

CHRONIQUE DE LA VIE SCIENTIFIQUE * SCIENTIFIC CHRONICLE

SCIENTIFIC SESSION OF THE INSTITUTE OF LEGAL SCIENCES AND THE COMMITTEE OF LEGAL SCIENCES OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON THE LAW DURING THE TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF PEOPLE'S POLAND

A Scientific Session devoted to the law during the twenty years since the foundations of People's Poland was held in Warsaw on the 29th and 30th of November, 1964. This session was organized jointly by the Law Committee and the Law Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The central subjects of the session were: the effect of the law on moulding a socialist society during the twenty years of People's Poland, and the legal aspects of economic co-operation between the socialist countries.

The session was opened by Professor Stefan Rozmaryn, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, who is chairman of the Law Committee. He stressed the fundamental aim of the session, which was to show the effect which the law of People's Poland had had on social development during those twenty years and to bring to the fore the role of the principal branches of the law in shaping and developing our socio-economic system, our socialist democracy, and a new, socialist attitude among the citizens. Professor Rozmaryn then explained how the papers to be read at the session had been written. They had been compiled by teams consisting of both theoreticians and practicians of the law. As long as they kept to the main idea of the session, these teams had complete freedom to write the papers as they pleased, and, in particular, to choose the subjects which to them seemed important.

At the first plenary session, chairmaned by Professor Manfred Lachs, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Director of the Law Institute, the following five papers, prepared by teams, were read:

1. *Development of socialist democracy and planned economy in People's Poland*, by Professor W. Brzezinski, Dr. A. Gwiżdż, Professor W. Zakrzewski (head of the team); the paper was read by Professor Zakrzewski;

2. *The civil law during the twenty years of People's Poland*, by Dr. W. Ba-giński, Professor S. Grzybowski, Dr. J. Ignatowicz, Professor J. S. Pią-towski (head of the team), Professor A. Stelmachowski, Professor E. Wen-gerek ; the paper was read by Professor Piątowski ;

3. *The criminal law during the twenty years of People's Poland*, by Professor M. Cieślak, Professor L. Lerne11, High Court Judge T. Majewski (head of the teain), Dr. J. Marecki, High Court Judge Colonel K. Mioduski, Director S. Pawe1a, Director M. Regent-Lechowiczowa, Director S. Ziemiński; the paper was read by High Court Judge Majewski;

4. *Labour legislation during the twenty years of People's Poland*, by Director H. Borkowski, Professor W. Jaśkiewicz, Professor E. Modliński (head of the team), High Court Judge J. Szczerski; the paper was read by Professor Modliński;

5. *The legal framework of economic relations between the socialist countries*, by Dr. L. Ciamaga, Dr. H. de Fiume1, Dr. W. Góralczyk, Dr. J. Jakubowski, Profesor S. Szer, Profesora H. Trammer; the paper was read by Professor Trammer.

The discussion on these papers was held in five sections with the following chairmen: 1) State and administrative law — Professor S. Zawadzki, 2) civil law — Professor A. Wolter, 3) criminal law — Professor W. Świda, 4) labour legislation — High Court Judge Z. Opuszynski, President of the Labour and Social Security Chamber, 5) international law — Professor C. Berezowski.

In the State and administrative law section, the discussion centred on the following problems: a) strengthening the position of the Sejm (Parliament) as the supreme organ of State authority, b) strengthening and developing the State authority of the local representative bodies, c) developing different forms of direct democracy, with particular emphasis on the new role of the referendum, d) the strengthening of democratic relations between the administration and the citizen, e) the legal character of the economic plans.

In the civil law section the discussion followed three main lines: a) codification (civil code, family and guardianship code, code of civil procedure, methods of legislative work); b) supplements to the main paper (particularly concerning transport laws and marine law); c) future tasks (the administration of State property on the basis of the principle of a uniform fund of State property, contracts in a planned economy, the transfer of agricultural properties, organization of the execution of justice).

In the criminal law section the speakers focussed their attention on the effect of criminal law on social relationships, on the problem of criminal offences in the economic sphere, and on the empirical research being done on criminal offences.

In the labour legislation section, the debate was concerned chiefly with the tidying up of the labour laws, with making them more widely known, and with their educative function.

The international law section focussed its debates on three chief questions: a) the new general conditions for supplies between those countries that belong to the Council for Mutual Economic Co-operation, b) the problem of joint enterprises belonging to those countries that are members of the Council for Mutual Economic Co-operation, c) problems of the Mutual Council for Economic Co-operation in the light of international public law; the role of private international law and the achievements reached in this field were also discussed.

A second and final plenary session was devoted to summing up the work of the various sections and of the whole session. The chairman of the various sections summed up the discussion in their sections, while Professor M. Lachs summed up the work of the session as a whole. He particularly stressed the important contribution which the session had made to the fine record of Polish legal thought, and emphasized the role of the law in shaping a socialist society in People's Poland. He also drew attention to the need for close co-operation between theoreticians and practising lawyers. The session's most important achievement was to link the experience of the last twenty years with tasks for the future. This provided an opportunity for outlining the future trend of the law and of jurisprudence; this factor should be reflected in the plans for theoretical work and in further strengthening of the bonds between law theory and law practice.

The session was brought to a close by Professor S. Rozmaryn, who thanked the many jurists and practitioners of the law, who had come from all over the country, for taking part in the session.

Wacław Goronowski