

WARREN: A CASE FOR GREATNESS

BY STANTON A. COBLENTZ

PATHWAY TO JUDGMENT, A Study of Earl Warren by Luther A. Huston (Chilton: \$5.95).

While acknowledging that only time and perspective can decide any man's place in history, Luther A. Huston does make a definite and considered judgment in this survey of the life and accomplishments of Chief Justice Earl Warren. Warren in his opinion is one of the "great Americans" and deserves to rank beside Marshall and Hughes as one of the three outstanding chief justices.

These are mighty claims, and depend for their substantiation mainly upon Warren's leadership of the Court in the civil rights cases and other epoch-making decisions. But while the author has not proved his case to the hilt, he does offer a considerable amount of evidence; the reader, whether or not he agrees with all the Warren verdicts, can hardly turn from these pages without a renewed sense of the forthrightness, the courage, the power and the humanity of the chief justice.

In the early part of the book, in

which he traces Warren's rise from humble beginnings to become district attorney of Alameda County, then attorney general of California, then governor and finally chief justice of the Supreme Court, Luther A. Huston has shown the development of the qualities that brought his subject strength as a judge. We see that he never lost touch with the common man and never forgot the lessons of his struggling early days; and we can understand why he became the head of a "bold" court which, whatever our views of the results, has made some of the epoch-making decisions of this century.

One could wish that this book had been less brief and cursory in depicting Warren's rise and could also wish that it had been written in a less journalistic style, with more graphic portrayals. But in any case we have here an interesting and valuable study even if it is not a definitive study.