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Federal Judge Examines Trial of Christ From Viewpoint of Present Day Attorney

Jesus of Nazareth was not put to death by a mob of irresponsible men nor was He legally convicted after a regular trial.

This is the contention of Federal Judge Harold P. Burke of Rochester who has drawn up a brief like discourse on the Trial of Jesus from a Legal Standpoint.

Judge Burke who is a graduate of Notre Dame University has been called upon frequently to discuss the trial both under the Jewish Law and in the Roman court. He has recently talked before the Men's Club of the Holy Name Society of Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral and Holy Rosary Holy Name Society.

"It seems to be the popular Christian view that Jesus was put to death by a mob of irresponsible men without any attempt to conform to law or legal procedure then in force," the Judge states.

"On the other hand it is the view of certain Jewish apologists that He was an offender against Jewish laws, that He was regularly tried for a crime punishable by death, that He was legally convicted after a regular trial and condemned and executed according to existing laws. Both views are erroneous."

JUDGE BURKE said he seeks to show that Jesus "was charged with a specific offense under existing laws, that He was tried by a lawfully constituted judicial

PROVISIONS OF THE MOSAIC LAW IN FORCE AT THAT TIME, THE JUDGEMENTS AS

No man could be convicted of a capital offense on less than the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act. It was necessary that the witnesses agree together and relate the same offense.

A defendant could not be compelled to be a witness against himself and even his voluntary confession was not competent to convict him.

Circumstantial evidence was not admissible.

Trial of a capital case could not be held during the night time on the Sabbath or on a Festal Day, and no sentence could be executed on such days.

It was an axiom of the Mosiac law that the function of the court was to save and not to destroy human life.

The tribunal of the Jews before which Jesus was tried and convicted was called the Great Sanhedrin. This court had legal jurisdiction of crimes punishable by death. It was composed of elders, chief priests and scribes selected with extreme care.

Lining up the law in existence then and the historical recording of the activities of Jesus prior to his trial, Judge Burke recounts illegal steps which made the trial illegal.

Since it was a well established tribunal but that the trial was permeated by gross illegality and flagrant irregularities which violated the trial and made the result nothing short of judicial murder."

In examining the trial Judge Burke looks upon Christ as a citizen and as such subject to existing laws and to punishment provided for violation of the ex-

isting laws upon legal conviction and entitled to all the rights of every other citizen in protection under those existing laws.

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The charge against Christ relating to the threat to destroy the temple and thereto endeavoured to seduce the Jewish people from their national allegiance fell of its own weight because the peaceful Lithuanians did not want to fight for the party line stayed away from this meeting when they saw us picketing."

Judge Burke's "brief" cites many more details.

The Hebrew law provides a condition to test upon the unanimous vote of the judges. The Sanhedrin's verdict was unanimous thus contrary to their own law.

The judges of the Sanhedrin were supposed to be defenders of a prisoner. In the Trial of Christ they were actually seeking to do away with Him. They were undoubtedly unqualified as judges at trial.

Space does not permit going into detail on Judge Burke's judicial appraisal of the trial. He sums up with the declaration that the Sanhedrin paid no attention whatever to the defense and allowed no opportunity to present a defense. With the merits of the defense not considered, the condemnation was illegal under the Mosiac Law.

Under Jewish law a criminal case which resulted in an acquittal could be concluded within one day but if a sentence of death was to be pronounced, it could not be concluded before the following day. The Gospels relate that there were two Jewish trials, one at night and another about the break of day.

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Alleged Leftist Speaker Picketed

A speech by Vincent Andruis,

Chicago writer for the Lithuanian daily newspaper Vilnius, was protested by approximately 200 men and a few women Sunday at a rally in Gedominio Hall, 575 Joseph Ave.

EMPLOYMENT OF Judas by the Sanhedrin to accomplish the arrest and execution was illegal, because Judas was an accomplice of Jesus, and the capture was not the result of any legal man from a court whose intentions were to conduct a legal trial.

Private preliminary proceedings before the High Priest are shown by Judge Burke to have been entirely unjustified, illegal and a violation of the rights of Jesus under the Mosaic Law.

The Sanhedrin tried to have Jesus charged with sedition and blasphemy but it was not an accusing body. Its function was to investigate accusations which were made by witnesses. The Gospel account relates that the Sanhedrin tried to obtain witnesses and finally did come forth with two witnesses whose testimony did not agree together.

"Now if they did not agree together in that if there were not two witnesses who testified to the same overt act," Judge Burke declares, "then the charge failed and there should have been an acquittal at that point because there were no other witnesses."

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Bowling

Catholic League

Holy Redeemer

Intermediate Con. No. 2

Intermediate Con. No. 1

St. Boniface No. 1

St. Charles No. 2

Corpus Christi

St. Ambrose

St. John's No. 1

St. Boniface No. 2

St. Charles No. 2

St. Bridget

St. Andrews

Sacred Heart

St. Agnes

St. Agnes-Holy Rosary

St. Agnes-Holy Rosary

St. Agnes-Holy Rosary