Editors’ Page

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EDITORS’ PAGE

It is with pleasure that we begin a new volume of the Nebraska Law Review with an issue dedicated to the Honorable Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States.

We are proud to have four dedications to the Chief Justice which examine Earl Warren’s years of service from differing and significant viewpoints. First, we have President Lyndon Johnson’s letter to the Chief Justice which clearly expresses the gratitude of our Nation’s Chief Executive for Chief Justice Warren’s contributions to our government. This letter is followed by dedications from two associate Justices, the Honorable William O. Douglas and the Honorable Tom C. Clark, who served on the United States Supreme Court with the Chief Justice and are capable of examining his years of leadership at first hand. The final dedication is from an outstanding attorney, Mr. Charles Morgan, Jr., who has viewed the Chief Justice’s years of service from the other side of the bench. Each dedication makes it convincingly clear that Earl Warren is one of the greatest Chief Justices of all time.

The lead articles in this issue are devoted to analyzing various constitutional questions which have confronted the “Warren Court”. Mr. Alfred Avins contributes an article which is part of a sequence he has written on anti-discrimination laws in public accommodations. He contends that the drive for integration of places of public and private accommodation infringes on the right of freedom of choice in association. Mr. Clarence Mitchell, Director of the Washington, D.C., Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, responds with a study of the partnership between the “Warren Court” and the Congress which has advanced the cause of civil rights in this country. He concludes that the Court has simply endeavored to fulfill the clear intentions of Congress, which intended to guarantee equal rights to all our citizens when it abolished slavery more than 100 years ago.

Mr. Leo Kanowitz, Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico, authors an article on the constitutionality of discrimination, based on sex, in American law. The article examines a wide range of laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and predicts a growing number of challenges based on the equal protection and due process clauses of the fourteenth amendment. Professor Kanowitz indicates that equality of legal treatment for men and women can be accomplished without undoing the worthy social gains of the past and without adopting an equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution.
Mr. Leonard Kaplan, a Professor at the College of Law, submits a book review which examines the very nature and potential of the Supreme Court. He concludes that the Court is not presently a successful institution and questions its relevance to the real issues of the day.

The student articles also confront some of the problems which have faced the Supreme Court in recent years or will inevitably appear on the Court's docket in the near future. Title II of the Omnibus Crime Bill, which attempts to overturn some of the decisions of the "Warren Court", is analyzed. Problems of revocation of parole and probation in Nebraska are scrutinized. The procedures found in Nebraska's civil commitment code are questioned. Finally, plea bargaining and vagrancy statutes are examined and challenged.

It is hoped that this issue will express our gratitude to Chief Justice Warren as well as contributing to a greater understanding of the important role of the United States Supreme Court in our society.