

Bar of California Seeks to Reject Nixon Resignation

Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept. 12—The State Bar said today it will recommend that former President Nixon's resignation as a California lawyer be rejected because he failed to acknowledge that a disciplinary matter is pending against him.

The bar's newly installed president, Brent M. Abel of San Francisco, announced the decision—made by the State Bar board of governors late today—after a four-hour meeting to consider Mr. Nixon's two-paragraph letter of resignation received earlier in the day.

The action will keep open, at least temporarily, a bar investigation to determine whether Mr. Nixon should be disciplined for his Water-gate-related activities.

The board's action was not unanimous, but was voted by a substantial majority, Abel said.

The letter arrived as the bar was winding up its annual convention. An attorney for Mr. Nixon, Dean S. Butler, had served notice earlier in the week that the formal resignation was on its way.

Abel said there were no negotiations with Mr. Nixon or Butler over the tone the letter would take.

However, he said, both Mr. Nixon and Butler have been aware since at least Monday that the bar required an ac-

knowledgement in the letter that disciplinary proceedings were pending against Mr. Nixon.

The letter and the board's resolution will be forwarded to the state Supreme Court—which must make the final decision—in the next day or two, Abel said.

Until the letter is filed with the court, he declined to release the text.

The board's resolution asks that if the Supreme Court decides nevertheless to accept the resignation, that it be done "without prejudice to further proceedings" in the pending disciplinary matter.

That means, Abel said, that the disciplinary matter would be a part of the record should Mr. Nixon apply for reinstatement as a lawyer in the future.

Abel said the Supreme Court has complete discretion to accept or reject the resignation, but that the bar's recommendation is followed more often than not.

Bourguiba Promise

Agence France-Presse

TUNIS, Sept. 12 — President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia today announced that the people will be consulted from now on certain issues and that limited controls over executive action will be granted to the National Assembly.