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## INVOLVEMENT OF JUDGES IN THE PARTICIPATION OF ECONOMIC CAMPAIGNS OF THE WESTERN REGIONS OF THE UKRAINIAN SSR IN 1944-1953

In a lawful democratic country, the true independent and professional law courts undoubtedly play a leading and decisive role in legal security and protection of the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen. Therefore, the building of the legal democratic Ukrainian state is impossible without a radical reformation of its legal system. Hence, the development of historical legal experience, both, as the positive, as well as, the negative, without doubt, will be useful for reformation tasks and further improvement of the Ukrainian judicial system.

After liberating the western regions of the Ukrainian SSR from Hitler's occupation, the political and economic campaigns: sowing and stockpiling, had been conducted annually by the communist and soviet authorities in villages. While these campaigns were being conducted by the soviet authorities, mobilization had occurred, especially of the legal workers, with their further division (securing), as the authorized representatives in the villages. Moreover, the soviet regime entrusted the judges to act "decisively and rapidly" against any violators, which had been identified during the economic campaigns. Laying of the responsibility for successful execution of agricultural campaigns upon the judges, made most of them leave the offic-

es and court-rooms for long periods of time. Tasks, which were not connected with the implementation of the following campaigns, had to be performed by the judges only after the proposed party's political priority tasks had been executed.

The measures, which had been developed by the communist party actually represented an action program of the soviet party and the judicial authorities. Thus, the directive letter of the Justice Ministry of the Ukrainian SSR, dating June 25, 1947, written to the regional and public courts, stated that the February Plenary Session of CC SCP (b), in its agricultural renewal and development program, pointed towards the primary agricultural task – successful implementation of crop yield and stock-piling plan. The court authorities were obliged to actively participate in the implementation of this regulation, providing maximum support to soviet party authorities for successful completion of crop yield and state's fulfillment of obligations in regards to grain purchases. The cases against violators had to be reviewed in courts during a five to seven day period from the day it had been presented. Persons, which had been found guilty of stealing the crop from collective farms, were severely punished under the foreseen Decree of the Supreme

Board Presidium of the USSR, dating June 4, 1947, about “Criminal liability for stealing state and public goods”.

During the implementation of the logging economic campaign, certain ministries and organizations had been engaged, in order to secure logging with appropriate standards and technical regulations and hold persons liable, who had permitted the violations of such conditions. For violating the standards of labor and collective duties and for nonfulfillment of mandatory logging program, the liable persons were held responsible according to article 58 of the Criminal code of the Ukrainian SSR. During the implementation of the following code, the Justice Ministry of the Ukrainian SSR suggested courts to administer the Decree of the Supreme Court Board of

the USSR #14/13/y, dating July 23, 1948, about “The qualification of acts by persons, which had violated the logging labor duties”, which stated, that the actions of such persons must be considered depending on specific conditions and presence of classified signs, according to s. 1 or s. 2 of art. 58 of CC of the Ukrainian SSR.

Therefore, during 1944-1953, the judicial authorities took active participation in economic campaigns. According to instructions of the communist party, the courts intensified the punitive policy in regards to this of other category of cases. In this case, the volume of the investigation of a case and validity of the verdict didn't matter at all. The main purpose was to frighten the population by severe punishment measures.