

U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren

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WASHINGTON, June 21— For an official who is not allowed a dime for professional image-making and whose every public thought is written on the public record, the Chief Justice of the United States is the wonder if not the envy of image seekers in this capital.

Except for the minority of right wingers who in the News in "Impeach Earl Warren" signs to decorate the highways, most people seem to view the man as gentle, kindly, thoughtful, experienced, able and humorous. A large, strong face and a white mane conveyed a picture of maturity and wisdom.

One of the Chief Justice's duller chores is presiding at the admission of lawyers to practice before the Supreme Court. On occasion, admissions exceed 200. Aware that this is a memorable event for the young lawyer, Mr. Warren, who has offered his resignation as Chief Justice, always offered a kind word and smile that the newcomer might cherish as exclusively his own.

Old-time Court watchers marveled at this human touch in a routine, time-consuming exercise.

A Favorite Chore

One extracurricular chore Mr. Warren always seemed to enjoy as much as his audience was the swearing in of officers of the National Press Club.

The oath varied but the mood was the same: "Do you solemnly swear that you will uphold the constitution and bar prices of the National Press Club and run this club in your own way without any checks and balances?"

In the last 12 years Chief Justice Warren has missed this function only once. That was in 1965, when President Johnson designated him as his personal representative at the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. The Chief Justice called the club's president-elect and expressed his regret that he could not do the honors at the inauguration frolic.

Yet a few say his image is flawed. Some years ago the Chief Justice ordered the dismissal of a Court attendant for a dereliction that others thought forgivable. Two distinguished lawyers called on the Chief Justice and appealed for the man's reinstatement. Mr. Warren would not budge.



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Kindly but controversial

A 3-Term Governor

One of the lawyers later described the Chief Justice as "tough" and a perversion of the public image of a kindly old man.

As the Attorney General of California getting ready to run for Governor, Earl Warren appalled liberals in January of 1942 by urging that Japanese-Americans be evacuated, natives as well as aliens, from their California homes and farms. To do otherwise, he declared, "may bring about a repetition of Pearl Harbor."

He was the only three-term Governor in California's history and was one of the

few Republican Governors that labor leaders regarded as a liberal. He was the unsuccessful candidate for Vice President in 1948 on the ticket headed by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1953, most observers expected him to take a cautious middle-of-the-road approach on the use of judicial power.

He turned out to be a strong believer that the courts must guard the individual liberty of the little man. His decision holding public school segregation unconstitutional and the ruling that state legislative districts must be substantially equal in population are among the landmarks of the "Warren Court."

Earl Warren's parents were Scandinavian immigrants.

His father was born Methias Varran and changed his surname when he came to the United States from Norway. The future Chief Justice was born in a frame house in Los Angeles on March 19, 1891. As a youth he had a job as a railroad call boy who notified crew members at their homes to report for work.

He attended college and law school at the University of California at Berkeley. He practiced law briefly and in 1920 began his life of public service. He was a crusading district attorney.

On Oct. 14, 1925, he married Nina Palmquist Meyer, a widow, whose son, James, he adopted. They have five other children — Earl Jr., Robert, Virginia, Dorothy and Nina.

For relaxation, the Chief Justice enjoys outdoor spectator sports—football, baseball and track.

A clue to his way of thinking and awareness of history may be found in Mr. Warren's advice to the New York Constitutional Convention more than a year ago:

"If your patience should become sorely tried, I trust you will remember the problems of the Founding Fathers in that long, hot summer of 1787 at Philadelphia. That reflection and the air-conditioning should refresh your spirits."