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MISUSE OF LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION CRITICIZED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 22 Aug 74 pp 3, 4

[In the Production Installations of the Artisan and Handicraft Enterprises column: "Introducing 'Letters of Introduction'"]

[Text] For a long time now there have been many loopholes and regrettable incidents surrounding the use of "letters of introduction," especially in a number of artisan and handicraft industry production installations which do not operate properly (it is worth noting that these are in the cooperative team and individual handicraft households sectors).

In Dong Da Ward there was a case where one cooperative illegally snatched more than 60 tons of iron and steel scraps and waste and 61.3 cubic meters of lumber out of a state storehouse because a letter of introduction was not issued with caution and according to principles. One cooperative purchased 28 tons of raw materials consisting of crepe, PVC plastic, and 13 other chemicals from the state and purchased them at supply prices, but when the goods left the plant most were sold on the free market. One cooperative in Tu Liem District received a letter of introduction from the contract goods ordering agency to purchase 46 tons of iron and steel to make bookshelves but they purchased and used only 7.3 tons and consigned 14 tons of the remainder to Xuan Thuy Cooperative in Nam Ha Province (?).

One team in Hai Ba Trung Ward, also on the basis of a letter of introduction, procured a large quantity of white fabric remnants at a supply price of 0.20 dong per kilogram and shredded it into "cap" cotton for...the free market with a price of 5 dong per kilogram, a profit of over 4,000 dong (because they would have to sell this product to the materials station of the Municipal Handicrafts Cooperatives Federation). Even in P's

individual handicraft household, by relying on a letter of introduction from a state agency, they were able to purchase iron and steel to make nails, but when they were produced, out of the 4 tons of nails only 1 ton was returned to the state storehouse and the other 3 tons they "took at night" to the free market.

In Hoan Kiem and Ba Dinh wards there are also a number of cases where letters of introduction were issued in violation of principles and were misused in similar ways.

We introduced the above "letters of introduction" principally so the sectors and echelons responsible for organizing and managing production enterprises will further strengthen their sense of responsibility in issuing and managing letters of introduction.

Aside from the disorganized granting of letters of introduction, recently some agencies (including the production management and contract goods ordering agency) have become too petty when issuing letters of introduction to artisan and handicraft industry production installations which operate properly and according to principles, work together, sign economic agreements, exchange materials, purchase waste materials and waste products, and so on. We believe that if the arbitrary, irresponsible handing out of letters of introduction very much deserves to be criticized then the matter of "reluctant hands" not issuing letters to worthy production installations for worthy tasks is not good because it adversely affects production. It is far better "to wait until an offense occurs"; to whom the letter is issued, what they will buy, and where they will buy it must all strictly adhere to principles and statutes; we must carefully inquire about the production installation, the quantity, and the place of purchase; and once a letter of introduction is issued we must watch closely to see whether its utilization adheres to goals and principles.