

Debates history Prof. Esherick

Economist Lotta airs views on China

Calling Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's plans for modernization "an ambition to turn China into a capitalist hell-hole," economist and writer Raymond Lotta aired his views on the current directions of China and Chinese communism in a debate with Chinese history professor Joe Esherick Tuesday night.

Sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, the two China watchers discussed the effects of normalization on Maoism since Mao's death and Teng's rise.

Lotta argued that the "capitalist" Teng is part of the right-wing forces that are attempting to turn back the achievements of Mao's cultural revolution. "There is a struggle going on in China," said Lotta, "between the reactionary group currently in power and the revolutionary group that was spurred by the advances of the cultural revolution." These were, according to Lotta, made up of the so called "gang of four" that was arrested shortly after Mao's death.

It is the supporters of Mao and

the "gang of four" and the people of China who are being betrayed as Teng advances toward U.S. relations and refutes Maoism, said Lotta.

Esherick's view was that although some of Teng's changes are contrary to Mao's older policies, little or no opposition to the new directions can be seen. There is no question that there have been earth-shaking events since Mao's death, said Esherick, "but there is also no evidence of mass opposition led by supporters of the 'gang of four' to modernization."

Lotta said normalization with the west opened China to exploitation. "Exploitative relations are being developed," said Lotta of the Chinese government invitations to foreign investors. This would lead to China's dependence on foreign technology and capital, said Lotta.

Esherick argued that there would be no foreign ownership of industry in China. Although there would be a joint venture program between the Chinese and outside interests, "control of the Chinese

economy would be in the hands of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party," Esherick noted.

Lotta also attacked Teng's growing program of material incentives in Chinese industry designed to speed modernization. He said that such a practice didn't reflect the will of the Chinese people.

Lotta said Teng's program builds "within a shell of seemingly public ownership a relationship that is based on exploitation."

Throughout the debate, Lotta impressed upon the audience Teng's deviation from the lessons of the cultural revolution. In closing he said although the revolution has been temporarily buried by Teng, it has not been completely forgotten by China and the rest of the world.

Esherick agreed with Lotta that Teng's current policies did deviate from the policies set down by Mao, but added that Teng should not be considered a "pimp to capitalism," but a serious socialist trying to build China.

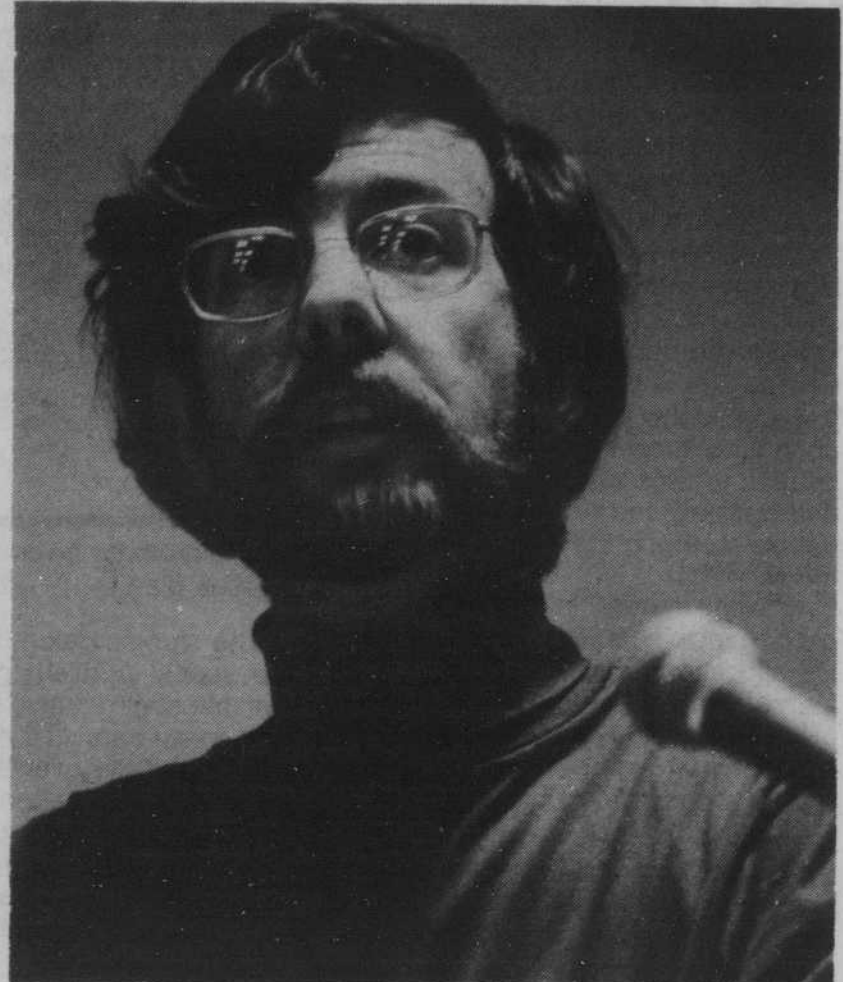


Photo by Ed Warren

Joe Esherick, associate professor of Chinese History, said in a debate Tuesday night that China's foreign policy sacrifices people's struggles.

Public defenders seek funds

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — A public defenders group has proposed that the state establish a special fund to pay for the defense of indigents accused of murder.

Jim Hennings, of the Metropolitan Public Defenders Office, submitted to the House Judiciary Committee on Monday a proposed alternative to a bill requiring the state to pick up 80 percent of all indigent defense costs and to set up committees to establish competency standards for court appointed attorneys.

The committee decided to accept Hennings' version as their starting point for deciding how to help counties handle indigent defense costs.

Hennings said the cost of defending persons who can't afford their own attorneys runs about \$6 million a year statewide. A single murder trial can run up a \$30,000 tab.

He proposed that instead of the

80 percent reimbursement formula, a special defense fund be maintained by the state treasurer for the exclusive payment of fees and costs for murder cases involving indigents. Hennings also proposed establishing another fund administered by the state treasurer in which counties would share based on their total number of indigent appointments for the prior fiscal year.

"My feeling is that given the amount of money likely to be available this session, we are better off establishing a floor on a per county basis," testified Hennings.

The committee also heard testimony on a court financing bill which provides for state payments of certain costs of operating circuit and district courts, including the salary of judges. Under the bill, county court workers would become state employees.

"The counties must, by virtue of their limited taxing ability, be more

efficient in their operation because we have fewer tax dollars to work with," testified Marion County Clerk Ed Morgan. "We are accountable to the people for the manner in which tax dollars are spent and must justify these expenditures."

Morgan told the committee that instead of the state assuming court costs, clerk's filing fees should be raised so that "the users of the court pay a greater share of its costs."

He said he also opposed the measure because it would mean losing 60 percent of the regular employees in his office "thereby reducing the responsibilities of the county clerk and most likely his salary."

Morgan said an alternative would be to let counties retain all funds collected by the courts to set aside a special fund to assist counties in defraying expenses of costly criminal trials.

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