

FACTIONALISM EQUATED WITH OPPORTUNISM

Shanghai City Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 3 Feb 68 B

[4 February **LIBERATION DAILY** editorial: "Factionalism and Opportunism"]

[Text] Bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is a reflection of opportunism and an expression of political opportunism in organization and in ideological work style.

At present, people are beginning to discredit bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism, but it is not yet totally discredited. Furthermore, some comrades are still hankering after factionalism. They insist that they are persisting in the struggle between two lines and seem to be quite sincere. Therefore, if opportunism--the forebear of factionalism--and particularly "true" opportunism is not dug out for thorough criticism and repudiation, the advance of our movement will still encounter tremendous obstacles.

Engels once profoundly and vividly portrayed the face of "true" opportunism: for the sake of temporary interests, it forgets about basic principles; for the sake of temporary achievements, it does not take consequences into account and sacrifices the future movement. Although the motive may be sincere, it is still opportunism, an out-and-out opportunism. "True" opportunism may be more dangerous than any other opportunism. Our comrades who are victims of the malady of factionalism should think over these words of Engels. Would they not then find their own reflection in the mirror of opportunism?

The editorial points out: The most prominent feature of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is that everything begins from consideration of small-group interests. Starting everything from small-group interests tends to make one forget the major issues of the revolution, the basic interests of the proletariat, and the long-range interests of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

This forgetting of all these larger interests and concern only for some temporary and local interests--if it is not the trend of opportunism what can it be?

Putting small-group interests ahead of everything makes one often steer the rudder according to the wind, risk everything on speculation, sometimes being extremely left and demand the downfall of everything and sometimes being extremely right and demand all-around liberation, sometimes jumping high in fanaticism and sometimes being idle and inactive, caring about nothing but to depart from Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. If this is not the trend of opportunism, what is it? Viewing everything from small-group interests causes one often not to keep one's words but rather to serve the "Chin" court in the morning and the "Chu" court in the evening.

To meet the needs of small-group interests, one may not keep tomorrow what one promises today. Such a person is capricious and devoid of any revolutionary principle. If this is not a trend of opportunism, what is it?

For the sake of putting small-group interests to the fore, one often camouflages "ghost" polemics as dialectics, or abstractly accepts the general orientation of the other party and concertedly rejects everything of the other party; or he equivocates, does not directly answer others' criticism; or reverses concepts by turning revolutionary slogans into factionalist slogans; or treats Chairman Mao's latest instructions in the bad manner of pragmatism. He does the job if it suits him, otherwise, he quits, going to the extent of slandering or attacking his adversaries. He is not honest or upright, but resorts to trick debates to wage political struggle. Is this not a trend of opportunism?

There are two world outlooks, one of the proletariat and the other of the bourgeoisie. Factionalism and opportunism are brothers in the family of the bourgeois world outlook, bound together like glue to lacquer or shadow to body.

The great leader Chairman Mao once severely criticized this kind of "small-group" mentality: "Some comrades consider only the interest of their own small group and ignore the general interest. Although on the surface this does not seem to be the pursuit of personal interests, in reality it exemplifies the narrowest individualism and has a strong corrosive and centrifugal effect."

The common ideological foundation of factionalism and opportunism is this diabolic individualism.

The editorial adds: Opportunists are the biggest sectarians. To carry out their opportunist political line, they must take use of factionalism to draw lackeys closer to them, foster their flunkies, expel those who oppose them, and use those comrades who persist in correct line to wage counterrevolutionary factional activities. From such foreign scabs, such as Bernstein, Kautsky, Trotskiy, and Khrushchev, to China's revolutionary renegades, such as Chen Tu-hsiu, Wang Ming, Chang Kuo-tao, Kao Kang, and China's Khrushchev--everyone of them is an old hand or expert in waging counterrevolution. Some of our comrades who are full of factionalism must be aware of the spirit of the old and new opportunism worming their way into our organization.

The biggest danger of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism in politics is its lack of a firm political principle. Those who prefer to forget the struggle between two lines are just these comrades who embrace factionalism. But class enemies just want to exploit this point in a vain attempt to split the proletarian revolutionary ranks and undermine the great proletarian cultural revolution.

The editorial says in conclusion: Under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the aim of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is actually to split the party, split Chairman Mao's revolution line, and split the dictatorship of the proletariat. Therefore, it can not help but fully cling to the trend of opportunism. We want to warn those comrades who are wrapped up in the coils of this poisonous snake of factionalism: Should you fail to halt your horse on the brink of the cliff, you will get to the reverse side in the mire of opportunism.