A Dedication

This issue of the *California Law Review* celebrates the seventieth birthday of the Chief Justice of the United States, Earl Warren. It also marks the eighth term during which Chief Justice Warren has presided over the Supreme Court of the United States. The articles which follow constitute reviews of selected aspects of the work of the Court during this period.

Even the casual newspaper reader is aware that the Supreme Court today is a controversial institution. Disputes over the work of the Court take place at all levels of society—doubtless because at no other time has the Court in its decisions touched directly upon the daily lives of such a large percentage of the people. Judges, scholars, commentators, legislators, governors, ordinary citizens, all are heard to express their views concerning the Court.1 The Court as an institution and individual Justices or groups of Justices are discussed in terms ranging from fervent approval to fanatical denunciation. All too frequently the positions taken (even, I regret to report, by scholars) appear to be based upon no more profound principle than agreement or disagreement with the results of the Court's decisions.

Perhaps the major barrier to understanding the work of the Court today is the tendency to oversimplify the problems, to focus attention upon the immediate results of the decisions. Far more emphasis needs to be placed upon the tremendous complexity of the issues which form the daily diet of the Court. There are no easy answers when the competing claims in litigation are each supported by weighty considerations of public policy. The articles in this symposium make perhaps their most valuable contribution to public understanding in exposing to view the kinds of difficult policy considerations which underlie decision in the selected areas covered by the respective authors.

A word of comment on only one of the articles will serve to illustrate the point. Alexander Meiklejohn, a distinguished educator and a layman who has had the courage to mount powerful attacks against both Supreme Court Justices and legal scholars, discusses a case decided in 1959, *Barenblatt v.*

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In that case the Court had to decide whether the first amendment to the Constitution prohibited a federal legislative investigating committee from compelling a college instructor to answer questions concerning his alleged membership in the Communist Party. Reflect for a moment upon the kinds of issues which were involved. What, in fact, is the extent of the danger to national security from the operations of groups such as the Communist Party? How much restriction is in fact placed upon the freedom of speech and association of citizens generally by legislative investigations of the type involved in Barenblatt? To what extent is it appropriate for courts to limit the activities of the elected representatives of the people in Congress in exploring the activities of persons and groups suspected of subversive activity? How far should courts go in examining the motives of such legislative committees in order to decide whether the purpose of investigation is fact finding in aid of legislation or punishment of persons regarded as subversives? Certainly it is not surprising that the resolution of such issues should create violent controversy both on and off the Court. One suspects that few persons can make up their own minds as to the proper decision of such complex and intractable issues without hesitancy and doubt. And perhaps it is inevitable that decisions made in such a hesitant fashion should be expressed in terms so positive as to suggest that no intelligent and public spirited citizen could conceivably differ.

Armchair criticism is cheap and easy. But who among us is justified in assuming that he could do better? Neither agreement amongst the Justices nor freedom from violent community criticism should be expected. The Court's docket grows ever longer. Increasing selectivity in choosing cases to be heard is the necessary pattern of the future. Yet this very selectivity results in concentrating into each term of the Court almost as many complex issues in sensitive areas of our national life as faced Chief Justice Marshall in the entire thirty-four years he led the Court. For this reason it is no small tribute to the Chief Justice to note that after nearly eight years the Court in still doing business at the same old stand with, if anything, increasing vigor and effectiveness.

Large issues have been touched upon so far in this introduction. Now it is time to mention the considerations more human and personal which make it particularly appropriate for this Review to celebrate the birthday of the Chief Justice. As Californians we are proud that the fourteenth Chief Justice, the first to be appointed from west of the Mississippi, should be a man with such a long and intimate connection with the public life of California, with the University of California, and with Boalt Hall of Law.

He was born in Los Angeles, March 19, 1891. He was educated at the University of California, receiving the B.L. degree in 1912 and the J.D.

degree in 1914. From 1919 until 1953 he devoted thirty-four years to public
service in his native state, ascending the ladder from deputy city attorney,
Oakland (1919–20), to deputy district attorney, Alameda County (1920–
25), to district attorney, Alameda County (1925–39), to attorney general
of California (1939–43), to Governor of California (1943–53). Over this
same span of years he maintained a close association with the University
of California. From 1932 to 1940 he served in a part-time capacity as a
research associate in the Bureau of Public Administration. During the al-
most eleven years that he was Governor he also sat as President of The
Board of Regents of the University.

The School of Law has itself enjoyed a long and fruitful association with
the Chief Justice. He was a member of the first class to have its entire three
years of professional study in Boalt Hall of Law, the original home of the
School. The faculty of the School includes a number of persons who have
been closely associated with him. Professors Emeritus Armstrong and
Ferrier knew him as a fellow student in the marble halls of old Boalt Hall.
Professor Sherry was a deputy to the Chief Justice when he was district
attorney of Alameda County and Professor Kragen served under him as a
deputy attorney general. Professor Cohen was law clerk to the Chief Justice
during the 1955 Term of the Court; Professor Heyman clerked for him
during the 1958 Term. Numerous alumni of the School have worked with
him over the years, including recent graduates who have served as law
clers.

With pride and with affection this issue of the California Law Review
is dedicated to Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States.

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