

Detention Law Repeal Asked By President

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Nixon administration urged Congress today to repeal a law authorizing establishment of detention camps for use during internal security emergencies.

It said repeal of a section of the McCarran Act is needed to put down rumors the government plans to use its provisions to detain war protesters and other citizens with minority views.

The position was made known by Deputy Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst, who was quoted earlier this year as saying people who demonstrate in a manner to interfere with others "should be rounded up and put in a detention camp." He was misquoted, he said yesterday.

Kleindienst wrote Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, that repeal of the statute "outweighs any potential advantage which the act may provide in a time of internal security emergency."

He released, along with the letter to Eastland, another letter to the Atlantic Monthly in which he denied he told the magazine's Washington editor that he favored detaining demonstrators. He said he was misquoted.

The Emergency Detention Act was enacted as part of the 1950 Internal Security Law. It established procedures for apprehending and detaining persons who were considered likely to engage in espionage or sabotage during internal security emergencies.

In 1951, the Bureau of Prisons acquired six camps for that purpose. But none was ever used and only two are still owned by the federal government.