

Q. Many lawyers have told me that Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the U.S., knows less law than any of the other Supreme Court Justices. Is that true?—
Amanda Thorpe, Ithaca, N.Y.

A. Some qualified members of the bar who prefer to remain nameless believe that Burger as a scholar of the law does not rank at this time with Harlan, Stewart, Black, Marshall, White, Blackmun, Brennan, or Douglas. As a politician, however, he is their superior. Burger is not only a former president of the St. Paul (Minn.) Junior Chamber of Commerce, but he helped organize the Young Republicans in his state, and in the 1952 Republican Convention managed Harold Stassen's campaign for the Presidential nomination. It was at this convention, when General Eisenhower and Sen. Robert Taft emerged as the leading contenders, that Burger threw his support to Eisenhower, helping assure the nomination of Ike and Richard Nixon on the first ballot. As a reward Eisenhower appointed Burger an Assistant Attorney General, and later to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.