

*UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF CIVIL LAW AND LAW REGULATING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UNITS OF SOCIALIZED ECONOMY*

In 1964 members of staff of the university departments of civil law and law of socialized economy held a conference in Kazimierz Dolny on the Vistula, to discuss the teaching methods and curriculum in those subjects. The conference was organized by the Civil Law Department of Warsaw University. Representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education were also present.

The conference dealt with the following subjects:

- I. the planning of research by the civil law departments,
- II. the teaching of civil law in the academic year 1964/65, in connection with the passing of both a new family and guardianship code, and a new civil code,
- III. appraisal of the present civil law curricula,
- IV. methods used in seminars, tutorials, and practical work,
- V. experience with the law of socialized economy curriculum.

I. The discussion on the first of the above subjects was initiated by Professor A. Wolter (Lublin). Other speakers agreed with him that planning ought to leave a certain margin for work that is important and urgent, although not planned for. It was also suggested that in the planning of research a distinction should be made between long-term planning, and short-term planning which is near realization.

Proper planning should lay down the order in which the various projects should be carried out, and in this respect should take into account the factor of "public need," as well as the hierarchy of importance based on the needs of building socialism in Poland.

The speakers in the discussion also supported Professor Wolter's view as to the need for co-ordinating the research plans of the various university departments. Inter-university co-ordination, co-ordination with the Law Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, would foster the development of complex research.

II. The paper given by Professor S. Szer (Warsaw) and the discussion which followed it were devoted to the problems arising in the teaching of civil law in the academic year 1964/65, owing to the fact that a new family and guardianship code, passed on 25th February, 1964, and a new civil code, passed on 23rd April, 1964, came into force on 1st January, 1965.

III. As regards the third subject, Professor A. Wolter submitted a paper on the relationship of civil law to other disciplines in the curriculum of the law course. Discussion followed the paper.

All the speakers were agreed as to the great importance of the historical disciplines, and of Roman law in particular, in the teaching of civil law. In the modernized curriculum, the role of this subject is all the greater in that elements of comparative law are now given greater prominence in the teaching of civil law.

Civil law as an entity should be preceded by a comprehensive introduction to the institutions of Roman law. Civil law should in its turn precede commercial law and labour legislation, which should be treated as special branches derived from civil law.

In view of the expansion of international trade, greater attention should also be given to private international law.

Owing to the greater emphasis given to the arts in a socialist society, the teaching of civil law should pay more attention to the law connected with non-material goods, and especially to the copyright.

The modernization of the law course should result in the fixing of the proper proportions between the principles teaching subjects. The law course should aim at

giving the students an allround legal education, and not at training them solely for a narrow, special field of the law. Specialization may be achieved only by seminars, supplementary lectures, and the master's theses.

IV. Professor A. Stelmachowski (Wroclaw), opened the discussion on the fourth subject. He suggested that lectures are steadily losing in importance, and that practical exercises, tutorials, and seminars acquiring are steadily growing in importance.

During the discussion that followed this paper, the opposite opinion was expressed, that is, that the lectures should be regarded as the principal form of verbal teaching. With regard to the seminars, it was proposed that students should be introduced to research of an empirical character.

V. Professor S. Buczkowski (Lublin), who introduced the discussion on the last subject, pointed out that law of socialist economy deals with matters created by the development of legal relationships between units of the socialized economy. Lectures on the law of socialized trade should be co-ordinated with lectures on administrative law, labour legislation, and financial law. Owing to these and other factors, the law of socialized economy would be caught towards the end of the law course.

It was stressed during the discussion that the law of socialized economy largely belongs to civil law in character. At the same time it was felt that the lectures on the law of socialized trade should include material on the hierarchical links between State enterprises. This means that the problem should be approached from various angles. The views expressed during the discussion also found an echo in the resolutions passed by the conference.

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