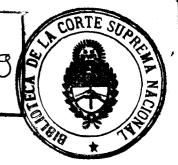
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# The American **JUDICATURE**

Society

Vol. 44, No. 9 February, 1961

GLENN R. WINTERS, Editor

Staff: Glenn M. Hameister, Assistant Director; Rae N. Selig, Editorial Assistant;

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## Hair-Splitting and Constitutional Rights

IT WAS to be expected that there would be a lot of unhappiness over the reversal by the United States Court of Appeals of the conviction of the defendants in the so-called Apalachin conspiracy trial. Columnist John Crosby said the country is "sinking in a sea of corruption and judges continue to split hairs."

"The unhappy fact is," said the Utica (N. Y.) Daily Press, "that when the judges are right by the book it often gives aid to an enemy of society. This may be proof of the soundness of our governmental system, but how long can it remain sound when evil forces are at work undermining it?"

Certainly we may sympathize with the feelings of frustration that must be held by the law enforcement officers and prosecutors in that case. They are engaged in a continuous running battle with a highly-organized, wellfinanced criminal syndicate that is bound by no rules. A large number of its members had gathered in Apalachin that day and it is inconceivable that they had come so far merely to hold hands with their sick friend. Nobody really doubts that some kind of nefarious business was being cooked up, and the impetuous departure of some of the crowd on foot across the

# Journal of the American JUDICATURE Society



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