

The Bar, Lawyers And Watergate

Washington

The American Bar Association assembly yesterday approved a call for "prompt and vigorous investigation" of the ethical conduct of lawyers involved in the Watergate case.

Approval came after the assembly, a body composed of the association members attending the ABA meeting here, sharply rejected a proposal to caution the state and local bar associations which have direct responsibility for lawyer discipline against moving before any criminal proceedings against the lawyers involved are finally decided.

Joe Henry of Memphis, Tenn., opposed the slowdown to wait for a criminal decision. Henry, who introduced one of the ABA's original Watergate resolutions, urged the assembly to "belly up to the buzzsaw and do something about this thing."

The resolution approved by the assembly represented a compromise fashioned by behind-the-scenes committees at the convention Tuesday. It makes no direct mention of the Watergate scandal but alludes to allegations and admissions before the Senate Watergate committee and in press reports.

Associated Press