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Ron Nelson for The New York Times

DISCUSSES RETIREMENT: Chief Justice Earl Warren in his chambers at Supreme Court, where he was interviewed.

Warren, Justice 15 Years, To Seek Speed in Courts

By FRED P. GRAHAM
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Chief Justice Earl Warren, who will mark the 15th anniversary of his Supreme Court appointment tomorrow, has decided to remain in Washington after his retirement and help to build up the new Federal judicial center created by Congress last December.

Barring a collapse of the filibuster that is blocking a Senate vote on the confirmation of Associate Justice Abe Fortas to succeed him, Mr. Warren will take his customary seat when the Supreme Court convenes next Monday, Oct. 7. He will spend his anniversary tomorrow preparing for the new term.

But while he has announced that he will stay on the Supreme Court until his successor is confirmed, Mr. Warren is looking forward to the day when he can leave the Court and begin work on a task that has become a passion with him—to streamline and speed the nation's faltering system of justice.

"The most important job of the courts today is not to decide what the substantive law is, but to work out ways to move the cases along and relieve court congestion," Mr. Warren said in an interview he granted to discuss his retirement plans.

"The Supreme Court can't deal with this problem—its job is to decide cases."

Mr. Warren seemed still very much the Chief Justice as he sat in his office off the main Court chamber at the heart of the hulking Supreme Court building. He was surrounded by the books and papers of court work, and he said he was working at his usual brisk late-afternoon pace.

"I'm here, and I'll still be here, so far as this event [the Fortas nomination] is undetermined," Mr. Warren said.

He spoke freely about his retirement arrangements, except for one important element—he declined, as he has since his retirement became known, to comment in any way on the timing of his departure.

Chief Justice Warren has explained this policy of silence—which he has followed throughout his years on the bench—by declaring that if he responds to press queries he will only be asked to elaborate further. He

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feels this could draw the Supreme Court into unnecessary public controversies.

This has led to speculation in the Senate and in the press that Mr. Warren timed his retirement so President Johnson could name the next Chief Justice, and that he will rescind his retirement if Justice Fortas is not confirmed and Richard M. Nixon is elected President.

The speculation was based on Mr. Warren's letter to Mr. Johnson, which announced "my intention to retire . . . effective at your pleasure. The President accepted "effective at such time as a successor is qualified."

Mr. Warren stuck to his no-comment policy on this subject during the interview in his office last Monday. He referred to the statement that his office has given in response to all inquiries on this point:

"I am still Chief Justice and, in accordance with usual practice, I shall not discuss any Court matters."

However, throughout the 35-minute discussion of his plans, Mr. Warren at no time hinted that they were conditional and that he might change his mind about stepping down. He appeared to be a man who has made up his mind to retire and who would do so as soon as a successor—any successor named by any President—is confirmed.

Although Mr. Warren plans no event tomorrow in celebration of his 15th anniversary, his appointment by President

Dwight D. Eisenhower is still sharp and sweet in his memory.

"He called me on Wednesday," Mr. Warren recalled, to say that he was announcing the appointment that day, Sept. 30, 1953.

Chief Justice Warren was sworn in on Oct. 5. He had been serving until that time as Governor of California.

As an example of how serious court congestion and delay is today, Mr. Warren cited the Federal district court in Brooklyn, where he said there was an average 20.3-month lag between the indictment and trial of a defendant. He called this "atrocious."

Security of Community

"If a man is guilty and out awaiting trial he is probably committing more of the same type of crime, and this bears directly on the security of the community."

If the man is innocent, he said, "his life is under a cloud for two years."

Last December, Congress created a Federal judicial center to develop new techniques to streamline the process, with an emphasis on computers and modern business methods. Former Justice Tom C. Clark is director of the embryonic center, which will be in the Dolly Madison House, across Lafayette Square from the White House.

Mr. Clark said yesterday that Mr. Warren had agreed to teach and lecture at the center's training courses for judges and to use his prestige to persuade judges around the country to adopt the new techniques the center hopes to develop. He will also attempt to persuade the states to create judicial centers to work with the Federal center.

Mr. Warren will retain offices in the Supreme Court building, moving into an office at the front, facing the Capitol, where the admission of new attorneys is now processed.

He and Mrs. Warren will continue to live in the suite in the Sheraton Park Hotel where they have resided for the last 15 years. Mr. Warren says he will spend as much time as possible in California, where five of his six children and his 13 grandchildren live.

The California press erroneously reported that he was house-hunting in the San Francisco area, he said, causing him to be deluged with mail from real estate agents.

The Chief Justice said he had also received many offers to write, lecture and teach, but that he had "pushed them to the side" until his retirement was settled.



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**Mr. Warren in his office off
the main Court chamber.**