

*INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SPECIALISTS
IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW*

(Institute of Legal Sciences, October 1966)

The Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences organized the international conference of specialists in administrative law which was held in Warsaw from 24th to 27th of October 1966. The aim of the conference was to discuss all the problems of development of science of administrative law in socialist countries, and get a picture of present trends in developing administrative legislation.

The conference was attended by prominent theorists of administrative law from socialist countries. Legal scholars from Bulgaria were represented by Prof. Petko Stajnov and Asst. Prof. Ivan Dermendzijevev. Czechoslovakia was represented by Dr. Karol Svoboda, and Yugoslavia — by Prof. Slavolub Popovic. Prof. Karl Bönninger, Prof. Gerhard Schulze, and Mr. Oswald

Unger, editor of the "Sozialistische Demokratie" came from the German Democratic Republic. Prof. Lajos Szamel came from Hungary, and Prof. Jurij Kozlov — from U.S.S.R. Polish participants in the conference were members of the administrative law faculties from all Polish universities, scientific workers of the Institute of Legal Sciences, and a number of well recognised practitioners.

The standpoint of the introductory paper by Prof. J. Starościak was that we are now witnessing particular development of science of administrative law in socialist countries. This is due to revival of rationalistic attitude in the way of life of socialist nations and overcoming the effects of formalism in science of law. Research in the field that is now being carried on is characterized by applying a number of new methods in legal science, and by using experiences of other social sciences in order to throw light on problems of administrative law. There are to be mentioned influences of philosophy, sociology, economics, and administrative sciences.

Characteristic features of development of administrative law in different countries and centres are reflected in scientific literature, problems discussed, as well as the ones passed over. The way of approaching the problem is also of significance. With these assumptions, there may be distinguished in the opinion of the author — three trends in literature of administrative law: 1) historical approach; 2) descriptive tendencies what means making comments and/or systematic demonstrations of already approved legal statements and solutions; 3) "realistic" tendency what means approaching the problems actually important due to practical needs in a given situation, and putting these problems in a proper light according to reality.

The author emphasizes that an excess of material now only of historical value is a danger to today's research works. His point of view is that comparisons with the past may be quite misleading. Hence there are much more advantages in making comparative studies of present time concern. It applies first of all to the material giving evidence of development in socialist countries.

Such research works proving diversity of solutions, ways, and strategy for strengthening rationalistic attitude in studies on social phenomena, and in forming welfare work.

In discussion, there were expressed opinions that progressive development of socialist countries requires that theory of administrative law has always to come first, before practical needs. Limitations to continuous apology of legal solutions would be highly disadvantageous. This in turn leads to the necessity to make agree nowadays requirements in science of administrative law with tendencies of effecting the development of administration.

Considerations of today's requirements cannot, however, lead to neglecting the existing constructions and solutions before new institutions are created, what in turn must be in every case strictly justified by requirements following from actual objectively existing situations. Yet administration by sticking to old methods cannot be a reservation of social old-fashions, social obsolescences.

There is still to be noted that the conference included exchange of information on present research programmes in the field of administrative law

and plans for the future. Participants of the conference attended a ceremony of receiving a title of doctor *honoris causa* from the Warsaw University by Prof. Petko Stajnov, well recognised Bulgarian specialist in the administrative law. The guests had the opportunity to acquaint with functioning of Polish administration during their visit paid to Minister J. Wiczorek, the Head of Ministers Council Office. They also paid a visit to the District People's Council in Łowicz and got acquainted with the work of workers self-government in one of the state farms in the Łódź voivodeship.

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