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Warren Retirement 240

WASHINGTON AP - Chief Justice Earl Warren, announcing plans to remain in Washington to work to improve the administration of justice, urged the legal profession Monday to modernize its procedures.

In sentimental remarks to Washington's legal fraternity, the man who retires later this month after 15 years as the nation's chief justice gently chided the profession for failing to bring its own procedures "into the 20th Century."

He said lawyers and judges know what the substantive law is, but never have really dedicated themselves to the idea of "making our legal system work . . . never been bold enough in going to the public and the Congress and saying what we need."

Warren said trial delays and other breakdowns in the process of justice can't be tolerated. He added that the time has come for the profession to make "bold plans to do the job the public expects of us."

The audience of more than 200 judges and lawyers gave Warren a standing ovation that ended only when the chief justice - his eyes misting - raised his hands for silence.

Warren said he had planned to return to California and devote himself to his grandchildren but "just couldn't pull up stakes in Washington. Mrs. Warren and I will keep our home here."

He added that he told former Justice Tom Clark "that I will do anything he wants me to do." Clark is now director of a federal research and training center created by Congress to assist and improve the federal judiciary.

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