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Detention

Camp Repeal

Goes to Nixon

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The Senate yesterday swiftly completed congressional repeal of a 1950 law authorizing the government to operate detention camps for suspected spies and saboteurs in times of national emergency.

The legislation, identical to that passed by the House Tuesday on a 356-to-49 vote, not only repealed the never used Emergency Detention Act, but included language requiring an act of Congress before anyone can be imprisoned or detained except under existing criminal laws.

The Senate action, on a voice vote in which no dissent was heard, sent the measure to the White House for President Nixon's signature. Although Mr. Nixon helped write the original bill when he was a House member, his administration supported its repeal.

The existence of the law was cited by some militant and minority groups who expressed fear the government might try to silence those holding unpopular views.

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