

1950

Speeches/Documents

Title: General News administration decision concerning the Improvement of Newspaper Work and establishment Broadcast Receiving Network

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(1) To adapt to the situation that the entire country will progressively shift towards production and construction as central tasks, newspapers nationwide shall use the most important space to report the situation of the people's production and labour, propagate successful experiences in production work, economic and financial management and lessons learned through mistakes, and discuss methods to resolve all these difficulties encountered in work. Newspapers' news, reports, comments, letters, specialist or common supplements shall all serve this task as far as possible. In localities conducting land reform work, reports and discussions concerning land reports shall occupy the main position.

Local newspapers shall strive to adapt to the needs of the local popular masses. Apart from major domestic and foreign matters, common telecommunications may be summarized in provincial-level or lower local newspapers, or the method of explaining them in common language may be adopted.

Regardless of whether it concerns central, administrative area or sub-provincial level newspapers, they shall all reduce space for meetings, organs' activities, unimportant discussions and acts by responsible personnel, or documents and telegrams that are not of broad importance. Concerning important meetings and documents, they shall strive to utilize suitable news communication and comments to provide lively and common-language explanation, in order to make it convenient for the popular masses to understand it.

(2) In order to strengthen the application of newspapers in the undertaking of national construction, newspaper editing, newsgathering and commenting personnel must thoroughly understand the basic knowledge of social science, be well-versed in national and local policies, situations and issues in the undertaking of construction, cultivate a work style of investigating, researching and seeking truth from facts, and strive to maintain close links with the popular masses, organs and cadres. They shall reform the organizational form and work methods of newspaper publishers, change the present situation of each going his own way in editing, newsgathering, communication, networks and other work matters, which impedes linking with reality, establish uniform and concentrated editorial leadership, and divide into suitable groups according to the different aspects of social life (for example on the issue of public and private industry and commerce, and workers; the issue of agriculture and peasants; military affairs and the army, ideology, culture, education and publishing, etc.), in order to make it convenient for editing and newsgathering personnel in all groups to obtain specialist knowledge concerning their areas, and to link up editing and newsgathering work.

(3) Newspapers shall make establishing and leading correspondent networks and news reading and discussion group work into important political tasks.

The correspondents of newspapers shall have the activist elements among the popular masses as the core, apart from intellectuals among workers and peasants, they shall also attract vigorous work personnel in government departments and progressive intellectuals. Newspaper editorial departments shall frequently use correspondence, meetings and other methods to guide and encourage the work of correspondents, help them in studying how to write important, fair and rapid reports, and write up the opinions among the masses and of their own concerning political work, the undertaking of production construction and other matters of social life.

Reading groups shall be regular and organized learners and organizers of newspaper content. Reading groups shall at the same time report local situations and mass opinions to newspapers. Newspapers shall, in order to encourage the activities of reading groups, provide appropriate preferential treatment in subscription conditions and other aspects.

(4) Newspapers shall bear the responsibility for criticizing flaws and mistakes in the work of government organs and their work personnel, economic organizations and their work personnel. This sort of criticism shall be positive, rich in constructiveness, seek truth from facts, and be good to people. Criticism published by newspapers shall require the criticized side to make appropriate statements, in order to make it convenient for the popular masses to report the result of criticism.

Newspapers shall use great attention to publish and answer letters from readers, especially letters of criticism, suggestion and inquiry concerning government work, the undertaking of economic construction and other matters in social life. The most important among these letters may be edited into a news version, others may be edited into supplement, and act as a main content for common newspaper supplements.