

Earl Warren's message for students

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By Hollis Wagstaff

In a letter written a month before he died, former Chief Justice Earl Warren said he wanted to plead with students not to become cynical over the Watergate scandal.

Writing from his bed at Georgetown University hospital to Chancellor Dean E. McHenry of the University of California in Santa Cruz, Warren cautioned against overreaction to Watergate by tampering with the Constitution.

Said Warren, "I wanted to impress upon them (the students) that they not only should, but could, be an important factor in solving many of the problems of our day.

"I have never known anything bad happening to our nation through adherence to the Constitution as it now stands.

"We are only in great na-

tional trouble when people violate or circumvent the Constitution. The atmosphere of today will permit neither proper evaluation of any constitutional change nor the consequences of doing so in such unsettled times."

Proposals such as abolishing the vice presidency, taking the Justice Department and the FBI out of the executive branch, and changing the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court concerned him.

"I believe we should remember the truism that we don't tear down good buildings merely because they have been occupied by bad tenants.

"Our country will survive this tragedy and will do so if an enlightened citizenry will give its attention to the affairs of government on all its levels."

Warren had hoped to address a banquet honoring McHenry on the educator's retirement June 6. The letter, written shortly after Warren entered the hospital, expressed regret that he could not attend.

have had on occasion for some time acted up, and the doctor insisted on putting me here in the hospital, where I must remain for a few days longer," Warren said.

He died July 9 at the age of 83.
"Some angina which I

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