

# Warren Reverses in Book, Regrets '42 Internment Role

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SAN FRANCISCO, July 12 —Earl Warren, who never publicly apologized for his rôle in the World War II U.S. internment of Japanese-Americans, expresses deep regret over that role in a not-yet-published autobiography.

Sources familiar with the rough-draft text, completed by the former chief justice only weeks before his death Tuesday, said here that Warren discloses in the work his view that—in retrospect—the internment was wrong and unnecessary.

In early 1942 shortly after war broke out, Warren, then California attorney general, testified before congressional committees that the states' immigrant and native-born Japanese population presented a serious threat to American coastal defenses.

"I've since regretted the internment order and my own testimony advocating it," Warren is said to have written in the new work. The sources said Warren described himself in the work as "conscience-stricken" about the internment.

In 1942, between April and July, 110,000 Japanese from four western states—two-thirds of them U.S. citizens—were incarcerated in 10 "relocation centers," all more than 100 miles inland. Most Japanese elsewhere in the country, and in Hawaii, were not interned.

In the autobiography, Warren is said to take note of the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The sources said Warren wrote that he especially regretted that the "inflamed passions" of the period led to the breaking up of families and the dislocation of women and children.

A 1942 letter to an Oakland attorney shows a different side of the man now eulogized

as a great civil libertarian:

"When public agencies attempt to stretch the processes of civil government to accomplish objectives in conflict with the Constitution, it always leads to excesses which will destroy, piecemeal, the constitutional system for which we're fighting.

"On the other hand, military necessity in time of war is rightfully the paramount consideration and whatever is done by the military to effect the security of the nation is both expedient and proper, provided it is done in a manner as humane as circumstances permit."

In November, 1943, when he discussed the issue at a Sacramento news conference, Warren, then California governor, said, "I firmly believe there is a positive danger attached to the presence of so many of these admittedly American-hating Japanese in an area where sabotage and other civil disorder would be so detrimental to our war effort."

However, in his autobiography Warren wrote that history now shows there was no evidence of disloyalty among Japanese-Americans at the time of the internment decision, the sources said.

Despite his regrets, the sources said, Warren wrote that he hoped today's readers will not judge too harshly his words of 30 years ago and insisted there was nothing hypocritical or politically manipulative in his wartime actions.

In 1966, Edison Uno, a Japanese-American civic leader in San Francisco, began a campaign to get the former chief justice "to extract from the public record the very racist and derogatory statements he made about Japanese-Americans at the time of the evacuation."

Uno said today he and Warren corresponded for seven

years on the subject; and that when they finally met, last December, Warren told him, "Your wish will be granted. I am working on an autobiography..."

In the May 29 English-language edition of Osaka Mainichi, a daily newspaper in Japan, columnist Morse Saito told how during a recent visit by Saito to America, Warren "confided something that has caused him great regret for three decades—his actions during the evacuation."

The Warren autobiography, which will be published by Doubleday & Co. at the end of next year, according to a company spokesman, is said to include his observations about the present-day Supreme Court and about Richard M. Nixon.

## Warren-Nixon Letters

### Missing From Archive

SACRAMENTO, July 12 (AP)—Personal correspondence between the late Earl Warren and then-U.S. Sen. Richard M. Nixon (R-Calif.) apparently was removed from Warren's official papers before they were turned over to the state, official California archivists say.

A folder labeled "Nixon" was empty when Warren's files were opened Thursday after being sealed since 1953 when Warren resigned as governor to become chief justice.

The empty folder left unanswered questions about the relationship between Warren and Mr. Nixon — particularly the nature of the bitter infighting at the 1952 Republican National Convention.

Archivist David Synder said the file of correspondence with Mr. Nixon was empty when he examined it in 1965. He said he believed it had been emptied before it came to the state archives along with more than 550 cubic feet of files.