

The instructions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on paying attention to handicrafts Date: 1953-4-2

(1) The Hubei Provincial Party Committee noted the need to maintain the handicraft economy at present, and the Hubei Provincial Government held a meeting of handicraft representatives, which is very good. This is a very important meeting, and each province can hold it at an appropriate time to imitate Hubei's method. The report of Hubei Province is now forwarded for your reference.

(2) Handicrafts account for a large proportion of the national economy and are indispensable for a long period of time. Part of the handicraft industry has been replaced by modern industry, which cannot be maintained, and decline is inevitable. However, there is still a large part of the handicraft industry, which has not yet been replaced by modern industry, and there is still value and room for development, which should be protected: otherwise, it will not only cause problems in the lives of the vast number of handicraftsmen, increase the unemployment in cities and villages, but also affect the production of peasants to a large extent, and will affect the commercial market and make it sluggish. Therefore, before the end of the period of agricultural use of hand tools (which will take decades), we must attach great importance to the maintenance of the handicraft economy and the cultivation of the enthusiasm of handicrafts to produce.

(3) The three different relationships of labor and capital, employment and master-apprentice, which exist in the handicraft industry are unclear and improperly handled, and the organization of joint ventures and cooperatives are forced to order, etc., which affect the production sentiment of handicraftsmen to varying degrees, and they dare not boldly hire workers and apprentices, increase capital, and expand production. However, on the other hand, there are still some handicraft capitalists and handicraftsmen who treat workers and apprentices poorly, and they should also be properly dealt with.

(4) It is right to classify and queue up in the handicraft industry to determine the problems of maintenance, development or change of industries separately to avoid the mistake of blind support. However, the opposing industrialists should also adopt a very cautious attitude as they do the peasants of small producers, mainly relying on price policy, market production and marketing relations, supplemented by necessary and feasible political and economic work education to guide them, influence them, and slowly guide them to enter the state planned economy track. We should only know the pros and cons, and let each industry negotiate on its own, not arbitrarily interfere, let alone try to implement uncertain policies. All problems should be solved from the perspective of taking care of their interests, negotiating by themselves, obtaining their consent, and taking into account subjective and objective needs and possible conditions.

(5) Since the peasants' current means of production (such as agricultural tools, fertilizers, etc.) and means of living (such as cloth, hand towels, shoes and socks, cigarettes, etc.) are 60 or 70 percent, some of them even rely on the supply of urban and rural handicrafts (that is, the materials currently supplied by modern industry in rural areas only account for about 40, 30 or 20 percent of rural demand), and a large part of agricultural products are also sold as raw materials for handicrafts. Contracts are signed to help them supply raw materials and market the finished products they produce and are needed by the members of the supply and marketing cooperative.

(6) The Party Central Committee and the rural work departments of the central bureaus and sub-bureaus should list handicraft work as a kind of their own business, help the party committees to grasp the materials in this area, and promote the relevant government departments to solve this problem.