

# Warren Feels Dissent Helps

## Chief Justice Reflects on 15-Year Tenure

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The idea of dissent "is a good thing in this country," says U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, reflecting on his 15 years on the Supreme Court.

"I wouldn't want to take the

Supreme Court out of controversy or away from criticism because I think it strengthens our system," the retiring justice said in a radio and television interview.

Warren also said none of the Warren Commission critics has unearthed any facts, in his opinion, which contradict the conclusion of the commission that Lee

Harvey Oswald, acting alone, assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

The silver-haired 77-year-old justice's comments came in an interview with reporters for radio station KFBK and television station KOVR Thursday.

### NOT BOTHERED

Warren was in his third term as Republican governor of California when then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower named him U.S. chief justice in 1953.

In reply to questions, Warren said roadside billboards demanding "impeach Earl Warren" had not bothered him.

"After many years in politics, I learned to accept criticism as well as praise in what we do, and I really think criticism is a good thing for all our agencies of government.

"I wouldn't want to take the Supreme Court out of controversy or away from criticisms because I think it strengthens our system. Of course, we have had some very outlandish criticism that goes beyond the reasonable. But just the idea of dissent is a good thing in this country. I

have no feeling against it at all."

Warren said he has no objection to legitimate dissent and criticism of the Warren Commission's findings, but said some attempts to discredit the findings were "unjustified."

"I haven't heard or read of one single fact that has been developed contrary to the findings of the commission up to this day," he said.

The jurist also rejected the opinion of some persons that "if the Supreme Court doesn't like something, it just reaches out and takes the issue and brings it to the Supreme Court."

"Well, that's the farthest thing from the truth. Every case that we have starts in a trial court or the state courts. The case progresses through until eventually it comes to us."

Warren was referring particularly to cases involving civil rights and individual rights.

"When it does come to us," he added, "It's usually of a very controversial nature and our decision therefore becomes controversial because . . . somebody has to win and somebody has to lose."

Warren, as is traditional for justices, did not discuss specific cases the court had heard or that are pending in the court.