

Burger Sees Test for U.S. Law System

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LONDON, July 14—More than a thousand American lawyers crowded into historic Westminster Hall this morning to be reminded by the heads of the judiciary in the United States and Great Britain that the law must change if it is to meet the needs of the time.

That theme ran through the speeches of both Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, whose words were carried by closed circuit television to an-

other 4,000 American lawyers gathered in hotels in the city.

The meeting, first of many in which the American Bar Association's members are comparing the legal systems of the two countries, was held in the building in which much of those systems began to develop. Westminster Hall was the meeting place of several British courts long before the first settlers carried legal traditions with them to North America.

Burger, noting this long relationship, suggested that American lawyers need now to look to the ways in which the

British law was changed in the 19th century and subsequently. He said, "In the final three decades of this century our American system of justice will be tested perhaps as never before. As we try to peer into the future, we must look not only to our past and our traditions, but to yours."

The chief justice was not specific about the kinds of tests he sees ahead for law in the United States, but a substantial portion of this meeting will be devoted to a look at the British system of criminal justice.

Burger warned that "brute-

force" threatened the supremacy of legal traditions, UPI reported.

"If that peril is not so immediate or so discernible as those that drew us together in the past, may it not be even more dangerous because it is so dimly seen, so difficult to define and meet, so easy to ignore?" Burger said.

[Burger told the delegates the peril was the decline of "the supremacy of the rule of law over brute force, the struggle of reason over terror" that could best be met by looking to the precedents of English and American law.]