

DEATH OF MR. CHIEF JUSTICE VINSON
AND APPOINTMENT OF
MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1953.

Present: MR. JUSTICE BLACK, MR. JUSTICE REED, MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER, MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, MR. JUSTICE JACKSON, MR. JUSTICE BURTON, MR. JUSTICE CLARK, and MR. JUSTICE MINTON.

MR. JUSTICE BLACK said:

With deep sorrow the Court records at this time the sudden and unexpected death on September 8, 1953, of our Chief Justice, Fred M. Vinson. Death came in his 63rd year. Most of his life was spent in fine public service for his State and his Nation, both of which he loved and served with passionate devotion. Since 1946—seven years—he worked with us as Chief Justice. His services here, as in the many other public jobs he held, were able and unselfish. His colleagues of this Court respected him for his integrity and ability. They loved him for his kindness, sympathy, understanding and fairness. We join the Nation in lamenting the death of this capable and loyal public servant. We, his brethren of the Court, also mourn the loss of a congenial and treasured friend. At an appropriate time the Court will receive resolutions in tribute to his memory. Now the business of the Court goes on.

The President has appointed Earl Warren of California to be Chief Justice. His credentials have been presented and he has taken his constitutional oath.

His commission will now be read, the judicial oath administered by the Clerk, and Mr. Warren will then take his place as The Chief Justice of the United States.

The Clerk then read the commission as follows:

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting:

KNOW YE; That reposing special trust and confidence in the Wisdom, Uprightness and Learning of Earl Warren of California I do appoint him Chief Justice of the United States and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the duties of that Office according to the Constitution and Laws of the said United States, and to Have and to Hold the said Office, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments to the same of right appertaining, unto Him, the said Earl Warren until the end of the next session of the Senate of the United States and no longer; subject to the provisions of law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused these Letters to be made patent and the seal of the Department of Justice to be hereunto affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this Second day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty three and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy eighth.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

By the President:

HERBERT BROWNELL JR.

Attorney General.

The oath of office was then administered by the Clerk, and MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN was escorted by the Marshal to his seat on the bench.