

Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee Holds Meeting
Vice Chairman Zhou Enlai Delivers Important Report
Calls on Industrial and Commercial Circles to Actively Participate in the Fight Against Corruption and Waste and Engage in Self-Remoulding

(Xinhua News Agency, 7 March) — The Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee held its 34th meeting on the evening of March 5. Attendees included Vice Chairmen Zhou Enlai, Li Jishen, Shen Junru, and Chen Shutong, as well as Standing Committee members Li Weihan, Wang Kunlun, Jiang Guangnai, Zhang Bojun, Huang Yanpei, Zhang Naiqi, Ma Xulun, Zhang Xiruo, Ulanhu, Feng Wenbin, Liang Xi, and Shao Lizi. Also present were members of the Preparatory Office of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) Ye Jizhuang, Nan Hanchen, Xiang Shuxiang, Wen Shaohu, and National Committee members Hu Qiaomu and Chen Qiyuan.

After hearing a report by Director Chen Shutong of the Preparatory Office of the ACFIC on the various preparations for the federation, the meeting approved the “Organizational Regulations for the Preparatory Representative Assembly of the ACFIC” and the “Method for Electing Regional Representatives to the Assembly.” It was decided that the assembly would convene on March 15.

The committee also heard a report by Hu Qiaomu on the ideological remoulding and study movement among people from all walks of life. Subsequently, the committee passed the “Decision on Launching a Study Movement for Ideological Remoulding Among All Social Sectors” and the “Organizational Measures for the CPPCC National Committee’s Study Committee.” It resolved to issue a notification calling on all social sectors, especially those in industry and commerce, to join the ongoing campaigns in government organs, enterprises, schools, organizations, the military, and Party organs against corruption, waste, and bureaucratism.

During the discussion of these matters, Vice Chairman Zhou Enlai gave a report on the nationwide, vigorous and forceful campaigns against corruption, waste, and bureaucratism, and the movement for ideological remoulding. He called on all sectors of society, particularly industrial and commercial circles, to actively participate and engage in self-remoulding.

Zhou pointed out that the current campaigns are being carried out intensively in government organs, enterprises, schools, organizations, the military, and political parties at all levels, and must be pushed even further. The poisons of corruption, waste, and bureaucratism have existed in China's class society for thousands of years and have deep social roots. To completely and thoroughly eliminate these ills, the whole society must be mobilized—especially those in industry and commerce, who are closely linked to corruption and waste.

On the relationship between these struggles and the bourgeoisie, Zhou said that the Chinese national bourgeoisie has a progressive side: having long suffered under imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism, some of its representatives sympathized with or even joined the people’s liberation struggle. Since the founding of the PRC, many have participated in national reconstruction and played a positive role under state leadership.

However, Zhou emphasized, the national bourgeoisie also has a dark and decadent side. It maintains numerous ties with imperialist, feudal, and comprador economies. Like their counterparts abroad, Chinese capitalists are profit-driven, exploitative, and speculative by nature. After liberation, as self-reports by Tianjin industrialists show, many continued to bribe officials, defraud, seek exorbitant profits, and engage in tax evasion and theft, harming the state and people and corrupting public officials for their own gain.

If such behavior is left unchecked, it will corrode the revolutionary parties, people's government, armed forces, and mass organizations, threatening the entire system. Indeed, although the national bourgeoisie participates in the people's democratic dictatorship and private capitalist economy is one of the five economic sectors, they are not permitted to develop without restriction or guidance.

Participation in the united front is conditional on recognizing a political system led by the working class and its Party—the Communist Party of China—based on the worker-peasant alliance. Private capitalism must operate under state economic leadership. Thus, there are areas where private enterprise may develop, and areas where it is restricted or prohibited.

Where private enterprise benefits the national economy and people's livelihood, it is allowed to develop; where it does not, it is forbidden. Key sectors affecting the national economy and people's livelihood must be operated by the state. This is clearly laid out in the Common Program. Only under such conditions can China's economic path proceed from New Democracy to socialism. Otherwise, unregulated capitalist development would revert China to a semi-colonial economy dominated by imperialism.

Zhou then analyzed why private enterprise must be both led and regulated:

1. Public-private interests cannot be considered in isolation. Private interests must be subordinated to national economic leadership and serve the broad, long-term interests of the majority.
2. Labor-capital cooperation must be based on working-class leadership, ensuring production growth and economic prosperity.
3. Blind production must be avoided. All production should be aligned with national economic planning. Whether public or private, urban or rural, large or small enterprises must gradually be incorporated into the national plan. Otherwise, overproduction and shortages will arise, and unregulated commerce will destabilize markets.
4. Profiteering is not allowed. Only legal profits within state-prescribed limits or negotiated prices are permitted.
5. Illegal acts—bribery, fraud, theft, tax evasion, inducement—must be eradicated. These actions damage the people's government and national property, and those responsible must be punished. Those who confess voluntarily may receive leniency.

The state protects and supports entrepreneurs who uphold the Common Program and comply with government policies—not those who seek unrestrained profit, disregard state leadership, or engage in illicit dealings. Those who align with the Common Program, follow policy, and submit to the guidance of state-owned enterprise and planning will have a bright future. They will not only be able to develop their socially beneficial enterprises during the current stage but will also find roles in the socialist transition and retain their personal property.

Conversely, those who resist the state economy and planning will face inevitable defeat, opposed by the vast majority of the people. That is why the working class must lead, and the bourgeoisie must not. Thus, the only guiding ideology for China is Marxism-Leninism, as integrated into Chinese revolutionary practice—Mao Zedong Thought. Bourgeois thought must be criticized and transformed.

In conclusion, Zhou stated that the CPPCC Standing Committee's decision to launch a mass ideological remoulding study campaign—and to first call on industrial and commercial circles to join

the fight against corruption, waste, and bureaucratism—is of historic significance. He urged all industrialists and merchants to join in this movement of reporting and confessing misconduct. This will contribute to strengthening the people’s democratic regime, shaping a new social ethos, and helping industrialists and merchants in their own transformation—so that they may advance together with the vast majority of the people.