

By John P MacKenzie  
Washington Post Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Feb. 23—The American Bar Association refused today to endorse the United Nations convention against genocide despite pleas that the Nixon administration needed the lawyers' help to win Senate ratification.

The House of Delegates voted, 130 to 126, to adhere to its 1950 stand against the convention, a position that has kept it bottled up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 20 years.

Ambassador Rita Hauser, U.S. representative on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, said the vote was a disappointment but was not fatal to the administration's ratification drive. Both sides had expected a close vote.

Miss Hauser, whose efforts in the administration enlisted the support of Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Attorney General John N. Mitchell, said she expected to tell the Senate that today's vote was too close to count heavily against the international agreement.

Thirty-eight delegates did not vote in the 294-member house, which consists of state and local bar leaders from all over the nation.

The vote climaxed nearly three hours of vigorous, sometimes emotional debate that pitted many of the bar's most prominent Eastern internationalist-minded members against conservative lawyers from the South and Midwest.

The convention, a post-World War II reaction to Nazi atrocities, makes it an international crime to commit acts "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such." It is binding now on 75 nations.

President Nixon, in a message urging Senate ratification last week, said America's refusal to adopt the convention was misunderstood in the world and harmed her inter-

ests, a point repeatedly stressed in the delegates' debate.

Opponents, however, reminded the house that the Black Panthers were charging federal officials and police with genocide. They said Communist countries would use the pact as an excuse to hale military personnel and other American nations before alien trial courts.

Miss Hauser told the delegates that Mitchell, before supporting the convention, went over every objection and took special care that American soldiers in Vietnam would not be prejudiced.

Among those supporting her were Solicitor General Erwin N. Griswold, former Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, former ABS President Charles S. Rhyne of Washington, Whitney N. Seymour Sr. of New York, and ABA President Bernard G. Segal.

Opponents, led by Eberhard P. Deutsch of New Orleans, included former ABA Presidents John C. Satterfield of Yazoo City, Miss., and Cody Fowler of Tampa, and attorney Ben R. Miller of Baton Rouge, La.

Earlier, Segal disclosed that Chief Justice Warren E. Burger had agreed to present his first annual "State of the Judiciary" address to the bar's convention in August.

Segal said he had long favored the idea of an address by the Chief Justice to Congress similar to the one the President gives each January. He said he will continue to press for such a message as a method of alerting legislators and the public to the needs of the judiciary.

Burger was noncommittal on the proposal to address Congress, but he told the delegates he would aim his speeches to the bar "and through you to the American public and to Congress."

# ABA Refuses To Endorse Genocide Pact

A 2 Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1970 THE WASHINGTON POST