

SHUN CONFORMITY, WARREN ADVISES

New School Graduates Told
to Find Unity in Diversity

6/3/64
By MURRAY ILLSON

Chief Justice Earl Warren warned last night that conformity was increasing in this country, and he linked the increase with the growth of mass communications and mass production.

The results of the growth of mass production and the accompanying increase in conformity, he asserted, "are apparent on all sides, from our dreary community development to the organization men who inhabit them."

Chief Justice Warren sounded his warning in an address prepared for the 28th annual commencement exercises of the New School for Social Research, which granted him an honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Honorary doctor of laws degrees also were conferred upon Edward R. Marrow, former director of the United States Information Agency, who received his in absentia, and Nathan W. Levin, industrialist, financier and trustee of the New School. The degrees were conferred by Jacob M. Kaplan, chairman of the board of trustees. Dr. Robert M. MacIver, president of

the New School, presided at the exercises.

Mr. Warren, in his address, declared that the country's universities "provide our strongest bulwark against conformity."

"Free scholarship and criticism in our open system of ideas," he said, "permit the best of every diverse theory to be tested in the market place of thought. Timidity and scholarship are incompatible."

Ask 'Dramatic Approach'

Noting that the physical sciences had made great advances by "achieving unity from diversity," Mr. Warren said that he "would like to see the same kind of dramatic approach taken in the field of the social sciences."

"Now it may be," he observed, "that one of the reasons that physical science makes such considerable headway is because the scientist pursues knowledge to its ultimate conclusion regardless of what the consequences may be."

"When we are dealing with the social sciences, too often or so it seems to me—we stop

short of the pursuit of knowledge because of the conflicting currents and interests in society that resist change or resist progress."

The Chief Justice said that in no country of the world has "the lesson of unity from diversity been more essential than in this land of ours where the very motto 'E Pluribus Unum'

has had national significance from the very start."

"This is not to say," he added, "that we are free from divisive forces—racial, national and religious—as events of the day sadly attest. But our destiny lies in unity, and our fundamental notions about equality and fairness, I have no doubt, will eventually prevail."