

By ROY REED

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NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 5 — The professional conduct of Henry A. Kissinger, the nation's most prominent political scientist, was called into question today by a portion of the American Political Science Association, of which he was once a member.

A move aimed at the possible censure of Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser for national security affairs, who is Secretary of State-designate, for his part in Government wiretapping and in the bombing of Southeast Asia, was defeated at the association's annual meeting here. However, it seemed to have the support of about 30 per cent of the members voting.

'Accomplice in Terror'

By a vote of 245 to 106, the association upheld a ruling by its president that two resolutions calling for an investigation by the association's Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom were out of order.

The first resolution criticized Mr. Kissinger's approval of the wiretapping of a number of his Government colleagues and newsmen to try to find the source of Government information leaks. The resolution pointed out that the subjects of the wiretapping included a fellow political scientist, Morton Halperin.

The second resolution criticized Mr. Kissinger for being what it termed "an accomplice in the terror bombing of Hanoi" last fall and for having "issued deliberately misleading 'peace is at hand' statements on the eve of the 1972 Presidential election."

Both resolutions called on

the ethics committee to censure Mr. Kissinger if its investigation upheld the substance of the charges.

The overwhelming vote not to consider the resolutions apparently reflected a feeling by the members that the association should not concern itself with the actions of political scientists in public office.

Those opposing the resolutions argued repeatedly that the organization's constitution gave the committee on ethics no power to concern itself with questions beyond political science teaching and research.

David Fellman of the University of Wisconsin, chairman of the ethics committee, urged the members to reject "all efforts to politicize the association."

The resolutions were proposed by Christian Bay of the University of Toronto and H. Mark Roelofs of New York University. Mr. Bay is an outgoing member of the association's governing council. Both are members of the Caucus for a New Political Science, which has tried in recent years to make the association more activist.

They argued that the association had a responsibility to scrutinize the ethics of political scientists who hold high office.

"The Kissinger case is a good place to begin," Mr. Bay said in

a statement before the business meeting, "because it raises in a clear way so many important issues about which political scientists can be supposed to have a special competence, questions about the citizen's right to privacy, the free flow of information in a democracy, the nature of the electoral process, and especially about the application of the Nuremberg [trials] principals to the American involvement in Indochina."

Mr. Kissinger, who was generally referred to in the debate as Professor Kissinger, was a member of the association when he taught political science at Harvard University.