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Political Scientists To Act on Ethics

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The Nation's political scientists moved today to adopt a report that would establish a standing committee on ethics, and set forth guidelines defining the proper relationship between government and industry and the political scientist.

The American Political Science Association, whose 4000 members are assembled at their 64th annual convention here, also appeared ready to adopt an amendment to the APSA constitution suggested by an insurgent group called the Caucus for a New Political Science.

The amendment calls on the association to "actively encourage" in its membership and its journal research in and concern for "significant contemporary political and social problems and politics."

The CNPS, which has the support of some 300 APSA members, wants the association to drop its traditional nonpartisan, nonpolitical stance in favor of positions on controversial issues. An earlier demand—that a day of the convention be devoted to discussion of the war in Vietnam—was turned down.

The standing committee and the guidelines are proposed in the Bernstein Report, a document compiled by a committee headed by Princeton Prof. Marver H. Bernstein and eleven colleagues. The committee was formed after the disclosure of close ties between the political science community and the government, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency, in the funding of research projects.

Among other proscriptions in the report is the notation that "officers and employees of the association have special obligations to avoid confusion between their position as political scientists and their formal responsibilities within the association." This is a reference to the activities of APSA Executive Director Evron Kirkpatrick and Treasurer Max M. Kampelman.

Kirkpatrick and Kampelman, as president and vice president of a Washington-based firm called Operations

and Policy Research, Inc., received CIA funds for research projects. An ad hoc committee of APSA in 1967 found that the contract "violated no conflict of interest with their (Kampelman's and Kirkpatrick's) responsibilities to the APSA" but the disclosure was widely regarded as an embarrassment.

Kampelman, who is a close friend and adviser of Vice President Humphrey, announced last year he would not run again for the post of treasurer. But he retains the post of legal counsel to APSA. It was understood that the nominating committee wanted to propose him for treasurer again, but Kampelman declined reportedly citing his involvement in Humphrey's presidential campaign.

In other developments at the convention:

University of Chicago Prof. Hans J. Morgenthau told an afternoon panel on Vietnam that the Johnson Administration is as ignorant of the revolution now going on in Vietnam as the Kennedy Administration was in thinking it could land 1000 Cuban refugees at the Bay of Pigs and expect the Cubans to rise up and overthrow Castro.

"We are using South Vietnam as a kind of easily managed substitute for a war which we are unwilling to fight against China, the major threat to the balance of power in Asia," Morgenthau declared. And, without naming President Johnson, he said his policy shows a "psychological incapability of admitting a mistake."

Harvard University Prof. Edwin O. Reischauer, a former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, said the U.S. failures in Vietnam illustrate a lack of forward planning in a U.S. government that now has grown so huge the best advice never has a chance to reach the President or the Secretary of State.

From his experience in government, Reischauer said, he found a "law" existed that provided: "The more important the decision, the less thought is given to it."