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Res Gestae

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Vol. 13

October 26, 1962

No. 7

DAVIES SPEAKS ON "CRIMINAL LAW REFORM IN ENGLAND". In his first two lectures, D. Seaborne Davies, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Liverpool, noted the trio of "Beccaria who begot Bentham who begot Romilly" that introduced the first great reform in the English criminal law. The next great step came in the 1860's when the work of the First and Second Criminal Law Commissions produced a consolidation of the previous 800 years law. In 1907 the Court of Criminal Appeal was established, finally allowing an accessible appeal for indictable offenses. Non-indictable offenses had had an appeal through the Queen's Bench Division.

Professor Davies has read every case handed down by the Court of Criminal Appeal for 40 years. He complains of several processes of this court. There are 35 judges on this court at one time, 3 to 7 of whom sit on one case. Each judge is also a trial judge on the King's Bench. Continuity and consistent decisions are thus difficult, and the work load is appalling. Each judge reads about thirty sets of papers over the week-end!

To avoid frivolous appeals, a single judge of the Court of Criminal Appeal listens to each case. He disposes of about 800 cases per year, but an appellant can go beyond him to the usual three judge panel. An interesting proviso governing the court is that which allows the court to dismiss an appeal even though it agrees with appellant's case, when it appears that no significant miscarriage of justice occurred below.

The Court of Criminal Appeal hears only 300 of the 2000 cases appealed of the 30,000 indictable offense trials. (In the non-indictable division, out of 1,000,000 convictions, half of which are traffic convictions, only 2000 appeal) Nonetheless the court's supervision has improved police practices, trial procedure, evidence and sentencing. Much can yet be improved, however, and in 1959 Parliament established a criminal law revision committee of which Professor Davies is a member. Such a committee is greatly needed because of the way the higher courts had so tightly bound themselves by their own decisions.

On Monday Professor Davies will talk on "The Law of Homicide in England", and on Tuesday and Wednesday, he will deal with fraudulent offenses.

LARCENY IN LAWYERS CLUB. Last Friday and Saturday nights, a series of six thefts occurred in the Lawyers Club. About \$200 was stolen, Dave Serotkin being one of the victims. A suspect was nabbed in West Quad on Monday and is being held on charges of larceny from a building. The police see no evidence of a connection, however. The technique appears to begin with a friendly knock on the door. The thief then has an option: if someone answers, he asks where Meyer Sniffen, for example, lives; if no one answers, he walks in and selects what treasures capture his fancy. Residents are urged to keep their doors locked inasmuch as spring-guns are frowned upon.

MISCELLANEOUS MORSELS: A '61 "Ensign", U of M yearbook, has been placed in the Law Club Lounge for the convenience and enlightenment of all who wish to check out their blind dates, etc. . . . The Virginia Law Weekly won the ALSA first prize for law school newspapers for the seventh consecutive time. . . . For those who wish to supplement their reading of the Res Gestae there is a publication called "Law Quadrangle Notes" available on the third floor of Hutchins,

intended for alumni but applicable to all, published in November, February, May and August. . . . The Law Library has more than 306,000 volumes. . . . On Monday at 2:15 in room 218, a West German will speak on the Common Market . . . .

AT THE FRAT:

TER: Homecoming events Saturday night at the V.F.W. . . . Football playoffs next week.

Delts: Festive frivolity after the game. A la carte refreshments. Smörgasbord--all you can eat \$2.00/person, 6 p.m. Party with band and entertainment \$2.50/couple, 9:30 to 1:30.

Phids: Open house after the game. Members \$1.00, non-members \$2.00. Party at 9, members free, non-members \$1.00.

RES GESTAE SPORTS STAFF PIX:

Princeton over Cornell  
Dartmouth over Harvard  
Colgate over Yale  
Purdue over Iowa  
Minnesota over Michigan  
Northwestern over Notre Dame  
Ohio over Wisconsin  
Texas over Rice  
Oregon State over West Virginia  
Washington over Oregon  
U.C.L.A. over Stanford  
Pittsburgh over Navy

Record to date:  
34 correct  
8 wrong  
1 tie

AT THE FLICKS:

Campus: "A Coming Out Party"

Michigan: "If A Man Answers"

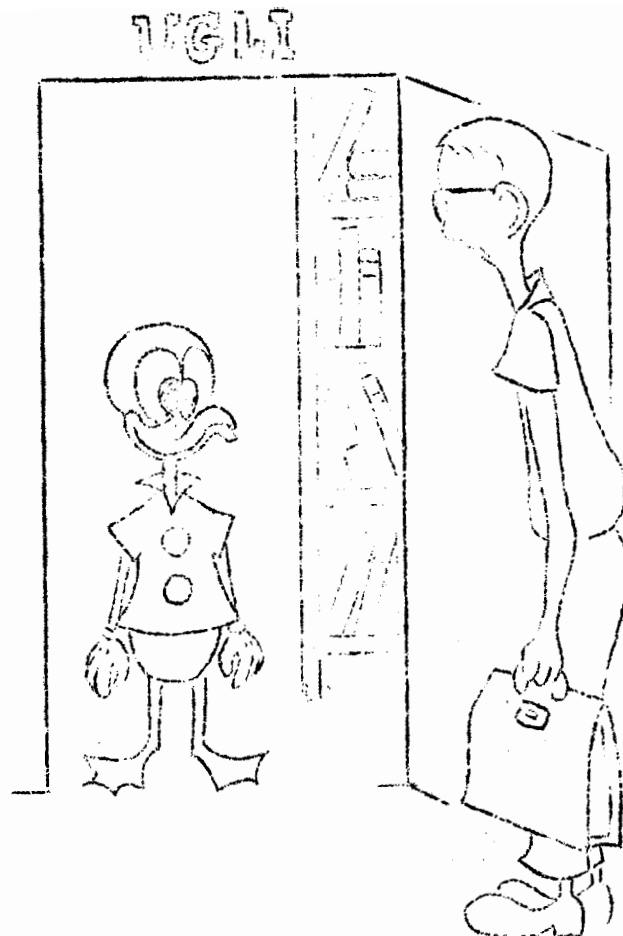
Illinois: "West Side Story"

Gamma Guild:

Wed. - "Ugetsu"

Fri. & Sun. - "The Court Jester"

A.M.A.: "Ghosts" (Ibsen)



"I'm sorry . . . I thought this was the Law Library."

QUADSVILLE QUOTES by Meyer Sniffen

The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the poor as well as the rich to restrain trade in violation of the antitrust laws. — Anon.

A man may as well open an oyster without a knife, as a lawyer's mouth without a fee. — Barten Holyday