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Threat to Civil Liberty Is Cited by ABA Unit

NEW YORK, July 9 (UPI)—A committee of the young lawyers section of the American Bar Association (ABA) has warned that the threat to civil liberties in the United States is "more dangerous" than at any time in the nation's history, including the era of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's Communist witchhunt.

The Committee on Protection of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights reported to the ABA Thursday following the organization's annual convention that "while this situation is not yet at a crisis point, our civil liberties problems are serious enough for us to conclude that we are dangerously close."

In a 29-page report based on

year-long research, the committee cited rhetorical attacks on dissenters, use of electronic and photographic surveillance, preparation of dossiers on private citizens, and assignment of informers in activist organizations and on campuses, and remarks critical of the communications media by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

The report also cited "some of our nation's highest leaders" for words and deeds which contribute to "the present climate of repression." The underlying cause for much of the situation was described as "national stress" resulting from "a highly unpopular war in Southeast Asia." It noted that public opinion polls show increasing intolerance on the part of the American people.

The committee urged President Nixon "to initiate a high-priority program aimed at the improvement of the present civil liberties climate."