

7th Annual Belkin Lecture - William D. Ruckelshaus

April 25, 1985

William D. Ruckelshaus, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's first administrator who later returned to the EPA as its fifth chief in 1983, will give the seventh annual David Marc Belkin Memorial Lecture Thursday, May 16, 1985, at the University of California, San Diego.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 8 p.m. in room 108 of Peterson Hall on the Third College campus. Ruckelshaus will talk on "Protection of the Environment: A Government or Corporate Responsibility?"

The Belkin Lectures on environmental issues were established by the parents and friends of David Marc Belkin, an honors graduate of John Muir College at UCSD. Belkin lost his life while backpacking in the High Sierra in July 1978. His love for the wilderness prompted his family to establish the endowed memorial fund in his memory.

Each spring the lectures bring to UCSD a distinguished figure associated with conservation and environmental studies. Ruckelshaus served as the EPA's first chief from 1970 to 1973 when the agency was formed and was later nominated by President Reagan to again head the agency in 1983. At the time the administration of the EPA was in turmoil. His predecessor, Anne Burford, had resigned under pressure when she and some of her aids were accused of favoring industry's interests and ignoring environmental law.

Ruckelshaus, who had earned a reputation as a conscientious administrator during his first tour at EPA, saw to it that the enforcement department got back to work. He stressed the importance of toxic-waste cleanup and helped strengthen the recently reauthorized Resources Conservation and Recovery Act.

After 18 months, Ruckelshaus resigned as EPA chief, telling the president, "The ship called EPA is righted and is now steering a steady course."

Following his first term at the EPA, Ruckelshaus was appointed acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and, in the same year, was named Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1974 through 1976 he was a senior partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Ruckelshaus, Beveridge, Fairbanks and Diamond. In 1976, he joined the Weyerhaeuser Company in Tacoma, Washington, as a senior vice-president for law and corporate affairs, responsible for policy setting and coordination of the company's key external relationships and its legal service functions.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1932, Ruckelshaus graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 1957 with a BA degree and obtained his law degree from Harvard University in 1960. He began his law career in Indianapolis in 1960 while also serving as deputy attorney general of Indiana from 1960 through 1965 and as chief counsel of the Office of Attorney General of Indiana from 1963 to 1965. He served as minority attorney for the Indiana Senate from 1965 to 1967, and was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives and its majority leader from 1967 to 1969.

Ruckelshaus has served on a number of academic boards including the Board of Overseers of Harvard's JFK School of Government and the Board of Regents of Seattle University.

The Belkin Lectures were inaugurated in 1979 by Peter Matthiessen who lectured on "The American Indian and Wilderness." Other lectures have been delivered by David Brower, Wallace Stegner, Edward Abbey, and Dr. David Western. Last year, Howard Ellman, a San Francisco attorney and an expert in the field of real estate and land use matters, spoke on "The Ethics of Land Development."

(April 25, 1985) For more information contact: Alixandra Williams, 452-3120