Why it’s so hard to be a reporter!

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Liu Fei always thought that to be a reporter was be of fun when he wasn’t a reporter. But when he really became a journalist, he just found that journalism was not an easy job.

It wasn’t long after he arrived at the Newspaper following his graduation from the university. One day, the Newspaper received a news clue: There was a chief of the market supervision section in the Industry and Commerce Bureau called Qu Yuan who was very upright and honest. And he requested to be interviewed. The director of the press department delegated that task to the freshman Liu Fei. Before he left, the director reminded him to listen more to opposite opinions than for positive
opinions and to avoid trusting only one side, especially while interviewing a senior official.

After he arrived at the Industrial and Commercial Bureau, Liu Fei first found out the person who provided the news clue. To his surprise, the person actually was Qu Yuan’s opponent. He was You Hua, the chief of the trademark section. At that time, the Industrial and Commercial Bureau was reforming the personnel system and introducing a competition in the appointment of Deputy Director of the Bureau. Two people took part in this competition: one was Qu Yuan, and the other one was You Hua.

Liu Fei felt confused: since they were rivals why You Hua would blows Liu Fei’s trumpet at this crucial moment. Hence, he went to find You Hua. A chubby man, with a slight stutter in this speech, made an honest impression on Liu Fei. At the sight of Liu Fei, You Hua immediately confessed: “To tell you the truth, we are now competitors. And I clearly know that I am not match for Qu Yuan. Therefore, the position of Deputy Director of the Bureau is for him. In order to create a competitive atmosphere our leader asked me to stand as his contrast. I’m afraid that leader will feel embarrassed in the case that my votes exceed Qu Yuan’s, so I implore your Newspaper to create a better opinion for him.” Then, he began to introduce the meritorious deeds of Qu Yuan. In his speech, he emphasized Qu Yuan’s “Three Never-characteristics”: Qu Yuan never accepted a bribe, never accepted a private invitation, and never did illegal things.

You Hua’s words made Liu Fei confirmed that Qu Yuan was really a moral and upright cadre. After that, Liu Fei continued to interview other people to ask for some information about Qu Yuan, and all of them had a very good impression of Qu Yuan. So, Liu Fei finished his draft quickly. In his news report, he extolled many shining points of Qu Yuan, such as the “Three never-characteristics”.

Within a few days of the publication of the news report, the chief editor called Liu Fei to his office and told him right away: “Xiao Liu, you were hoaxed!” Then, editor handed him a letter from a certain reader.

The letter was anonymous and only signed: “a certain cadre of Industrial and Commercial Bureau”. After finishing reading the letter, Liu Fei knew that he was
truly cheated by You Hua. In reality, Qu Yuan has a high prestige among the masses. Normally, his votes would easily exceed You Hua’s. But at this critical moment, You Hua schemed this report and deliberately overstated Qu Yuan’s meritorious deeds. As a result, people had a reverse psychology effect and developed an antipathy towards Qu Yuan after the report came out. Actually, some people should have supported Qu Yuan, but they changed their minds to supported You Hua. Consequently, You Hua became the Deputy Director of Bureau.

Being duped, Liu Fei was very angry and made up his mind to revenge such a “Slippery political sophisticate”.

One year later, the chance finally came. The director of the Industrial and Commercial Bureau was about to be transferred to another position and the county government would appoint a new director by choosing and promoting a deputy director. At this time, the Newspaper received a reader’s letter which was written by Xiao Ma who was an accountant in the finance section of Industrial and Commercial Bureau. The letter said: “The deputy director—You Hua breached the fiscal discipline and wasted government money to repair a sewer when he was in charge of the dependents’ housing constructions.”

Liu Fei immediately asked for an interview to verify the truth after he finished reading the letter. He thought: last time, You Hua cheated me, and this time I will avenge the previous trick.

Before his departure, the director repeatedly reminded Liu Fei that writing a critical coverage was the opposite of writing an eulogy, that meant, you can not only listen to negative opinions, but also listen to what he himself is saying. Once arriving at the Industrial and Commercial Bureau, he first found accountant Xiao Liu. Xiao Liu was familiar with spending accounts of the dependents’ housing constructions. Xiao Liu said: “According to the rule, the costs of sewer facilities should have been paid by the dependents. But You Hua advised the chief director to ask me to commit an accounting fraud and conceal the twenty thousand costs of repairing the sewer.” In order to prove his saying was true, he took out the account book to show Liu Fei.
Even though Liu Fei had ironclad and convincing proofs, he still went to see You Hua in person. Obviously, You Hua was cowardly and deferential when he saw Liu Fei because he felt guilty. At the beginning, he admitted that the whistle blower told the truth. And then, he begged Liu Fei don’t publish this report because he was about to compete for the position of the director at that time.

Of course, Liu Fei didn’t show mercy to You Hua, and the news came out very fast. The title was very striking: How could the costs of dependents’ housing facilities be paid by the government?

After the publication of the report, Liu Fei felt proud. He thought: You Hua, You Hua, this is your turn to suffer rotten luck.

Some days later, the result of the competition for director was unveiled. But beyond Liu Fei’s expectation, You Hua’s votes substantially exceeded other competitors and he successfully ascended to the director’s throne.

Some days later, the chief editor came up to him with a letter in hand, said: “Xiao Liu, Xiao Liu, you have been cheated again.”

Only after reading the reader’s letter did Liu Fei understood: the whistle-blowing actually was just a play You Hua had asked accountant Xiao Feng to perform. Since the sewer was shared by office buildings and dependents’ housing, according to the provision, dependents should pay half of the money. The Bureau paid all of the money for the sake of helping employees to save money. In this way, employees got benefits thanks to the bureau. As a matter of fact, employees didn’t know about it before the news came out. Through this report, employees knew that Director You did a good deed for them. Who wouldn’t want to select an official who showed concern for his employees? So his votes naturally greatly exceeded his rivals’.

Liu Fei, understanding the truth, was immediately dumbfounded: OMG, why it’s so hard to be a reporter!