countries more so I'm not going to say much about it here. But the
Inquisition and the Index - the Roman Inquisition - I believe if I
recall correctly it was 1542 when it was established. Someone said
well wasn't there Inquisition before and of course the **answer** is there
was Inquisition all through the Middle Ages. The bishops had the
right to seek out heresy and to cause it to be prosecuted but it
was done sporadically, it was done occasionally, it was not done in
any systematic way. In Spain the Inquisition, the Spanish Inquisition
had been established nearly a century before this on a very solid basis
and a terrific basis with a Grand Inquisitor of Spain who was searching
out people all over Spain who might not be sincere in their claims and
were burning them or putting them in prison for life and torturing them.
That had been going on for years. And the Roman Catholic histories
will all tell you that the Pope frequently complained about the severity
of the Spanish Inquisition and pled with the Spaniards to make their
Inquisition less severe - that's what the Roman Catholic history books
all say which doesn't quite fit with their claim that their Pope is
supreme in their church. But the Roman Inquisition was established
about this time, taking the ideal of the Spanish Inquisition but ap-
plying it almost exclusively to Protestants. The Spanish applied it
more to Jews and the Moors and the Protestants were a later idea.
But applying it to Protestants and the Inquisition in Rome meant that
instead of it being left to each bishop to search out heresy in his
own area,as zealously or as indifferently as he might choose, there
was a central office in Rome established with power over all of Italy
and it even extended over the rest of the world to send their repre-
sentatives and search out heresy and try people and call on the civil
authorities to execute them. And this was done then ina systematic,
thorough-going way and it rooted out Protestantism completely from Italy.