

this reviewer's opinion, despite an obvious recentralization in Czechoslovakia, until now none of the Communist countries in Europe has fully reverted to the direct planning, mostly in physical terms, of Stalin's era; all these countries pay some attention to economic variables in money terms, such as cost and the return to the factors of production. In fact, Hungary continues to develop economic reforms in the direction of a substantially decentralized economic decision-making process, coordinated by market forces.

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THE JUDGE IN A COMMUNIST STATE: A VIEW FROM WITHIN. By Otto Ulč. [Athens:] Ohio University Press, 1972. xiv, 307 pp. \$8.75.

The author, a Czech expatriate, served as an assistant criminal judge in Pilsen (Plzeň) and as a district judge in a small rural town (Stříbro) for a total of six years, after graduating from the law school in Prague in 1953 at the age of twenty-three. The book is his "view from within" thirteen years later and a continent over. The first one-third of the story deals with "what the judge is and how he is made," and the rest is concerned with the "adjudication proper" (p. xii). The preface promises no "scholarly treatise." It warns that documentation has been "kept to a minimum" and that the book is "almost footnote free." The author explains that an "anecdotal episode seemed . . . more relevant and more revealing than the esoteric jargon likely to be of interest only to the initiated" (p. x).

After such disclaimers, the reader does not expect much from Professor Ulč; nor does he get much. A good part of the episodic material seems inane. The frequent sexual vignettes may have rocked the Stalinist fifties, but they sound corny in the seventies of Woody Allen humor. Luckily the anecdote is not the author's sole literary vehicle. He can and does write seriously and reflectively as well. For example, the chapters "Lay Assessors: The Role of Theoretical Majority" and "Judge, the Competitor and Producer" are informative and insightful. On the whole, however, the "informal and easy-going" narrative (p. x) is characterized by a failure to demarcate the areas of personal experience from hearsay and belief and is punctuated by dubious cross-systemic generalizations. It is also marred by a mocking overuse of socialist clichés (like "toiling masses") as a stylistic device.

The volume is technically pleasing except for a few slip-ups, such as the running head on page 161 and the chapter number on page 175. There is no index.

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IGNAZ SEIPEL: CHRISTIAN STATESMAN IN A TIME OF CRISIS. By Klemens von Klemperer. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1972. xvi, 468 pp. \$17.50.

In his day, Prelate Ignaz Seipel was an important figure in the political scene of Europe, and a dominating one in that of his own country. Rising with meteoric suddenness at the age of only thirty-eight to a leading position in the Austrian Christian Social (consistently miscalled here Socialist) Party, he held ministerial