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# Earl Warren's GOP Tradition

SACRAMENTO—The flags are at half staff for a native son who served the nation well. Earl Warren as chief justice of the United States led the way out of the segregation dead-end quickening hope that the two worlds, black and white, could be brought together.

In the same way during his two terms as governor of California with reelection to a third term interrupted when he was named Chief Justice, Warren set moderate progressive goals both for the state and for his party. He was in a long standing California tradition that accepted change, the inevitable change of this swiftly growing Pacific shore, seeking to channel this change in ways least burdensome both to the rush of newcomers from across the country and to the native sons.

Warren's death comes as his party in California stands betwixt and between past and present. His distrust of Gov. Ronald Reagan who turned his face against so many things which Warren stood for was no secret. Ending his second term, Reagan was the smooth television star whose presence was the message with issues thrust out of sight.

In the recent primary, the Republican nominated state controller Houston Flournoy as their candidate for governor. At 44, he is nearly 20 years younger than Reagan. He was a former teacher of history and constitutional law at Pomona College before he defeated Sen. Alan Cranston for the controller's office.

Looking younger than his years with a quick response and a lively sense of humor, Flournoy could be, as he has been billed on occasion, the moderate



Houston Flournoy

progressive successor to Warren in rebuilding the party.

But the weight of the Reagan past hangs over him. The governor made an all-out attempt campaigning throughout the state two years ago to put over a constitutional amendment which would have frozen taxes at a certain level and at the same time put a limit on all social services. Flournoy supported that effort which failed by a fairly wide margin.



Earl Warren

Reagan has been the darling of a small group of very wealthy Californians who have given him their favors in return, it is charged, for special consideration for their interests.

During the Democratic primary, Mayor Joseph Alioto of San Francisco, an unsuccessful candidate for governor, charged that Flournoy met with these same Californians on Jan. 12 and agreed on goals for the state. Flournoy laughs at this, saying they met but he

will be his own man when he is elected.

Trying to stand clear of Watergate and the Nixon scandals is for Flournoy a more formidable challenge. Determined to concentrate on state issues, he will be confronted at every turn as the impeachment process proceeds with the demand that he declare himself on the fate of that other Californian, Richard Nixon. This had already begun with the Democrat successful in the primary, Edmund G. Brown Jr., calling on Flournoy to speak out on Watergate.

Long ago, Earl Warren had firsthand knowledge of Nixon's perfidy. At the start of the Republican convention of 1952, the California delegation crossing the country by train was overwhelming for Warren. Nixon flew to Denver, joined the train and persuaded a number of delegates that Dwight Eisenhower's nomination at Chicago was inevitable and they had better get on the bandwagon while there was still time.

I met with Warren as the convention opened. While he was careful in what he said, it was apparent he had been deeply wounded. As President, he would have had the extensive background in administration and in politics that Eisenhower lacked and which was one reason for the poor domestic record of the Eisenhower administration. But that might-have-been is irrelevant against the splendid record of the Warren Court in the critical years of the '50s.