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HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REVISES CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, CREATES OFFICE FOR CLERICAL AFFAIRS

On 18 May 1951, the Hungarian National Assembly passed two laws.

The first law is a revision of Hungarian criminal procedure. Istvan Szirmai, first to comment on the law on the floor of the assembly, said that the new judicial and prosecuting organs are in line with the council system and take an active part in building the country.

Lay members, sitting on a board of justices, have the same rights as professional judges. Szirmai added that it is the duty of courts of law to strengthen discipline among citizens and to achieve respect for their decrees and laws.

Aladar Halasz stated that, to be effective, justice must be administered swiftly. The new law defines conditions for, arrest, and provides that a case must come up in court within one month after the charges are drawn up. Halasz called upon law students and the Hungarian Lawyers' Association to publicize the new law.

Another law introduced by Gyorgy Parragi, Kossuth-prize-winning newspaperman, provides for the organization of a state office for clerical affairs headed by Istran Kossa, former Minister of Finance. The task of this office is to settle all affairs which arise between church and state. The establishment of this agency means that the Ministry of Religion and Public Education will be relieved of all duties relative to the various religious denominations.

It was announced at this session that Lajos Drahos, President of the National Assembly, had resigned to accept the post of Minister Plenipotentiary to Warsaw. On the recommendation of Matyas Rakosi, Imre Dogei was elected to fill the office vacated by Drahos. Dogei thanked the USSR and Stalin for their aid to Hungary.

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