

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC IN THE 1960' OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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Resumé

The main purpose of expertising the criminal justice system in CSR was the aim to outline the situation in this area in the beginning of the 1960' of the 20th century. After adoption of the proposition concerning the qualitative changes which were awaited by the society (e.g. the victory of socialism, changing up to communism and to the nation wide state, changes in economics, in the population structure, paradigm of an individual as a part of the society- as the socialistic nationalist), in december 1960 the Central Commitee of the Communist Party prescribed the importance of participation of the population in court decisions as their primary task. The socialistic criminal justice law was supposed to have a significant role in this. The basic scope of justice was qualified in the the act No.100/1960 the Constitution of CSR, which affirmed the triumph of socialism in the state and assigned the preparation for the changeover to communism. The method how this participation of the public against counteracting of the socialistic laws should be done, was besides others, also transferring of the matters, which were before in the jurisdiction of state authorities, upon social organisations, mostly on the Revolutionary Labour Movement and the local people's courts. Consequently, the educational effect of the imposed sentences and anewing of penalisation of crimes should be have been intensified. Considerable part in this should be done by the local people's courts, which were included to the system of the administration authorities as the lowest body of czechoslovak justice system. In the tenor of the affirmed principle of people's courts, local people's courts were supposed to decide less serious criminal matters, that were transferred by the prosecuting attorney or by the court. Considering the enactions of these

courts by the national committees and factories settling of less serious crimes the courts should decide about the “misdemeanants“, who were known by the judges and the public personally. This familiarity with their personal and employment situation should supply fair decisions, which would be „ sensitively“ accepted by the offenders. Local people’s courts could only imposed the educational sanctions. The purpose was to intensify the educational effect by acting and controlling the offenders by the whole team of workers. In spite of the effort of the representatives of the public power to make this methods more popular, many imperfections appeared in the local people’s courts actions. The reason for these imperfections was not only caused by absence of this type of courts in this country but also because of inadequate human resources and lack of interest by the public for the proceedings held by these courts. We have to stress that there was no public faith to these courts, what was caused by insufficient education (there was no act stating that the judge of this court must have graduated the law university), and obviously by the lack of independence in the proceedings. The problems of the local people’s courts mentioned above, insufficiency of imposed actions (which were educational) and partial change of the official characteristics about the level of the socialistic society, these courts were sequentially ceasing although they formally existed until 1969. Local people’s courts were reversed by the act No. 150/1969 concerning the torts. Since then the less serious torts were inflicted more strictly.

As I had the opportunity to research the literature, articles in magazines and other were very helpful materials, to work up this special area, I can conclude, that not the theory but only experiences could help us to understand the possibilities of usage and ideologic fundamental of the institute of local people’s courts.

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