

Тkachenko I.V.

Causes and forms of illegal activity of private industrialists in the years of NEP (1921-1928).

The abstract covers the problem of the reasons of illegal activities of private industrialists during the NEP, the forms of their illegal actions are defined, a brief analysis of Soviet state policy which was aimed at the destruction of private industry, is given.

Keywords: private initiative, limiting of business activity, illegal activity.

Ткаченко І.В.

Причини та форми незаконної діяльності приватних промисловців у роки непу (1921-1928 РР.)

У тезах зазначено проблему причин незаконної діяльності приватних промисловців у роки непу, визначені форми їх протиправних дій, подано короткий аналіз політики радянської держави, спрямованої на знищення приватного сектору промисловості.

Ключові слова: приватна ініціатива, обмеження підприємницької діяльності, незаконна діяльність.

Because of the difficult economical and political situation, with the beginning of new economic policy the guidance of the state was forced to pass from the policy of absolute objection of private property to more moderate attitude toward it. The power became on the way of permission of private enterprise with the simultaneous use of elements of its limitation. Thus, not refusing from strategic line directed on liquidation of capitalist elements in an economy, the soviet state was succeeded on this stage to more flexible methods of fight against them.

Already the first documents, which allowed private initiative in industry, contained positions, which put this category of enterprises in unequal, less advantageous conditions in comparison with other subjects of economic activity. So, at distribution of orders, raw materials, facilities, apartments etc., advantage was given to small producers, who were incorporated in co-operative organizations, but not to private individuals. During the transfer of industrial

objects to rent, local economic organs had to examine the statements of co-operative organizations in the first turn too. Less advantageous for private counterparts were also terms of purchase of raw material and materials.

To the measures which prevented development of private enterprise, should be referred the edition of decree of ACEC from October, 25 in 1921 "About the grant to co-operative and private enterprises information of economical character" which abolished a commercial secret and did impossible creation of effective competition environment.

In the years of new economic policy, one of the facilities of limitation of capitalist elements and redistribution of accumulations in behalf of socialistic sector of economy became the system of payment for transport services. In particular in 1922 were entered lowered reduced rates for transportation by railway transport loads of state industry that enabled it to influence on prices and market exchange.

With strengthening of pressure of the state on a private capital in the field of industry, businessmen more and more resorted to illegal or veiled activity. Not wishing to transfer capitals from a production in other sectors of economy, during 1922-1924 they actively created on the base of their enterprises pseudo cooperative societies. Their quantity grew also because of forcing the private capital out of trade and introduction in 1925 of preferential taxation for co-operation. To 1925/26 the amount of pseudo cooperative societies in the country was 2/3 of all production-industrial co-operation [1, p. 117].

By the next years private traders continued to invest their facilities in pseudo cooperative societies created by them. Especially intensively this process took place in industrial centers. So, in Moscow about 300 statutes of different associations and artels, which often were organizations of capitalist type, were registered in a month during 1928 [2, p. 13-14]. And in such large industrial center as Kharkov 70 % of all artels which, were liquidated in 1927, were pseudo cooperative societies [3, July, 13th].

In the second half of 20th private businessmen had possibility and desire to invest their money in industry. However, conditions for their production activity were not created by the state. In the political circles of the country in this period had affirmed an idea about the necessity of replacement of private trader from the economy of the country. Having a row of obstacles in this business, private capitals on this stage were accumulated as currency and were sent abroad and in the hidden form were invested in industry of the USSR under cover of foreign concessionaires [4, February, 25 th].

In conditions of approaching of the state on a private capital, businessmen with the object of preservation of their enterprises resorted to bribery to state administrators and managers. By data of the Moscow office of public prosecutor the named phenomenon was widespread during 1922-1923 and had renewed in considerable scales from the last third of 1926 [5, p. 45]. It was discovered, that in a period from 1925 to 1927 the workers of shops of Moscow machine-building trust for bribes supplied with scarce goods the group of private traders-leaseholders of metal-working factories and other factories of Moscow [6, May, 9th]. A similar method was used by Moscow private businessmen at reception of credits in the State bank [7, December, 10th]. In 1928 a group of private industrialists of Moscow by the means of bribery to the directors of the 1st state woolen trust got from them import raw material and other materials, and also different production wastes, the sale of which was forbidden [6, 9; October, 30] .

At the end of 20th there was also a problem of illegal possession by private individuals of middle and large industrial enterprises. Although sources do not name the reasons, because of which these objects were not nationalized in time, it is clear that without protection of public administrators for a definite pay large enterprises in cities could not be not noticed during a several years of new economic policy.

Being limited in the reception of credits, private industrialists resorted to the illegal actions in this business. Using the personal contacts and payoff of workers of banks, they achieved prolongation of terms of credits and acceptance of bills by

banks with the considerable terms of payments. Contrary to existing rules private industrialists resorted to the receptions of credits out of the cities and districts of location of industrial objects, owners or users of which they were. Also illegal was a reception of credits by private traders in a several banks: in one case after the name of enterprise, and in other – after the last name of its owner [8, p. 66-67].

The considerable strengthening of tax pressure induced the state to take additional measures, directed on the exception of payments in full. Illegal activity of private capital with the purpose of correct charge of sums of taxes was found out as a result of checks. Financial workers who promoted abusing in taxation business came into the view of power organs.

So, ignoring economical factors and giving advantage to political and tactical the soviet state in the years of new economic policy did not give up the policy of destruction of private sector of economy, that induced private traders to resort to the illegal actions in matters of organization of production.

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