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Youth, Blacks In Governing Bodies

ABA Gradually Yielding To Change

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Bar Association, the average age of its members down now to 45, is finding itself drawn inevitably into the issues of a fast-moving era. And it has begun to make concessions.

The evidence of gradual yielding to change could be read in the record of the annual meeting here of the 150,000-

member association.

The first half of the convention concluded Wednesday and thousands of lawyers began heading Thursday for London, where the second half of the meeting is to be held next week.

For the first time in history, a Negro lawyer is assured a place in the policy making

House of Delegates. The opening was created by affiliation with the mostly black National Bar Association.

From now on, there will be a young lawyer on the Board of Governors. A rules change reserved a post for an attorney 33 or younger.

Two ABA committees will study the legality of U.S. in-

volvement in the Indochina war with a pledge that they will report back to the members and that the study will not be pigeonholed.

Even the defeat of a proposal to support withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Vietnam showed signs of a changing concept of the ABA's purposes.

The vote Wednesday in the assembly to shelve the proposal was 173 to 105. Those 105 votes losing were cast not only from among young antiwar lawyers, but the likes of Francis T.P. Plimpton, a former deputy ambassador to the United Nations with impeccable credentials in the legal establishment.

And in approving guidelines for dealing with courtroom disturbances the ABA cautioned trial judge to keep cool and reasonable, to be "exemplars of dignity and impartiality."

Implicit in the advice is that judges are not completely blameless for the flashes of anger and disarray in the nation's courts.

Perhaps the most lasting development at this week's session here was the proposal by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger that the ABA create "some kind of a legislative implementation committee to present to the Congress such programs relating to federal courts as the association after study considers worthy."

What this boils down to, incoming President Leon Jaworski of Houston said in an interview, is an ABA "lobby" to help relay Burger's desires to Congress.