

Detention Repeal

Voted by Senate

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Senate passed and sent to President Nixon today a bill to repeal a 1950 law authorizing suspected spies and saboteurs to be rounded up and held in detention camps during war or an insurrection.

With less than half a dozen members present, the Senate quickly accepted without objection the bill which the House passed by a 356-49 vote Tuesday after two days of heated debate.

The measure specifically prohibits the government from establishing detention camps without the consent of Congress.

Never in Use

The 1950 act, part of an internal security measure passed over the veto of President Truman, never has been used, but it has spawned rumors that the government might use it to detain militants or others with unpopular views.

The Nixon administration, although it said such fears were totally unfounded, supported the repeal legislation.

Both Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and Republican Leader Hugh Scott declared the repeal was long overdue.

Scott said that "perhaps the worst internal crime committed in this country was the order of the President of the United States intern^{ing} loyal Japanese-Americans in World War II.

'Grossest Injustice'

"We were guilty of the grossest kind of injustice," he said. Mansfield commented that he served on a panel

which interviewed interned Japanese at a Montana camp in the war and asserted "we never found one case of subversion or disloyalty."

At the outbreak of World War II the government interned 112,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast on the grounds that they might help Japan.

The 1950 act provided that, in time of war, invasion or insurrection, the government could place in detention camps persons who, there was reasonable ground to believe, would probably engage in sabotage or espionage.