

Amnesty Urged *Post 8/13/74*

HONOLULU — The president of the American Bar Association called for amnesty for Vietnam war draft evaders and deserters.

"A citizen of a free country should not be forced to fight in a war that neither he nor his elected representatives chose to initiate or declare," said Chesterfield Smith, head of the 185,000-member group.

In remarks for the opening session of the ABA's annual meeting, Smith said the nation should also exonerate all the ex-servicemen who came out with "less than honorable discharges."

The Lakeland, Fla., attorney said he would support unconditional amnesty, conditional amnesty, alternate service "or any other plan which in whole or in part resolves our dilemma."

He said there are an estimated 30,000 to 200,000 war resisters and draft dodgers who are either exiled from their country or living in the U.S. as fugitives.

In addition there are more than 450,000 servicemen who were discharged with less than honorable releases and "who daily suffer the legal disabilities that those discharges carry."