

Guard Against Corruption by Bourgeois Ideology

“HONGQI” COMMENTATOR

THE “Regulations of the Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee on Seriously Improving Style of Work” is a document which upholds the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung’s thought. It is of great general significance and should be examined and studied by all units where power has been seized, by all revolutionary leading cadres and all leading members of revolutionary mass organizations.

The proletarian revolutionaries’ seizure of power from the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road is a great victory and signifies a great change. Nevertheless, the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between the socialist road and the capitalist road and between the proletarian revolutionary line and the bourgeois reactionary line has not come to an end, nor has it lessened; it is developing

Regulations on Seriously Improving Style of Work

Adopted by the Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee

Following Chairman Mao's great teachings that "our point of departure is to serve the people wholeheartedly and never for a moment divorce ourselves from the masses" and that "the comrades must be helped to remain modest, prudent and free from arrogance and rashness in their style of work. The comrades must be helped to preserve the style of plain living and hard struggle," the Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee adopted the "Regulations on Seriously Improving Style of Work" on June 7 at a time when the great proletarian cultural revolution is developing both in depth and breadth in the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between the socialist road and the capitalist road and between the proletarian revolutionary line and the bourgeois reactionary line. The regulations are as follows:

1. It is forbidden to shower praise on members of the revolutionary committee. Big-character posters and slogans praising members of the committee are forbidden. In cases where such posters and slogans have been put up, efforts should be made to persuade the masses to have them covered over immediately.

2. No member of the revolutionary committee should make a public speech on behalf of the committee unless it is discussed collectively beforehand by the committee. No speech of a member of the committee should be recorded or printed without the approval of the committee.

3. When members of the revolutionary committee set out for a place or attend mass gatherings, there should be no formal welcomes and send-offs and no applauding at their arrival or departure. Members of

the committee may not be photographed or filmed without its approval.

4. Members of the revolutionary committee must devote a definite amount of time to doing physical labour.

5. Members of the revolutionary committee are not allowed to present gifts in their own name or accept gifts.

6. Generally, the names of revolutionary committee members should not appear in the press. Where it is necessary for their names to be printed in a newspaper, this must be done according to the stipulations set out by the Party Central Committee.

7. Members of the revolutionary committee should live simply. Extravagance is forbidden. They are not allowed to use for private purposes motor cars belonging to the organization. They should pay attention to economy when using cars on public business.

8. Members of the revolutionary committee should set aside a certain amount of time for interviews with the masses and should personally deal with letters from the people.

9. Members of the revolutionary committee should go among the masses regularly and, with an attitude of willingness to be the pupils of the people, call fact-finding meetings and forums to invite people's opinions and criticisms.

10. The revolutionary committee should undertake small rectification campaigns at fixed intervals (for instance, every two months). Representatives of the mass organizations should be invited to participate in each rectification campaign as and when necessary.

in depth and breadth and in new forms. We must not be in any way negligent or rash; we must wage this struggle seriously.

Revolutionary committees at all levels are confronted with these tasks: They must hold fast to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, correctly distinguish and handle contradictions between ourselves and the enemy and contradictions among the people, win over and unite the vast majority of the masses and cadres, thoroughly criticize and repudiate the handful of top Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road and their evil influence, carry out the struggle-criticism-transformation in their own districts and departments, and consolidate and strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat. To accomplish this, it is necessary to establish the absolute authority of Mao Tse-tung's thought, take a lead in creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works, rid our minds of self-interest

and be alert at all times against corruption by bourgeois ideology.

On the eve of the nationwide victory in 1949, Chairman Mao taught us: "With victory, certain moods may grow within the Party — arrogance, the airs of a self-styled hero, inertia and unwillingness to make progress, love of pleasure and distaste for continued hard living. With victory, the people will be grateful to us and the bourgeoisie will come forward to flatter us. It has been proved that the enemy cannot conquer us by force of arms. However, the flattery of the bourgeoisie may conquer the weak-willed in our ranks. There may be some Communists, who were not conquered by enemies with guns and were worthy of the name of heroes for standing up to these enemies, but who cannot withstand sugar-coated bullets; they will be defeated by sugar-coated bullets. We must guard against such a situation." He also taught us: "The

comrades must be helped to remain modest, prudent and free from arrogance and rashness in their style of work. The comrades must be helped to preserve the style of plain living and hard struggle."

This was a warning to the whole Party and the entire army at that time; and it should also serve as a warning to proletarian revolutionaries today, and to the revolutionary cadres and leading members of revolutionary mass organizations who came forward in the struggle of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Among the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road who have been exposed so far, some were originally bad elements who hid in the Party. Others have turned bad since China was liberated, because they went counter to Chairman Mao's teachings. They grew conceited and complacent, assumed the airs of a self-styled hero, were unwilling to make progress, loved pleasure and disliked continued hard living. They welcomed flattery from the bourgeoisie. As a result, they were hit by the sugar-coated bullets of the bourgeoisie. What has occurred may help us guard against any future eventuality. This is a historical lesson that we should never forget.

The revolutionary cadres and leaders of revolutionary mass organizations who came forward in the struggle of the great proletarian cultural revolution, have also received thanks from the people and may also be flattered by some of the bourgeoisie. Under such circumstances, will they be staunch proletarian revolutionaries or become weak-willed? This is a new severe test.

If some people have the airs of a self-styled hero, consider themselves marvelous, prefer flattery and extravagant praise, become infected with individualism and seek the limelight, they will certainly divorce themselves from the masses and will not accept opinions different from their own, still less listen to criticism, and so make themselves deaf and blind. If they go on in this way they will confuse right and wrong and the enemy and ourselves. They will mistake the well-intentioned criticism of the masses for an attack by an enemy and

mistake for friends or even bosom friends people with ulterior motives who lavish praise on them. Thus they will turn into their opposite.

We must soberly recognize that a tremendous change has taken place: Suppressed in the past, we are now in positions of authority. If we ignore ideological remoulding, the petty individualism in our minds will certainly develop into big individualism. Lenin pointed out that small production engenders capitalism and the bourgeoisie daily and hourly. This theory is also applicable to cadres and intellectuals of petty-bourgeois origin who have not remoulded themselves well and those who have many petty-bourgeois ideas. If they do not remould their ideology seriously and accept mass supervision, they will be in danger of becoming bourgeois elements once they are in the positions of authority. Better keep alert lest the undesirable happens. We must be highly vigilant and every day keep this problem in mind. We must think over our words and deeds. We must persist in what is correct and corresponds to Mao Tse-tung's thought and correct promptly what is incorrect and is at variance with Mao Tse-tung's thought.

Having grasped this problem, the Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee has put forward ten necessary measures. The regulations by no means deal with minor questions but important political questions of principle, questions concerning the formation of a proletarian, revolutionized leadership, questions about ensuring that Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line is carried out, questions about retaining the qualities of the proletariat.

This document of the Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee is good because it has put forward measures in good time to prevent corruption by bourgeois ideology. This question merits the attention of revolutionary committees at all levels, and of the revolutionary cadres and young revolutionary fighters who came forward in the struggle of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

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