculty members and 157 students began classes in temporary facilities at St. Francis School, formerly a parochial high school. In spite of physical restrictions in these quarters, each student was assigned a private study carrel and had access to the more than 100,000 books already contained in the new law library.

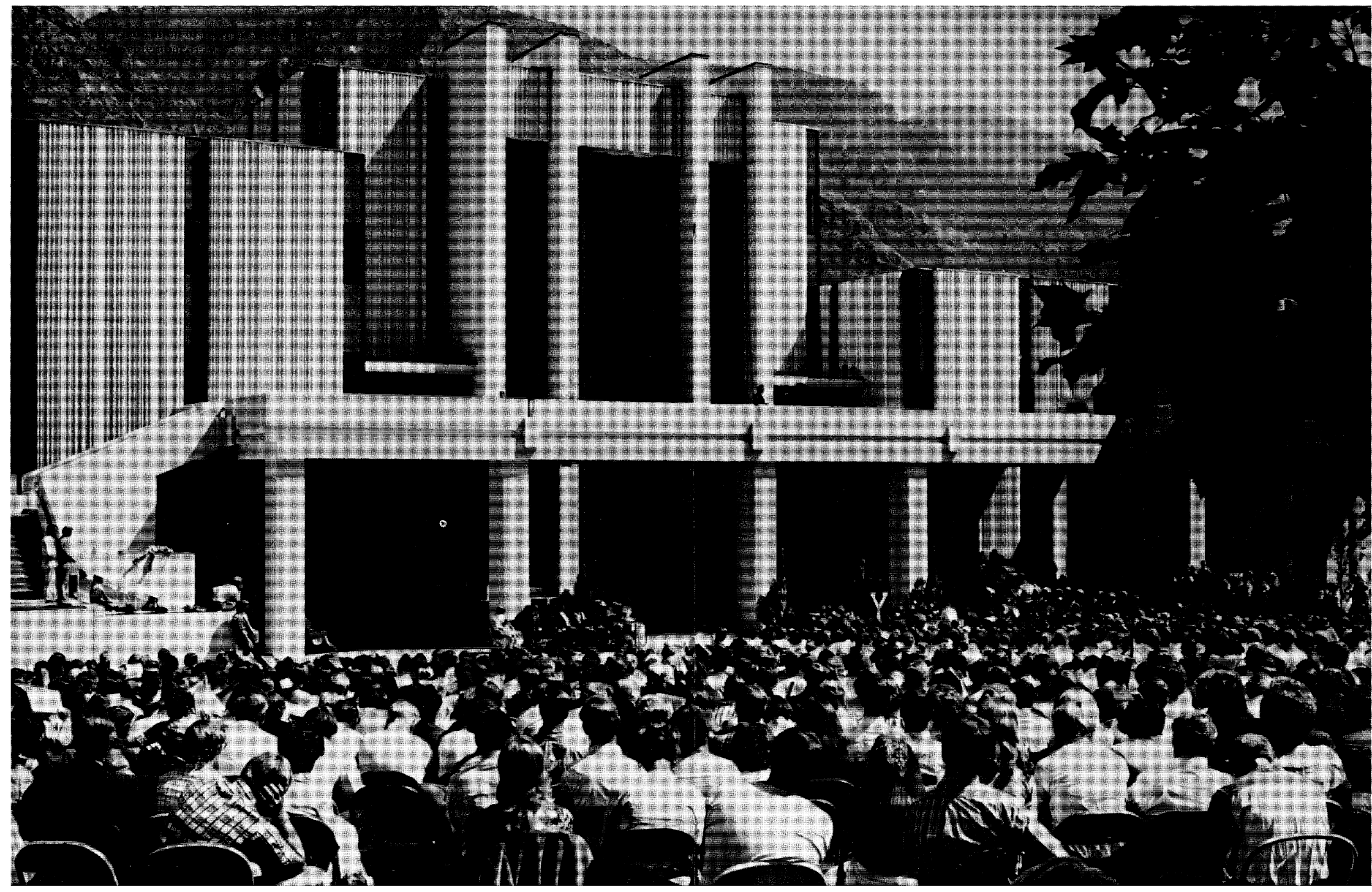
During the late autumn of 1973, offi-

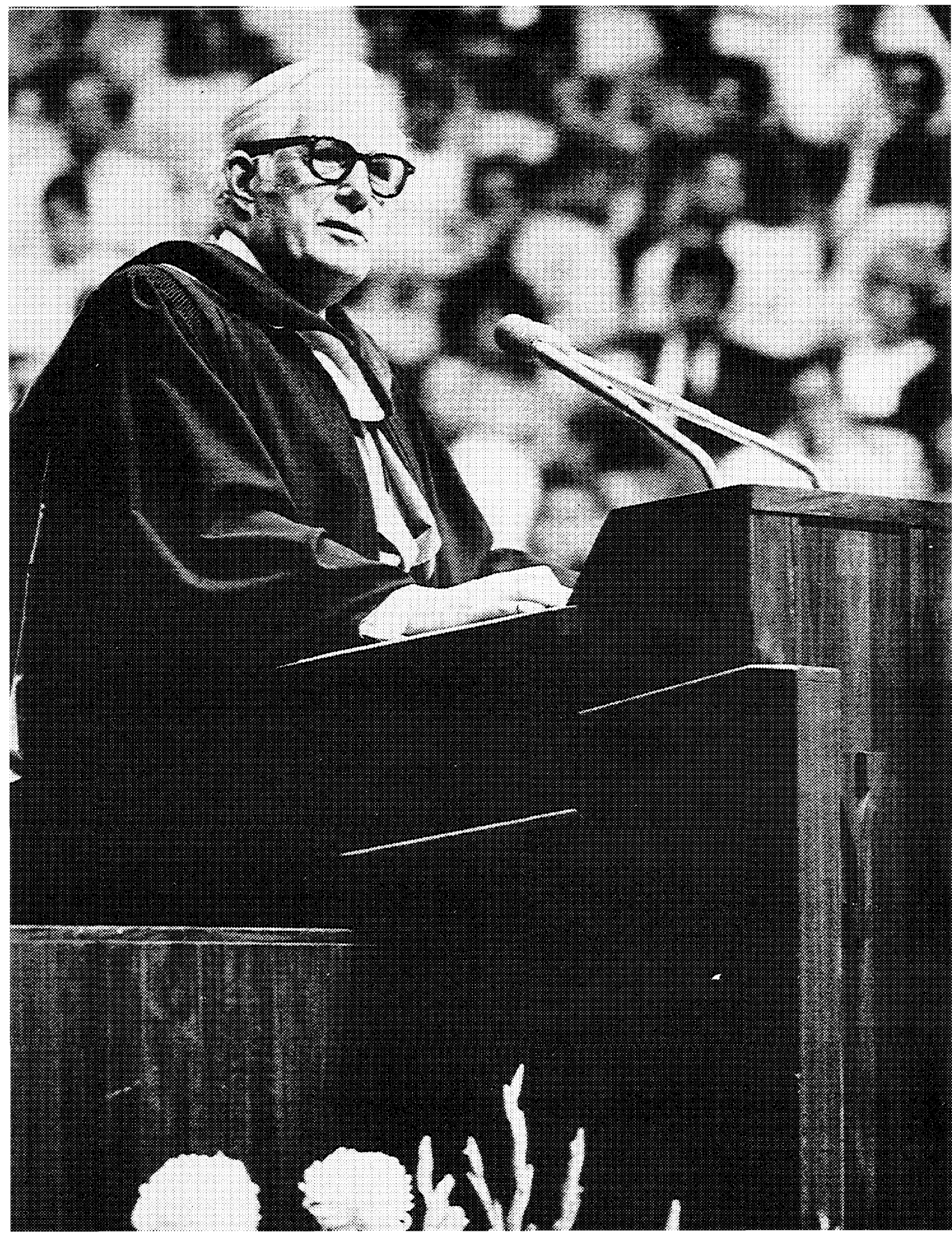
cials of the American Bar Association made the first accreditation visit to the law school. Based on their favorable report, the ABA House of Delegates voted unanimously in February of 1974 to add the J. Reuben Clark Law School to its list of approved American Law Schools.

By the beginning of the second year of instruction there were fifteen teachers on permanent appointment. All had finished law school in the upper five percent of their graduating classes at six well-established law schools. Three had been clerks to Justices of the United States Supreme Court, and all had published scholarly works either as law students or as law professors. In addition, three of the faculty were co-authors of leading law school textbooks.

As an important part of the law school experience, three co-curricular programs were initiated, involving more than 40 percent of the second year students in research, writing and publishing. Students in the Legal Writing Prog-

School of Law





"Here at Provo you have carried on the work of a great University for a century. It is good that you have now added a school of law to carry on the training of lawyers in keeping with the standards that have made this institution one of the great centers of learning in America, privately sustained and conducted in conformity with Christian teaching . . . Guided by these standards, it is safe to predict that this law school will become one of the foremost in the country."

The Honorable Warren E. Burger

"Central to my confidence in the quality of this law school is its relationship to Brigham Young University With these assets, one may predict with confidence that the J. Reuben Clark Law School will not merely be a good one, but that in time it will rank as a great one."

The Honorable Lewis F. Powell

