

PREFACE

The insertion of jubilee volumes in the series of faculty publications was made a venerable tradition by the editors of *Acta Juridica et Politica*, the academic publication of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Attila József University in Szeged (Hungary). The motives to creating these volumes have originated in three sources: homage to the scholar and teacher who achieved outstanding results in a domain of jurisprudence; the presentation of papers of distinguished foreign and domestic representatives of the discipline studies and cultivated by him and, last but not least, the presentation of the studies of his co-oworkers and disciples; the signalling of the human claim to that the hard weekdays of scholarly and educational work cannot make us forget the necessity of solemnizing anniversaries.

The almost indispensable concomitant of solemnizing a jubilee is the eternalization by picture: a photograph. Besides a snapshot, however, we are pleased to lay also the pictures of the most important stages of the career, covered by the jubilant, before the celebrators. So much the more as the course of life of Prof. Dr. László Nagy forms an integral unit with the development of theory of the Hungarian labour law. As a young expert, he has looked for the possibilities of living in the shadows of world war II cast forward. He was a junior court clerk, a legal advisor to an enterprise and lawyer and since 1948 he already assisted at the cradle of the Hungarian labour law to be born. At the National Wage Board in the Department of Wage and Labour questions of the Council of Ministers, as head of the department, he has dealt not only with practical questions but also began to cultivate theory, as well. On the latter territory, in 1957, his being appointed as head of a division in the Ministry of Labour and later, in 1958, as professor and head of the Department of Rural and Labour Law in the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Attila József University in Szeged ensured to him new possibilities. From this time, he got into the lucky situation that he could comprehensively cultivate labour law both in the field of practice and of theory. He did make use of this possibility what is proved — among others — by that, in addition to four other high distinctions, he obtained the Gold Grade of the Order of Labour three times and won the title of Eminent Worker of the Ministry of Labour, as well.

At surveying the academic, educational and practical activity of Prof. Dr. László Nagy, we remember the saying, worth keeping in our mind, of János Apáczai Csere, the great Hungarian philosopher in the 17th century: in the world of learning nobody can rise to a higher position if he cannot husband very cleverly his passing time. In addition to almost 250 publications

— among these 27 books, 10 text-books and lecture notes, published independently or with a co-author, more than 50 publications in a foreign language — and taking his academic doctor's degree, he was for a long time, co-ordinator No. One of the Hungarian law-making of labour law, the supervisor of the application of labour law, and — in addition — a high-level teacher, the devoted mentor of the activity of undergraduates in the Student Debate Society. Moreover, he enthusiastically undertook the mission that manifested itself in popularizing his discipline. We may safely say, there is hardly any major town of the country where he would not have delivered any learned-popularizing lecture about some legal institution of the labour law. He did not detach himself from the field of law-making, later either. And today, even if considering his academic, teaching-educational work as primary one, he invariably organizes and delivers with great energy the lectures which are indispensable to practical experts, the members of the board of referees, trade-union officials, takes part in leading the Labour-Law Section of the Hungarian Lawyers' Association. And we must not forget the organization of international conferences, either.

In the last twenty years, four international conferences were organized in Szeged on Professor Nagy's initiative and with his enthusiastic co-operation. In addition, as the envoy of his discipline, he took part at several conferences abroad and delivered lectures there. Even today he is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society for Labour Law and Social Security, and he has been a member for decades of the editorial boards of the Journals: *Munkügyi Szemle* (Labour Review), the *Rivista di diritto internazionale e comparato del lavoro*, and the *Comparative Labour Law*.

Professzor Dr. László Nagy has investigated into almost every legal institution of the labour law. In a way which is characteristic of the true research worker, his publications give alike theoretical clarification and impulses for the later theoretical investigations, and at the same time directives for both law making and the application of law. Generations of jurists have perused his books, articles; both those taking their first steps in acquiring the knowledge of this discipline and those who as already experienced leaders endeavour to deepen, resp. refresh their knowledge. And those have perused them, as well, who try to make a proposal concerning setting up newer route signs, i. e. the generations of research workers, too.

From the several theoretical results of the scholar, we emphasize his masterly work, calling the attention to a theoretical connection which was earlier not taken into consideration and creates a clearly transparent order in the system of principles forestalling the till then characteristic enough „inflation” in principles, demonstrating that the way goes until the single principles of the branches of law through the principles of the present-day legal system. This derivative aspect is suitable for presenting the connection between the dialectical aspects, as well, by showing that the connection may belong at the same time, both to the legal system and to the legal branch.

One of his books deals with labour debates. It was always his thesis, an organic part of his conception, according to which in the course of doing the work, some conflicts inevitably occur between the subjects of labour relations, and the aim is not to suppress these forcibly but to arrange them, keeping in view the dominant interests, in want of another possibility, via legal disputes.

The subject of a number of his works is the most proper labour-law institution, the collective agreement. He has taught the practising jurists, but also the labour instances proceeding in a labour dispute, how to make a collective agreement. Then, mostly as a result of his endeavours, the Labour Code, having come into force in 1968, resuscitates from its dust the collective agreement and, corresponding to its original destination, makes it the integrant part of the regulation concerning labour relations, not to be replaced by anything else. In addition to the above-mentioned practical guide, published in several editions, his work, made in English language, investigating into theoretical problems in connection with the collective agreement by means of a comparative legal method, will come to our hands in a short time.

The crown of the life-work of the researcher, the magnum opus, being after all the closest to his heart among the countless spiritual children, is the theme of the material labour-law liability. He creates the proper, uniform system of a material liability, and individually adequate to the labour relations brought about in the course of performing the work in the socialist society. In this work, he definitely cuts the dogmatical umbilical cord of civil law which fed the institution only partly but, becoming antiquated, it rather strangled it more and more. The unambiguous proof of the timeliness of his conception is that the legal regulation was valid for nearly two decades.

Jubilees mean in the course of human life no beginning and end but solemn stages. As such a stage terminates, we may — and even should — go over in thought the products of the passing year, bringing to a stop the rapid flow of time at least for a short moment: the jubilee is raised to be a feast only in this way. After results we may — and even should — take a rest with an agreeable sense. But after this, a new stage comes again, with new tasks, cares, efforts, and newer results.

In the name of the teachers and students of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Attila József University and of all those who appreciate and esteem Professor László Nagy highly, at the beginning of the following stage of life, we wish him with all our heart that he, as the present-day doyen of the discipline, cultivated by him, continue creating his great works with undiminished energy and working capacity, taking care of, and educating, the young sprouts dealing with the theory of labour law, the experts of the future, with unchanged great devotion and enthusiasm.

And now, after volume XXX of the *Acta Juridica et Politica*, in the series of the first, jubilee *Acta*, already the third festive volume presents to us the monographs, made for the 70th anniversary of birth and 27th anniversary of the instructive and educational work of Professor Dr. László Nagy. The authors of this volume have chosen this modest but cordial form of rendering their due celebration and homage.

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