

Spór o tytuł inżyniera w dwudziestoleciu międzywojennym

A dispute over the engineer title (1918-1939)

SUMMARY

According to the law of 21.09.1922, the title of engineer was a scientific grade reserved for graduates of academic technical schools. Graduates from the higher state-owned Schools of Machine Construction and Electrotechnics in Warsaw (H. Wawelberg and S. Rotwand) and Poznań could compete for this title when they: distinguished themselves with an outstanding activity in technical profession, were able to prove a 5-year-long practice, presented a report on the work done during practice in the profession and passed an examination before a competent technical department council of an academic school. Under pressure of the educating stall, students and graduates of H. Wawelberg, S. Rotwand as well as of the Poznań schools, demanding a far going liberalization of the laws regulating the procedure of acquiring the engineer title, the Council of Ministers proposed in 1937 a new law on the title of engineer, which introduced two engineer degrees: of a diploma engineer for the graduates of technical academic schools as well as the engineer title for the graduates of non-academic industrial schools. This project raised a heated discussion, engaging the most distinguished engineers and technicians as well as whole technical associations, drawing their attention away from other problems which are more important from the social and economic point of view. As a consequence, the discussion (very often more emotional as substantial) antagonized the technical milieu, led to a strong polarization of positions between engineers and technicians, which among others found its expression in the formation of separate associations of engineers and technicians. Facing a general opposition of the engineer's and technician's milieus, the government withdrew in December 1938 from its two-grade regulation, returning to the law from 1922 and proposed at the same time an amendment to this law, which would facilitate the acquiring of the engineer title for the graduates of non-academic and secondary technical schools. The outbreak of war stopped the work on the draft of the governmental amendment; the problem found its practical solution, in conformity with the expectations of technicians and technologists. In 1948, the Sejm adopted the law concerning the title of engineer, transforming it into a professional degree and granting this title among others to graduates of higher non-academic schools.