

Red China Using Education to Serve Party

By GERMAINE SWAIN (NC News Service)

Hong Kong—Education is again ruthlessly bent by China's leaders to serve what it apparently considers political and economic expediency. The approach of September gave rise to the question as to whether or not China's universities would reopen this year.

From a recent directive issued by Chairman Mao Tse-tung on university education, the official line on education must be considered in relation to the current practice of sending university graduates to work in the countryside and the rural border areas, and the call issued to them to "become ordinary laborers."

Although some universities are to reopen, their reported shortened curricula and revised system of student intake depart drastically from previous practice.

Mao's directive was quoted as stating:

"Universities still need to be run. My main contention here is that physics and engineering universities must still be run, but school systems must be reorganized, education must be revolutionized, must be under the supreme command of proletarian politics.

"We must choose students from among workers and peasants with practical experience, who after going to universities to study for a few years will go back again to practical experience in production."

"Other underlying reasons are put forward to account at least partially for the pres-

sure still being placed on young graduates to go to rural areas and for the publication of articles in the People's Daily affirming that intellectual youths have vowed to remain peasants.

For the campaign aimed at getting young people from the towns and cities to the countryside was revived this year when the Chinese authorities faced up to the problem of finding work for two or even three generations of university and college graduates.

The Shanghai Wen Hui Pao published a "letter to revolutionary parents" on June 30, urging them to cooperate in

the campaign to send graduates to work in rural and frontier areas.

They should overcome bourgeois feelings, reminded the newspaper, about the dignity of non-manual work and fears that their sons and daughters might become estranged from them by being sent to distant places.

The letter added: "If you keep your sons and daughters at your side, they will be close to the family; but they will be far away from the cause of the revolution and far away from Chairman Mao. If your sons and daughters go to the countryside and to the

mountains, they will be close to the cause of the revolution and close to Chairman Mao."

This theme has been recurrent in the Chinese press and on mainland radio in recent weeks. It is mainly to drive home the idea that to choose one's own job amounts to disloyalty to Mao.

The exhortations of China's press and radio conceal the fact that the Chinese authorities seem to have little real alternative to offer many young graduates because of the continuing unemployment in urban areas.

(NCNA) recently reported

that thousands of school graduates, including many Red Guards, are leaving Peking and other large cities to work in the countryside and remote border regions.

Commented one observer here: "What else can they do?" He added, "since there are no jobs for them in the urban areas, if they try to stay in the cities contrary to the wishes of the authorities, then their registration as urban residents is likely to be suspended.

"Without registration they cannot get rations. Unrationed food is available but only at a very high price."

Church-State Cases Waiting in Court

New York — (RNS)—Thirty-six cases involving church-state separation and religious freedom are now pending in federal and state courts — more than half of them deal with the question of public aid to church and synagogue schools.

This is the largest number of current lawsuits in the church-state field since the Congress issued its first such listing in January 1966.

The Jewish agency's "Docket of Pending Church-State Litigation" said the cases were pending in 24 state and 12 federal courts; 19 deal with the propriety of government grants or public aid to religiously affiliated schools.

St. Louis — (RNS) — Father Louis Review since last August. Edward J. O'Donnell, who has been named its full-time editor by Archbishop John J. Carberry.



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