

ABA President Reproaches Agnew Over Student Dissent

By Austin C. Wehrwein
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DULUTH, Minn., June 18 — The president of the American Bar Association, Bernard G. Segal, today reproached Vice President Agnew for demanding that student James Rhodes Jr. resign from the President's

Campus Unrest Commission.

Segal charged Agnew was suggesting that Rhodes "no longer had the right to express his point of view, to exercise his First Amendment rights."

Rhodes is a 22-year-old Harvard graduate student and one

of nine persons named to the commission.

Agnew's attack on him was prompted by an interview Rhodes gave in which he said that "one of the things I want to try to figure out is who gave what orders to send police on campus (at Kent State and Jackson State) and were they thinking about 'campus bums' when they pulled the trigger." The President used the term "bums" last month in describing students who burn buildings and books.

The Vice President said Rhodes' comments showed a "transparent bias."

Segal, speaking at the Minnesota Bar Association's annual meeting, did not mention Agnew by name in his speech, but did so specifically while speaking to newsmen later. He said Agnew had suggested "this young man had lost his right to dissent" by being named to the commission.

Segal said he had made inquiries about Rhodes and believed he would be a "fine" commission member adding, "The President is correct; the Vice President is not."

The White House has said Agnew's advice will not be taken.

Segal said the President's support of Rhodes would do as much as anybody could to establish the credibility of the commission.

Segal also expressed gratification that Agnew's "loud tone had not been heeded at the White House."

In reply to a reporter's question, he said the ABA had not previously criticized Agnew. He said that a person in Agnew's office should always

consider the impact of his remarks on "all the people of the country."

Segal has a special interest in the commission because he said presidential assistant John Ehrlichman had asked him last month to set up an ABA committee to do the job, Segal demurred, saying the ABA would be without subpoena power but in the course of his talks with the White House he recommended commission members, some of whom he implied were named.

Segal said the President soon would ask Congress for a joint resolution giving subpoena power to the commission.