

Discussion on the Great Master Mr. Xin Shuzhi's Thought of Running School

A Case Study of National Lanzhou University

Changyan Zhu

Yantai Nanshan University
Yantai, China 265713

Abstract—The establishment of National Lanzhou University reflects that the national government's attention to the northwest. The establishment of the National Lanzhou University also bears the mission of developing and constructing the Northwest. Xin Shuzhi, as the first president of National Lanzhou University, facing the difficulties in the initial stage, treated worthy men with courtesy, widely gathered profound scholars, and purchased books and teaching equipments in large quantity, built and expanded school buildings, which laid a solid foundation for the development of National Lanzhou University and provide a lot of precious school running experience for the further generations.

Keywords—National Lanzhou University; Xin Shuzhi; thought of running

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL LANZHOU UNIVERSITY

The fate of National Lanzhou University is closely related to the fate of the west, the establishment of it is inseparable from the National Government's attention to the northwest. If the central government did not make the decision, there would be no today's Lanzhou University. After the war of resistance against Japan, the international and domestic situation has undergone significant changes. Civil war broke out in June 6, 1946. Under that background, most of the national funds were used as a military expenditure, but the Nanjing national government allocated 1 billion francs to National Lanzhou University as organizational expense of the University, which has fully reflected that the Nanjing National Government attached importance's attention to the northwest. Of course this also considered the relationship between the Soviet Union and the civil war, and this just showed the importance of the Northwest defense. The establishment of National Lanzhou University is closely related to this. The National Government always tried to develop the National University in Lanzhou into a national university in northwest China. "Lanzhou University is set in Lanzhou, is the hub in the northwest and the cultural base in northwest of China". Lanzhou, of course, is not the extreme edges of China in geographical position, but viewing from the geographical distribution of national universities, Lanzhou University indeed stands on the extreme edges of higher education in

the northwest. Lanzhou University is standing on the forefront of cultural defense. This is conducive to integrating the resources of limited personnel, funds and equipments of the country in northwest after the war, and building a good multidisciplinary and distinctive university which can adapt to the stability development and national defense needs of Northwest mainly through national force power, enhancing the overall level of higher education in the Northwest and narrowing the gap with that of the southeast coastal areas in southeast. This action has a good strategic insight. "Northwest construction should be based on the development of Lanzhou University and only the development of the Lanzhou University can accelerate the construction of northwest." Therefore, the Nanjing National Government took National Lanzhou University as one of the important national University universities and aimed to develop National Lanzhou University as to be a modern new National Defense University with comprehensive research institutions on researching most advanced combination of military, politics, diplomacy, economy, culture, science and industry, etc.

A resolution was made in the 723th meeting by Nanjing National Government on December 4, 1945, that the original three National Institutes in Lanzhou were merged - Gansu College, Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou Northwest Medical Branch to the National Lanzhou University, this act "is enough to comfort the hope of the northwest people and lay a foundation for the construction and development of northwest. As for the name of "National Lanzhou University", some people proposed that the university was to be named as "National University of Gansu" while the Executive Institute indicated that, other province without university requires to set one by quoting this case may require to establish a university by taking this as an example, the state could have been stable and sound, and the funding could have been sufficient, when the education is well developed, it would be common to establish a university in every province but it is unreachable at present. The name Lanzhou University indicates that it is only a university located in Lanzhou, but not specifically established in Gansu, and people in northwest of Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai and Xinjiang all can enter it."

Becoming a National University and applying national tax means it has a more stable school funding and school conditions, and it also means higher quality for running a school, which can lay a more solid foundation for the future development of National Lanzhou University. In June 1946, in the *Handling Plan Outline of Running Lanzhou University* reported to the Ministry of Education, Mr. Xin Shuzhi indicated that: the northwest provinces are the birthplace of China's ancient culture and the place developing the new national fate in the future, it serves as a link between past and future, and continues with the past and opens up the future, and today, its national defense value today is still very significant, the northwest provinces are the most important hub in actual number for years in the aspects of heritage and developed resources, so the establishment of Lanzhou University at this time has a far-reaching significance." The Foreword in Newsletter of Lanzhou University also clearly states: "researching the actual problems of northwest and understanding the living conditions of the people in Northwest should be the major task of Lanzhou University; investing the treasures of the northwest and understanding the truth of northwest for the country should be the bounden duty performed by Lanzhou University for the country; improving the culture standard of the Northwest, and cultivating professional personnel for the construction of northwest should be the bounden mission borne by Lanzhou University." The time mission of Lanzhou University, "we can say it is the foundation to train the national defense cadres, enrich and improve the activities needed for the national defense of northwest, thus to improve people's livelihood in northwest and help the northwest to establish the basis for the national defense" So Guo Jiqiao believes that, Lanzhou University is an part of the national defense.

Lanzhou University has a history more than a century, since 1946, the name of "Lanzhou University" is taken and it became a national comprehensive university. Xin Shuzhi is the first president since it is renamed as "National Lanzhou University". Mr. Xin Shuzhi came from Linli, Hunan and headed for Europe for study during 1924 - 1927. During the study periods in University of London, his field of vision was widened considerably, and during his study in Germany, he majored in plant taxonomy and studied plant taxonomy with the famous biologists of doctor Diers in University of Berlin. In 1927, he served as a professor and Biology Department of Zhongshan University in Guangdong, when he was charging the Biology Department, he established animal specimen room and herbaria, which made Zhongshan University become to be known by the biological scholars of Germany, France, Britain and Japan in the early 1930s." In 1931, he served as Director of the Preparation & Approval Department in Ministry of Education and later served as the director of National Institute for Compilation and Translation. In 1936, he was responsible for organizing Northwest Agricultural College, and only in three years, the college became a key college in the Northwest Agricultural Colleges. In 1939, under the exclusion of reactionary forces "CC" of the Nationalist Party, he was forced to leave the Northwest Agricultural College. During the War of Resistance against Japan, he served as an advisor of Agricultural Credit Administration, professor and director tutor of the Central

University and had been appointed as councilor of politics meeting. Because of Mr. Xin Shuzhi's extensive learning and teaching experience as well as high social prestige, the Ministry of Education considered appointing him as president of National Lanzhou University.

Mr. Xin Shuzhi undertook this mission and later carried out preparatory work in Lanzhou, under the extreme difficult conditions and extreme harsh environment at that time, as well as prices soar and obstructed traffic in large-scale civil war period," he established "National Lanzhou University" in such a short time due to, on one hand, the effort of scholars of Lanzhou University represented by Xin Shuzhi, on the other hand, inseparability from the high degree of attention attached by national central government.

II. THOUGHT OF RUNNING SCHOOL OF MR. XIN SHUZH

The Colleges and Departments of National Lanzhou University were established in accordance with the command issued by Ministry of Education: Lanzhou University was merged and combined by the president National Gansu Colleges in Lanzhou, the National Northwest Medical Branch and National Northwest Normal University", Xin Shuzhi considered the under undeveloped situation of education in the Northwest, the coexistence arrangement of several universities is conducive to mutual promotion and improvement, especially an independent normal university would play an important role in improving secondary education teachers and the running of higher education, so he fought against all dissenting views and retained the two institutions. Facts have proved that the decision is entirely correct in considering the long-term development of the Northwest education.

President Xin Shuzhi temporarily established Arts and Sciences School, Law School, Medicine School and Veterinary Medicine School in accordance with the mode of comprehensive university. There are Department of Literature, Department of History, Department of Mathematics, Department of Physics, Department of Chemistry, Department of Zoology, Department of Botany and Department of Geography under the Arts and Sciences School, and the dean is Dong Shuangqiu. There are Department of Law, Department of Political Science, Department of Economics, Department of Bank Accounting and Judicial Group under the Law School, and the dean is Lu Jinghu. Considering the broad prospects of large pastoral area and development of animal husbandry in northwest, and according to the favorable conditions for the development of animal husbandry in the northwest, the present President Xin Shuzhi specially petitioned the Ministry of Education and the Gansu provincial government: "In order to meet local environmental needs, it is proposed to pay more attention to the development of the development of School of Veterinary Medicine to prevent animal disease and improve the varieties, thus which can benefit the economy national defense of northwest." The Medicine School and Veterinary Medicine School belongs belonged to the same department, the Dean of Medicine School is Shui Tiantong. In July 1948, the Arts and Sciences School of National Lanzhou University was divided into Arts School and

Science School. The dean of Arts School is Shui Tiantong, "Mr. Shui is the authority professor in Chinese literature." Therefore, "the scale of today's Lanzhou University is composed by five schools of Law School changed from Gansu College, Medicine School changed from the Medicine Branch School, and adjusted and added Arts School, Science School according to University Regulations and specially established Veterinary Medicine School. The President Xin Shuzhi believed that "Running the comprehensive university of Lanzhou University which is composed by five schools is crucial to the development of education in Northwest, and if we want to develop Lanzhou University as the capital of Northwest education, we should also focus on the overall situation of northwest education." From such a strategic vision and in the aspects of schools and department setting, Lanzhou University became a distinctive comprehensive university with 26 departments and became the highest university in Northwest. In the aspects of schools and departments setting, it complied with the instructions of Education Ministry and meet the needs of the local community, as well as cultivated a large number of people talents for Gansu and even the northwest, the reasonable and distinctive schools and department setting lay a solid foundation to developing the Lanzhou University into a comprehensive university.

During the National establishment period of Lanzhou University, the school running characteristic of President Xin Shuzhi vividly described it as: "President Xin has three precious factors, books, instruments and Gu Jielao." "Gu Jielao" refers to a batches of famous experts and professors headed by Mr. Gu Xiegang. In the initial stage of Lanzhou University, he focused attention on the following three things:

Firstly, he treated worthy men with courtesy and widely gathers gathered profound scholars. "Northwest is the border area and the cultural culture lags behind, in addition to the difficulties of lacking of books and instruments for such a university located here, the most difficult problem is that we have no professors, because experts and distinguished personages all live in Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai, of course there will be a lot of difficulties if we asking them to come to such a far place for teaching." Under this condition, President Xin endeavored and left no stone unturned to take a number of special measures and fully use utilized the power of the person outside the university to play their positive role, and this act indeed achieved significant results. On the one hand, he invited his friends and schoolmates to come to help by virtue of his personal kindness and at the same time, he applied for the Government to instruct the parties to make an appointment with the overseas returnees in English and American, especially he temporally hired the famous professors from famous universities of Peking University, Tsinghua University and Zhongshan University to give lectures here. The weather in Lanzhou is cold in winter and cool in summer, president Xin especially extended the summer holiday and shortened the summer holiday (only three days), and took advantage of this opportunity to invite experts and professors and scholars of Beijing and Shanghai for teaching and conduct research work in Lanzhou University. On the other hand they could

come here to avoid summer heat while giving lectures to the students in Lanzhou University. He also took the way of short-term lecture to hire Gu Jiegang, Shi Hansheng, Pei Wenzhong, Fang Zhuangyou, Zheng Ji, Zhu Binghai to come to the university to open special lectures and academic reports, and since then, the teaching quality of National Lanzhou University has been greatly improved, and the academic atmosphere was strengthened and welcomed by the majority of teachers and students. Although the National Lanzhou University is in the northwest, they are one family together with universities in Beijing and Shanghai.

During his tenure as the president in National Lanzhou University, he has also employed the well-known cultural and historical experts Gu Jiegang, Shi Nianhai, Feng Guorui, Zhang Shunhui, and the linguisticians Shui Tiantong, Li Cuilin, Mu Yunzhong, the Tibetologists Yang Zhifu, Wang Yinuan, jurists Li Jinghu, Wu Wenhan, political scientists Sheng Cheng; mathematicians Duan Zimei, Cheng Yuqi, physicists Chen Zubing, Nie chongli, chemists Zhang Huaipu, Chen Shiwei, Zuo Zongqi, zoologists Chang Linding, Yang Langming, botanists Dong Shuangqiu, Shi Hansheng, Kong Xianwu, geographer Wang Deji, physicians Yu Guangyuan, Qiao Shumin as well as veterinary scientist Sheng Tongsheng to come to Lanzhou University to teach for teaching, many of these teachers are PhDs or professors who has returned back from abroad after studied in well-known universities in Europe and America, and they all had considerable professional achievements. Since then, the teachers with outstanding ability were gathered in Lanzhou University and the teachers ability were significantly improved, which has narrowed the gap with the universities in Beijing and Shanghai etc.

During the period that National Lanzhou University was charged by Xin Shuzhi, he was so perspicacious that he hired the well-known English scholar-Shui Tiantong as dean of School of Arts, and set up Russian Department, Frontier Language & Literature Department and so on, he brought together the rare Russian scholars and minority language scholars in domestic together, and cultivated talent who is familiar with Russian language, literature and culture, and the special professional personnel who can master languages, cultures and customs of minorities of Mongolian, Tibetan, and Uyghur to better serve for the development of northwest frontier and serve the mass.

Secondly, he purchased large amount of books and teaching equipments. Mr. Xin Shuzhi believed that modern university should be equipped with modern equipment, to enable the students to share the feelings and sentiments of the present age and accept the standard of world academic. He exhausted his power to enrich books and instruments. "Mr. Xin looks far ahead and aimed high, he believed that talent cultivation plan must be based on qualified teachers and books and instruments, he carefully selecting selected teachers, widely gathering gathered instruments, and exhausted his efforts to purchase books, the wheels of Beijing-Shanghai Longhai trail runs quickly and brought the people from western and hundreds boxes of books, while the war came in sudden and the land-line was blocked, then airplane was adopted for transportation, during the two years,

the accumulated books up to 150,000, and it is was already to be a giant library in Northwest.” President Xin account explained the book gathering policy in his words: “Magazines are the academic confluence of the generation, so we should fully gather the magazines all over the world. The thread-bound book of Qing Dynasty is the most refined and the writings of the nearly recent five decades can make modern people share the feelings and sentiments, so we certainly should collect the complete version.” 80,000 volumes of books were gathered and purchased during only two years of 1946-1947 which rapidly enriched and expanded the collection.

The northwest frontier in China is vast in area and multitudinous people lives there, it has a long history and culture, in order to achieve the unite of various ethnic groups and the construction of the development of northwest, talents skilled in language and the custom should be cultivated to adopt work of frontier, “Research the situation of frontier, learn the Chinese language of frontier and study frontier language, and to collect and gather various books and materials information of the frontier is indispensable and there is no time to delay, since the frontier language department is established, we they began to collect library cataloga variety of library catalog from Labrang Monastery, Ta’er Lamasery, Dege and Dihua and Yonghe Lamasery in Beijing, Songzhu Temple, etc.” this kind of initiatives reflecting reflected that Mr. Xin Shuzhi paid much attention to the development of northwest frontier, this vision is the crystal of northwest development thoughts in the period of Republic of China.

In order to gather journal literatures, Xin Shuzhi also spared no effort to seek about 500 species of journals published in domestic for the Library, and ordered more than 200 species of foreign magazines, all of them are authoritative academic journals. He also launched all relationships to collect journals.

At that time, the library of National Lanzhou University not only paid attention to collecting ancient books, volume series, northwest local literature, and archeology books, but also paid great attention to the procurement of foreign language books. Most foreign language books and photocopies of west books have been largely generally covered.

Thirdly, he expanded school base, renovated and built new academic buildings and student dormitories. In just five years, five new student dormitory and three school buildings were newly built. July 16, 1947 is the date of the foundation of the three school buildings. President Xin Shuzhi took the names of the three famous mountains in the northwest to name the three teaching building as “Tianshan Hall”, “Qilian Hall” and “ Helan Hall” and in the “Three Mountains Hall”, the inscription is: “Establish the university in the center of the state, and build three halls to cultivate students, gather talents from the whole country to develop the frontier to make it impregnable, looking up to Tianshan mountain, Helan mountain and Qilian mountain and following the older generations with virtue and it will be firm and last for billions of years.” as a memorial.

In September 1948, the construction of “Kunlun Hall” was started, Mr. Gu Jiegang made a comments on Kunlun Hall: “This hall is a giant structure in this university, and any buildings in in various counties and cities in Gansu cannot compared with it. As the mountains in northwest are not comparable with Kunlun Mountains, it is named as Kunlun Hall.” “Now the powerful neighbor eye covetously on us and the war raged in domestic, trading are stopped out and women sighs in room, the talents cannot work on their industry permanently and the civics arise fluke minds, the person presided over an institution exert all their energies can just hold the situation, now the overall situation is depressed, although there is good person, they can only preserve themselves temporally or he can just gloss over a corner. Mr. Shuzhi relapsed a great hope and built a faith to work on this major event, he borne the heavy burden and did not elude avoid ridicule slander, he acted as the leader and the guide, and the colleagues with the same faith in the university followed up, they tolerated hunger and cold, and exerted their effort under the conditions of increasing price and exhausted funds conditions, finally this goal was achieved. That is this hall, each brick and wood contains their sweat and toil. If the descendants arrives here and enjoys the grand and profound of this hall, they should know that this is not a reflection of sufficient material resources but an epic capable of evoking praises and tears. When the students come here for study and reciting, or get together for traveling or having fun, we hope they can think of the hardness for creating this building and excite themselves.

III. CONCLUSION

As a famous educator, Xin Shuzhi left numerous precious school running experience for later generations, and his high attention to talents, profound friendship with many famous scholars of various disciplines and capability of attracting excellent talents to the school are the most critical guarantee by which he could well run this key university in northwest where environment and conditions were relatively backward, and lacking of talents. Mr. Xin Shuzhi In just three years’ tenure in National Lanzhou University, Mr. Xin Shuzhi had done a lot of work on arrangement of schools and colleges, employment of faculty, expansion of teaching staff, purchase of books and equipment, expansion of school buildings, as well as enlarging enrollment, and striving for educational funds, etc., which had strengthened and improved various schools and colleges of Lanzhou University, particularly especially for science departments, thus laying a solid foundation for further development of Lanzhou University and becoming a national key university in the future.

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