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DR. REMIGIO AGPALO: First of all, I would like to congratulate Dr. Simbulan for affirming one particular principle or proposition: The task of a political scientist is to study, analyze, explain and evaluate the data of the society as a polity, and to work in order to "find out the truth".

Now this is actually an expression of a liberal viewpoint which, in some of your statements, Dr. Simbulan, you seemed to criticize. In your paper, bourgeois ideology was even cited in such a way that it comes out bad! Now does not this contradict your earlier proclamation—and I hear you loud and clear!—that "the task of the political scientist is to examine phenomena and find out the truth"?

DR. DANTE SIMBULAN: I would not say you are correct because I would like to make some clarifications.

First, I am sorry if I gave you the impression that when I say "bourgeois ideology", it was something bad. I think even very respectable scholars of the liberal school use the term "bourgeois" to simply indicate the middle class values which were developed in Europe when industrialism was still evolving. And I did not really mean to put any value tag on that. I think it was you who was trying to put that value judgment!

Secondly, I will disagree with you when you say that only the liberal school think of scholarship as the search for truth. The search for truth is not a monopoly of liberalism. And I do not know why you are trying to equate the two.

DR. AGPALO: I have been reading some of the writings of Soviet political scientists—especially those coming from the Soviet Political Science Academy—and their perception of political science is, "the study, the propagation, and the implementation of Marxist-Leninist ideas".

Now I do not know if this also true with China but as far as I can recall, there were articles that appeared in the Philippine Collegian before which described political science in China as "the implementation and the propagation of Mao Tse-Tung's thoughts, plus of course those of other thinkers in China".

I think Dr. Villacorta can enlighten us on this since he prepared a paper on political education in China?

DR. WILFRIDO VILLACORTA: Well, first of all, I am not a China expert. I don't know a single Chinese character so all my sources are secondary.

First, we have to be fair to the Chinese—or to the Marxists for that matter. We have to understand their notion of objectivity. To many liberals, objectivity is equated to neutrality in presenting both sides—even if one is sure that the other side is completely wrong. To the Marxists however, they seem to be convinced that Marxist-Leninist approach to the analysis and solution of problems is the only correct approach. And therefore, to disseminate and further clarify on the concept of Marxism-Leninism is to be objective.

Perhaps, liberals would say this is quite subjective. But in evaluating their system, we must use their premises and their framework. We cannot apply the framework of liberalism in analyzing the Chinese system.

MR. ALZONA: I'd like to make a few comments in reference to Dr. Simbulan's lecture.

I was bothered really by his statement that the study of political science should be directed to a particular career service. A career service program is like a vocational course and if I got him right—I don't know if I do—it's advocating a reduction of the discipline!

DR. SIMBULAN: Well, actually, I used the word "vocational" as a generic term. I do not equate it with stenography or typing and the like.

There is a vast difference, I think, between one who studies political science to "broaden his intellect and to become a good participating citizen" and one who chooses a specific career or branch of political science in order to "get a job immediately after graduation".

The former has always been the primary goal of political science; the latter is what I mean with "vocational-oriented" outlook.

MR. ALZONA: So we are in agreement. Of course, as everyone know and considers perhaps, politics is a broad area and life itself is a living political life.