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Discussion on Chinese Public Security Organs' Anti-Corruption Campaign

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Abstract

In a market economy, there are many problems in public security organs, such as the commercialization of police powers, serious attitudes of entitlement among police officers, strong acquisitiveness and so on. The main root causes include a missing of principle of having a policy for the public interest, missing core values of the People's Police, and lack of oversight mechanisms on police powers. To solve these problems, we should strengthen education, establish a good concept of law enforcement, curb corruption desire, improve the supervision mechanism, build a corruption defense line, preferentially treat police, and enhance police officers' awareness of anti-corruption so as to improve the anti-corruption campaign in public security organs.

Key words: China; Public security organs; Anti-corruption

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INTRODUCTION

Public security ranks as an important force in public security organs and shoulders the important mission of safeguarding social stability and national long-term stability and security. Public security work experience is

closely linked with the masses such that police officers' every move reflects on the image of the public security ranks. However, due to the current system of our country as it is in transition, political reform lags behind economic reform; this phenomenon, coupled with the profound changes in international and domestic political and economic and social life, is bound to result in a variety of changes in a situation that involves the transformation of society and associated complex social psychology, therefore, the problem of police corruption is manifesting itself in a variety of forms. To this end, combating corruption and upholding public security inevitably requires creating a loyal police spirit and building the foundations of the concept of law enforcement for the people.

1. PUBLIC SECURITY ORGANS IN THE PRESENCE OF CORRUPTION

1.1 Police Power Is Being Commercialized

Police power is conferred by the masses as the power to serve the people and is a public authority, however, individual police powers in the hands of individual regions have become a tool for personal gain. There are very few leading cadres abusing their power to control public security administrative examinations and approvals; some law enforcement investigators engage in rent-seeking and trade in power and money; some units and civilian police driven by economic interests arbitrarily engage in excessive punishment, interfere in economic disputes, abuse their authority to engage in "collecting income"; some police are even involved in smuggling, drug trafficking and protecting smugglers; some police use their authority to accept or ask for invitations to banquets, shopping discounts, solicit or accept bribes, securities and the like.

1.2 The Attitude of Police Privilege and Entitlement Is Serious

The attitude of entitlement among public security ranks consists of these main problems: some public security organs have a poor service attitude, and ignore, delay, reject dealing with the affairs of the people or treat the masses with a chill, harsh attitude; some police at every turn act as public masters rather than servants, shaking the masses down for privileges, power, and prestige, expecting gifts or special treatment before they will act or deliberately making things difficult or hitting and cursing the masses. These bad actors may use excessive force particularly in law enforcement, and sometimes at the trials of suspects, feeling free to trample the dignity of law, commit arbitrary violations of civil liberty, use coercive measures, engage in petty retaliation, and manufacture injustices; a few units and police use their authority to arbitrarily hand out indiscriminate punishment, charge ride fees, and engage in illegal seizure, confiscation of property, illegal withholding of licenses; some investigators exceed their authority in cases, illegally handling, setting up suspects, or engaging in entrapment or illegal extortion; some are guilty of nepotism, even harboring criminals.

1.3 Police Have a Strong Sense of Possessiveness

In cases where police powers are unsupervised and without restriction, police officers' desires will expand limitlessly, and officers are mainly tempted by money and women in their professional activities leading them into all kinds of immoral behavior and motivations, even to acting beyond the law. Some people do this not because of financial difficulties or life pressures, but because of imbalances in their state of mind forming a pathological possessiveness. The pursuit of wealth and the good is a human instinct; as it is said, "human die for wealth, birds for food." This is a bourgeois outlook on life and values, but is now very prevalent in our society. The saying, "every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost" also enjoys great currency.

2. THE DANGERS OF CORRUPTION FOR PUBLIC SECURITY ORGANS

2.1 Corruption Is Not Conducive to Building a Harmonious Socialist Society

Building a harmonious socialist society is a major strategic task reflecting the common aspiration of the whole Party and the people of all nationalities. However, corruption in the public security is a discordant note in the building of a harmonious society; its existence will cause the masses to lose faith in the defenders of social stability in the masses, the defenders of economic and social development – the police – and emulate their corruption, which will ultimately lead to social chaos and disorder, influencing social development and progress.

2.2 Corruption Is Not Conducive to Consolidating the Party's Ruling Status

Public security organs are an important tool in a people's democratic dictatorship; public security teams are a staunch defender of the law; police officers' every move have a direct impact on the party and the government's image and prestige among the people. Corruption in the public security contingent is bound to harm the interests and hurt the feelings of the masses, so that public relations become tense. In recent years, frequent violent killing cases and group unrest events frequently have proved enough to create a "hate the police" mentality and the masses' public grievances with the party and the government have deepened, intensifying social contradictions. If there is no preventive measure, this may cause the masses to lose confidence in our party, shaking the party's base, impacting the consolidation of the party's ruling status.

2.3 Corruption Easily Undermines a Good Mass Base

The mass line is the fundamental work of our Party in all directions: follow the mass line of our party to defeat the enemy's allure. Forming close ties with the masses is one of the party's tripartite fine style: Everything for the masses, relying entirely on the masses from the masses, going to the masses for the party's basic political point of view. This is the touchstone for public security work. Corruption in the public security contingent will make people lose trust in police and police work such that they will not support, nor understand it, which will produce antagonism, and ultimately result in the loss of the foundation of public security work.

2.4 Corruption Easily and Seriously Distorts Police Life and Values

Some wrong ideas and police corruption are likely to be transferred to other comrades; the transmission mechanism of this effect, if it is not halted, will corrode the soul of the public security police as a community subtly, from accumulating quantitative to qualitative changes. This is bound to make the majority of the police unable to keep a clear mind, such that they will worship money and hedonism, and extreme individualism will prevail leading to a distortion of the world, life and values, which if unchecked will even lead to serious violations in police discipline, endangering the rule of law and the normal order.

3. THE CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SECURITY ORGANS

3.1 Adherence to the Basic Principle of the Establishment of the Police for the Public and Law Enforcement for the People Is Not in Place

The establishment of the police for the public and law enforcement for the people are the basic requirements

of the party and the people with respect to public security teams. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the public security organs' power and people's police power are public power; it is the power of the people. From a legal perspective our power is public power and we have civil rights rather than private rights or departmental power. If we deviate from the principle of the establishment of the police for the public, and taken the power that the people have given us and turn it into individual power and departmental power, this will reverse the sources and attributes of police power, and the people will use unique ways to recover that power. Therefore, public security organs and people's police must adhere to the principle of the establishment of the police for the public, which is the starting point and destination of all public security work.

3.2 The People's Police Lack Core Values

Currently, the best embody police professional core values and the police personality traits are those of loyal quality. "Loyal to the party, loyal to the motherland, loyal to the people, loyal to the law," fully reflects the dedication of the police as a group, in which one sacrifices for the group; the police occupation is bound to have a noble spirit as its pillars, even at the expense of the individual under certain circumstances in terms of material interests, so that they may safeguard collective interests. However, police loyalty to the profession in terms of the living environment, social status, cognition, value orientation, achievement motivation and other factors, often exhibits cyclical fluctuations. In a market economy, people's values diversify, and the psychological impact on police of diverse social demands is considerable. A few police are not satisfied with the status quo, risking involvement in criminal anti-social groups to experience abnormal self-esteem, engage in indiscriminate use of power, complicity, collusion, and departure from the basic principles of the police profession.

3.3 There Is a Lack of Oversight on People's Police Powers

Mandatory laws and regulations are necessary, and even allow law enforcement to take certain coercive measures such that proper use of power is in their hands to get rid of the violent and protect the good to appease public opinion. However, due to an attitude of entitlement, a few law enforcement officers consider themselves to be masters rather than servants of the public, even considering themselves as having a dictatorship over the masses, therefore in law enforcement, coercive measures that were implemented into national law have become an abuse of public power, and it seems the police now represent "power". With this lack of supervision of authority, some police now use enforcement and management activities as tools for a small collective and individual interests to seek power and engage in "rent-seeking," "power trading," "trading power for money" and even "trading

power for sex." A few law enforcement officials act for personal gain, and, in law enforcement, under the name of law enforcement, cross the line into excessive penalties, lead to "three chaotic" social constants; some police in law enforcement reject cases that will not benefit them, push away "annoying" affairs, and management does not manage resulting in acts of omission; this results in law enforcement that is strongly arbitrary: For people who commit the same illegal acts, the punishments may vary widely; some are rude in the enforcement process, or even fight and hurt the masses, resulting in a very bad influence.

4. THE PATH TO CONSTRUCTING AN ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC SECURITY ORGANS

(a) Adhere to the principle of establishing the police for the public and law enforcement for the people, and establish a good concept of law enforcement. This is the guiding ideology of the concept of law enforcement: law enforcement refers to think and consciousness that impact and constrain law enforcement. From the definition of the concept of law enforcement, we can see the idea come from the human heart; it may intangibly constrain or guide our law enforcement practice. If one always fosters a sense of superiority, and exercises the public power entrusted by the people with brutal enforcement tools, then, outrage will shape the image of law enforcement and public relations will be alienated. Therefore, police officers must start by effectively solving the issues of the people find salient. We should change the concept of law enforcement such that law enforcement thought runs through correct enforcement activities by resolutely ensuring that law enforcement is not strict, unjust, uncivilized and practiced by omission, resulting in chaos. This will further narrow the distance between the state and the masses, promote good feelings with the people, and enhance the sense of responsibility to serve the people. This is the only way to curb corruption and establish a good image of the police.

(b) Vigorously carry out the People's Police core values of education and foster the desire to curb corrupt police officers. Core values education is a priority for the Public Security Forces. In practice, we must further establish the core values of a contemporary people's police force, create a loyal people's police spirit, deepen the sense of purpose, and carry forward the spirit of dedication. Only in this way can the police keep alive loyalty to the party, loyalty to the motherland, loyalty to the people, loyalty to the true political spirit of the law, under the influence of a multidimensional concept of the social order, so they do not bow to power, money, or love, but withstand all kinds of temptations, and curb corruption's temptation.

(c) Establish and improve supervision mechanisms to build a line of defense against corruption. Oversight is the key to strengthening the construction of police anti-corruption teams, and this can only continue to be strengthened; only then can a defense line of oversight of police power “that dares not be corrupt” be formed. First, we make oversight a priority such that corruption will be nipped in the bud, and so give full play to the role of preventive supervision. Second, one must establish a comprehensive, multi-angle, cross-referenced, strict supervision network with external integration and expand channels of supervision to give full play to the functions of internal oversight of public security organs, and allow the oversight of the NPC and CPPCC, judicial branch, administrative branch, special supervision staff, mass media and such to perform its function. Third, supervision forms must diversify, so that both policing activities come under complete supervision, and thorough investigation can also increase the intensity of an effective monitoring mechanism to effectively prevent the occurrence of corruption. Fourth, increase punishments to ensure that supervision is in place. If there is police corruption, even minor acts of corruption, it must be severely punished, and corrupt people must be punished with a loss of position, rank, or economic status.

(d) Implement special rewards for police performance to enhance awareness and self-respect. First, improve the political treatment of the police by improving the configuration of the police rank promotion mechanisms to effectively solve the problem of the treatment of police

rank. Second, improve the police’s economic treatment and improve the welfare of the police, as well create a wage mechanism that corresponds to the workload. Third, implement an honest deposit system. According to China’s national conditions, a certain proportion of police wages can be used to set up an honesty deposit system, with matching financial compensation by the State or local authorities used to subsidize the system, with fund released in a lump sum after police retire. Police that have during their period of service committed violations of the law would have their funds deposited into the state treasury.

In short, public security forces are a branch loyal to the party, loyal to the motherland, loyal to the people, loyal to the law. The construction of public security force is directly related to the party’s ruling status, social stability, and people’s well-being. Therefore, we must take effective measures to do a good job in building a clean government and doing anti-corruption work as it relates to the public security organs.

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