



The creation of all-India services is no panacea for the problem of administrative deterioration. All-India services suffer from a number of obvious defects. They suffer from an excessive spirit of caste which affects the entire administrative system. Other public services are treated by these as if they were 'lesser breeds without the law'. The discontent of the technical services which are needed in greater measure for the new tasks of development is largely due to the attitude of the general administrative services. A superior caste of administrator ill fits with the notion of socialism and democracy. There should be no overrating of the capabilities of the all-India services or the benefits they can confer upon the country and the common man. The creation of new all-India services might in practice mean no more than a change in name and additional financial burdens on the states.

There is little doubt that all-India services tend to strengthen the unity of the country. The problem of unity, however, is more psychological than institutional and must be solved in a more fundamental way than by the artificial props of a few common services. In our present context where we have a number of all-India services, the need is to reduce the wide disparities in emoluments, powers and privileges that exist between them and the state services and between the general and specialist services. Our real problem is to build up the efficiency of the administrative personnel in the state services.

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**NEW ELEMENTS IN THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIALIST CONSTITUTION.**

By Istavan Kovacs. Budapest: Akademiai Kiado. 1968. Pp. 464.

KARL MARX once wrote that the simple German who would utilize the North-American Constitution resembles the native merchant who copies the book of his rich competitor and believes that in possession of this copy he is also in possession of the envied riches. Thus Marx opened vials of lampoon and scorn upon those who advocated the creation of abstract constitutional forms without taking into consideration the socio-economic conditions. According to Marx a constitution is a political document that serves particular interests of the class that is in power. A constitution which so well serves a particular point of time might become a dead weight or scarecrow on the subsequent period. As history marches in tune with the dialectical process it begets or necessitates different constitutions.

Viewing the evolution of constitution from the Marxist viewpoint Istavan Kovacs seeks to bring forth the "new elements" which socialist constitutions acquired in the course of time. Constitution, like any political instrument, he argues, has a myriad social functions.

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An enquiry into the nature and significance of constitution nestles around a study of social forces. The primary function of a constitution is to legalize the power of the ruling class. The creation of the socialist constitution of the USSR inspired other socialist countries to evolve their own constitutions. The differences, though only in details and never in spirit, among the socialist constitutions explain only the differences in the stages of their socio-economic development. However, these constitutions are constantly in flux. Absorbing new elements and discarding deadwood are natural to the evolution of socialist constitutions. Keeping this as the central theme of his book the author takes his readers for a long and at times tedious journey through the labyrinths of socialist constitutions.

For purposes of historical analysis he classifies socialist constitutions under two categories: (1) the Soviet Socialist Constitution and (2) the constitutions of other communist states. He argues that a socialist constitution "is a fundamental law" not a *corpus juris*. A constitution lays down the framework for future legislation in a formal sense only *i.e.* by delimiting legislative competence. It imparts strength to the existing social system because it provides the basis for the entire corpus of legislation. The author discusses in a rather elaborate way the place and scope of constitutional rules in the socialist legal systems as also problems of constitutional regulation of various state organizations.

Anyone who reads this book is bound to be impressed by great fund of the author's knowledge, his legal acumen and the high qualitative inputs that have gone into the making of the book. Nevertheless the book equally leaves a frustrating feeling on the minds of its readers. A discerning reader knows the relative irrelevance of constitutions in the working of the political systems of communist states. If one is not looking for myths but for realities of sources of power under these systems he will have to look to things other than constitutional shibboleths. In view of this, despite the obvious erudition of the author, his book remains largely an exercise in futility.

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AEROSPACE LAW. By Nicolas Mateesco Matte. London: Sweet & Madwell Limited. 1969. Pp. 501-10.

IT IS A MERE TRUISM to assert that we are living in a revolutionary age. Everything seems to be moving and moving so fast. The vast scientific and technological developments during the last few years have already transformed man's life beyond recognition. The fast means of travel and communications have obliterated distances bet-

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