

CHEKIANG DAILY: DO NOT COVER UP SHORTCOMINGS

Hangchow Chekiang Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 15 Feb 68 B

[CHEKIANG DAILY 15 February editorial: "Do not cover up your shortcomings--ninth discourse on the elimination of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism"]

[Text] Covering up shortcomings is the common illness of those imbued with factionalism. To eliminate factionalism, it is first necessary to get rid of the bad habit of hiding one's shortcomings--to get rid of it like a malignant tumor.

Chairman Mao has taught us: "The two factions should talk less about each other's shortcomings, and each should talk about its own. They should make more self-criticism and seek common ground on major questions while reserving differences on minor ones."

This teaching points out the best path at the present time along which we will be able to wipe out factionalism, to advance the revolutionary great alliance, and to strengthen the consolidation of our ranks. To cover up shortcomings runs counter to this supreme instruction; it defends factionalism and obstructs the launching of an attack on factionalism. Those who cover up their shortcomings always conceal their own faults and the faults of their faction and go all-out to publicize their merits.

The battle to encircle and wipe out factionalism is being fiercely waged, and most people are making self-criticism and are fighting against factionalism. Only factionalists carry on as usual and keep on saying that "I am a veteran rebel and am outstanding." They at no time make mention of their shortcomings, but speak only of their merits. In their eyes, those people who are making self-criticism and fighting against factionalism are fools. They treat their shortcomings as Mr. Ah Q [a character in one of Lu Hsun's works] does the ringworm on his head--like a noble and glorious crown. They are not willing expose their own shortcomings; moreover, they do not allow anyone else to bring their shortcomings to light.

What is worse, those people covering up their shortcomings even go to the extent of confusing right and wrong and take black for white, thus describing mistakes as achievements, fallacy as truth, and assaulting, smashing, and looting as a manifestation of the revolutionary spirit. In their eyes, fabricating rumors and telling lies are expediencies of revolution. They even distort acts undermining the excellent situation of the revolution as acts which closely follow the great strategic plan. Thus, the more others oppose factionalism, the more they take pleasure in promoting factionalism and the farther they drift away. Although there are a handful of such persons, they do indeed exist.

Those who have shortcomings try to cover up their own, but not others', shortcomings. With a flashlight in one hand and a magnifying glass in the other, they are particular about finding fault with others. They always exaggerate others' mistakes and make them a matter of principle. In this manner, therefore, the more others oppose factionalism, the more crimes they commit and the more reasons they have for promoting factionalism.

If one is imbued with factionalism and tries to hide one's shortcomings, can one rid oneself of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism? No, instead of getting rid of it, one will be involved more and more deeply in it. In such circumstances, can the revolutionary great alliance be promoted and the consolidation of the revolutionaries be strengthened? Again the answer is no. Instead of achieving these purposes, the split among the revolutionary mass organizations will be broadened and the inner consolidation of the revolutionary ranks will be undermined. To win victory in encircling and eliminating factionalism, we must first be brave to expose, clarify, and criticize our own shortcomings and to launch an attack on factionalism, the bridgehead that defends shortcomings, so as to overrun, crush, and annihilate it.

To cover up shortcomings is a trick for deceiving others; it is [words indistinct], a breeding ground for factionalism, a charm for protecting the rotten core ideologically, and a stumbling block to our advance. The starting point for overcoming factionalism is to destroy the bridgehead of factionalism. Thus, we can eliminate the rotten core ideologically and remove the stumbling block to our advance so as to enable us to march forward on the broad road of revolution.

We now solemnly remind those comrades who are seriously imbued with factionalism: You must remove the malignant tumor of hiding shortcomings. You should never defend factionalism, a most poisonous snake. It is too dangerous to be entangled in it! The broad masses of revolutionary comrades would do well to heed this warning. All revolutionary comrades must, with the dashing vigor of the "January Revolution," rebel resolutely against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism in our minds, as we have done in regard to the capitalist-roaders and counterrevolutionaries. We must do as Chairman Mao has taught us--we should make more self-criticism, place strict demands on ourselves, be lenient with others, and help those comrades who are close to us and those within our own ranks to conduct criticism and self-criticism whenever their mistakes and shortcomings are discovered. We should never do such things as conniving with or shielding them. Those imbued with factionalism refuse to undergo criticism and self criticism in an effort to cover up their own shortcomings. Worst of all, they even allow the trash of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism to spread out to undermine the revolutionary great alliance and the solidarity of revolutionaries and to interfere with Chairman Mao's great strategic plan. How can they be called rebels? If they are rebels, they can only be rebels in an historical sense. They are now resting on their laurels, lagging, and retrogressing. Comrades, you must wake up now!