

China Reds Laud Youth Who Betrayed Father

By **WALTER BRIGGS**
North American Newspaper Alliance
HONG KONG, Oct. 14.—Peking's "China Youth Daily"—official organ of the new Democratic Youth League, which prepares Red China youngsters for Communist Party roles—has published the story of a boy who betrayed his father to win the praise of the party.

As a source of insight into life in Red China, as well as into the Communist mind, the dramatic narrative is quoted here:

"Wei Kuo-chu, a senior student of the Shanghai Shih Tung middle school, was a member of the New Democratic Youth League. His father, Wei Chih-ming, was a counter-revolutionary element.

"During the Japanese occupation, Wei Chih-ming served as interpreter for the Japanese gendarmerie at Soochow (Kiangsu province). He served as captain of the 'Voluntary Inspection Corps of the Shanghai-Woosung Garrison Headquarters' during the reactionary Kuomintang rule. In the latter capacity he repeatedly resorted to extortion, forcible occupation of civilian premises and aiding the enemy by arresting people.

Showered no Repentance

"After (the Communist) liberation, he did not show any repentance or any tendency toward reform. Instead he occasionally mixed with a number of counterrevolutionary elements, listened to the Voice of America and fabricated damaging rumors. He also made repeated attempts to flee to (British) Hong Kong.

"He told his son threateningly: 'If you join the League you'll be disowned.'

"When the campaign for suppression of counterrevolutionaries started in 1951, he pretended to be honest and surrendered part of his counterrevolutionary documents. Holding a receipt for these from the district government, he went about everywhere bluffing about his 'thorough confession.'

"One evening in 1953 a visitor called at Wei's house. Kuo-chu heard his father talk in Japanese with this 'unexpected guest.' A few days later Kuo-chu heard that this man had been arrested.

"He became suspicious of his father. He put together the arrest with what his father had said and done in the past. These things added up to problem he felt could have involved his father.

"He acted at once upon his own initiative and reported his findings to the public security station. The Public Security Bureau, acting on evidence at hand, arrested Wei Chih-ming according to law on April 27, 1954.

Sentenced to Five Years

"Wei Chih-ming was subsequently sentenced to five years' imprisonment and taken to a certain construction site in Honan to undergo reform through labor.

"Kuo-chu regularly received letters from his father. One thanked the People's Government for giving him an opportunity to reform himself and said he was making 'progress'. Wei also 'encouraged' his son to work harder for the league.

"Kuo-chu was fascinated by the letters and believed his father 'has this time really reformed himself.'

"One day in May this year Kuo-chu was at home when a messenger sent by his grandmother asked him to go to her house. There Kuo-chu noticed his grandmother and his mother whispering nervously. Then, in a round-about way, the grandmother told Kuo-chu: 'Your father's letter is here. He wants you to remit money . . .'

"Kuo-chu began to wonder about the letter, which he thought should have been sent to his own house. He observed the uneasy manner of his grandmother and mother and sensed that something wasn't right.

"He told his grandmother: 'The letter—let me read it first before I try to find a means of remitting the money.' His grandmother had to produce the letter.

Escaped from Camp C

"Through reading the letter, Kuo-chu came to know that his father had escaped from the labor camp and made his way to Hankow.

"In that brief moment Kuo-chu thought about many things. First of all he has a member of the League and the eldest of five brothers. It was not right for him to remit money to help a counterrevolutionary who was at large. He decided he should set a good example.

"The letter should be turned over to the public security station!' He told his grandmother and mother with firmness.

"The two, looking worried, replied, 'We mustn't do that.' They tried to persuade Kuo-chu to destroy the letter and forget about the remittance.

"Kuo-chu comprehended their ideological worries and vague understanding of the situation. He told them:

"Father is a counterrevolutionary. To shield him is a criminal act. Besides, the people have already spread the dragnet and won't let the counter-revolutionary elements get away. If we connive with father, we'll only increase his crimes.'

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