

SF CHRONICLE

4 JUL 70

Lawyer Leader**Agnew Accused of
'Muzzling Dissent'****San Antonio, Tex.**

The president of the American Bar Association accused Vice President Spiro T. Agnew yesterday of trying to "muzzle dissent" when he criticized a young member of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

The bar president, Bernard Segal of Philadelphia, made the comment in the text of a speech to the Texas Bar Association convention, but he deleted reference to the vice president when the speech was delivered.

Segal said he was sticking by the remarks in the text and made the deletions in the interest of shortening his speech.

VIOLENCE

"Violence cannot be condoned by society," Segal said. At the same time, he added, "we lawyers must not permit government to descend to the level of revolutionaries.

"We cannot permit government to meet the excesses of a small group with their own excesses."

In the text Segal criticized Agnew's recent attack on Joseph Rhodes, a Harvard University student named to the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

Shortly after the commission was named, Segal said, Rhodes made a "strong statement to newsmen. That was all. I doubt that he could have incited a newsman to riot.

"Here, then, was nonviolent dissent, the very thing the vice president of the United States had recently

acclaimed when speaking in defense of his position on dissent.

"But now his response was immediate; it almost seemed reflex. He publicly excoriated the student for his statement, labeled him unfit to serve on the commission, and called for his resignation.

"Quite predictably and to his credit, President Nixon was unmoved. But the damage was done. Once again, the perennial endeavor to muzzle dissent."

DISSENT

Segal declared: "What can be more discordant in these days than to hear those in high places proclaim that they support the right of dissent, that the only kind of dissent which they deprecate is dissent accompanied by violence, and then at the first expression of significant, distasteful, though non-violent dissent, level a vitriolic attack in a loud tone against the speaker?"

Associated Press