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Says 20 Million Americans
Are Still Second-Class

Earl Warren said last night that it was deplorable that there were more than 20 million Americans, "mostly black, who are still denied basic rights of American citizenship."

"Nothing in our history," the former Chief Justice of the United States said, "current or past—has been so divisive in our national life."

Justice Warren made his remarks at a dinner given by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel at which he received the league's annual America's Democratic Legacy Award.

The award, presented at the league's annual conference, has been given since 1948 on the basis of the recipient's record of service to the nation in civil liberties and human rights.

Warren's 'Sensitivity'

The league honored Justice Warren for "his sensitivity to

individual rights, his courage, his progressive conviction and his concern for fair play, which for 16 years led the Supreme Court through one of the most decisive periods in its history."

In his remarks, Justice Warren said that "we can rid our minds of all vestiges of defamiation and can live in peace and harmony or we can be divisive, but we must take the consequences . . . whatever they be. It is our choice."

Judge John Minor Wisdom of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, one of the South's leading Federal jurists, said that the 1954 Supreme Court school case did not involve the problem of segregated schools resulting from segregated neighborhoods. Therefore, he said, that issue must now be resolved by Congress and the Burger court," a reference to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

The Rev. Robert F. Drinan, dean of the Boston College Law School, cited contributions of the Warren court to freedom of speech, saying that there had been "an extraordinary development of freedom of association."

He said that "radicals, like the abolitionists, may very well be the precise persons who will bring about the most important developments in our society."