

'Great Society . . . a Sick Society,' Fulbright Tells American Bar

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J. W. FULBRIGHT

"... the war in Vietnam is poisoning and brutalizing our domestic life."

HONOLULU, Aug. 8—Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) said today that "the Great Society has become a sick society" by trying to cope with Vietnam and Detroit at the same time.

"Each war feeds on the other," said Fulbright, "and, although the President assures us that we have the resources to win both wars, in fact we are not winning either."

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told the American Bar Association's section on international law that the Vietnam war "feeds the idea of violence as a way of solving problems."

"Ugly and shocking thoughts are in the American air and they were forged in

the Vietnam crucible," Fulbright said.

The ABA, which is holding its 90th annual convention, had heard Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey defend the Administration's Vietnam policy on Monday. A large audience vigorously applauded when Humphrey insisted that America could afford a two-front war on communism abroad and poverty at home.

But Fulbright said the issue was not financial. "The statistics show financial capacity but they do not show moral and psychological capacity," he said. He said war-anxious citizens are not likely to show compassion for their neighbors, adding, "The war in Viet-

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Fulbright Tells Bar Great Society Is 'Sick'

nam is poisoning and brutalizing our domestic life."

Fulbright, a war critic who also has opposed much of the civil rights program of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, said of the domestic unrest: "At home, largely because of neglect resulting from 25 years of preoccupation with foreign involvements, our cities are exploding in violent protest against generations of social injustice."

He asked, "How can we commend democratic social reform in Latin America when Newark, Detroit and Milwaukee are providing explosive evidence of our own inadequate efforts at democratic social reform?"

[Asked whether he thought the violence in Vietnam fed violence at home, Humphrey said it is a difficult question to which he doesn't think anyone has the answer, according to United Press International.]

Fulbright said the domestic violence may itself be an obstacle to peace because it might appear to the Vietcong and North Vietnamese "As a harbinger of impending breakdown," encouraging them to take a harder line of peace talks.

He commended the Nation's younger generation, including most of its peace demonstrators, for "Demonstrating the vitality of American values and refusing to be 'deceived' about the war's racial departure from American values."

"While the country sickens for lack of moral leadership, a most remarkable younger generation has taken up the standard of American idealism," Fulbright said.

During two days of discus-

sion earlier here on the summer's city riots, Harvard Law School Dean Erwin N. Griswold said the trouble showed "that we in the North have done a very bad job. We have largely ignored the tens of thousands of Negroes who have emigrated from the South during recent years."

Yale Law School Dean Louis H. Pollak called for passage of open housing legislation by Congress. Although he said he normally welcomed liberal court decisions on civil rights, Pollak said legislatures rather than courts should be pressed to strike down private housing discrimination.

Congress of Racial Equality legal director Carl Rachlin asked the lawyers to separate rioting from non-violent civil disobedience in their thinking. He said that such acts as disregarding police orders not to assemble should be judged as right or wrong on their own merits.

"It would be hard to believe that members of the Bar could accept the view that orders should be obeyed no matter how wrongful or corrupt," Rachlin said.

The ABA, often regarded as a bastion of legal conservatism, conferred its highest award, the ABA Medal, on Chief Justice Roger J. Traynor of California, who is considered one of the most liberal of state judges.

Traynor, 67, is best known among lawyers for his 1955 opinion barring the use of illegally seized evidence in California state courts. The decision anticipated the U.S. Supreme Court's search-and-seizure ruling by seven years.