

(headlines/subheadings) AS SOON AS HEARING STARTS, AAFE SHOUTS & SCREAMS, DISORDERLY, DISRUPTING PRESENTATIONS.

DORIS KOO CURSES AND SCREAMS, DISRUPTING ORDER. ASKED TO CALM DOWN, CONFLICT ERUPTS. BOTH SIDES EXTREMELY EMOTIONAL: SITUATION EXPLOSIVE

The original agenda of the hearing was a slide show presentation by Sam Sue showing the cost and impact of the Special District and explaining the proposed revisions, then afterwards opening up to audience questions and allowing the Coalition members to answer.

During Sam Sue's presentation, Bo-lan Tam, a member of AAFE's Board of Directors, kept shouting out loud, forcing the translator, Yuet Fung Ho to request, "Please be quiet; I'm having a hard time translating."

After Sam Sue finished speaking, the Chairman requested that questions be kept simple and brief. Pushing her way to be the first to speak was AAFE's Executive Director, Doris Koo. She took the microphone, turned to face the audience, and shouted out slogans, "Do you want Chinatown or not? Do you want the Special District or oppose the Special District?"

She then accused the Coalition of "secret deals with the City, selling out Chinatown, and talking out of both sides of their mouths to divide Chinese people. One hundred years ago under the British and French Concessions, eight countries divided up China; today there's the Special District to do damage to Chinese....."

In one breath, Doris Koo spoke for five minutes, shouting slogans and cursing the Coalition. The AAFE members shouted and chanted in the audience, forcing Pappa to demand Doris Koo to ask her question in 15 seconds. Ms. Koo did not listen to this request and continued to raise her fist and shout very emotionally. Pappa's only recourse was to turn off the microphone. At this point, AAFE members, Shirley Yan, Margaret Chin, Bill Chong, and Agnes Poon rushed forward, cursed at the Coalition, and the whole meeting exploded. Other AAFE members and Coalition people got up, and the room was a big chaos.

The hearing chairman, Pappa, told Doris Koo, "I'm very sorry you're doing this!" Koo scolded back, "You're totally shameless!"

AAFE at this point declared the meeting "illegal," "not final," and "undemocratic." Then they divided in two groups to bombard CPA's Rocky Chin and AALDEF's Stan Mark, and wanted everyone to leave the meeting. Pappa took the microphone to ask everyone to quiet down and stay calm.

Just at this time in the midst of all the confusion and chaos, a woman from AAFE cried out in a loud voice, "rape!" She threatened Stan Mark, "If you touch me again, I'll shout 'rape'!" Another AAFE member suddenly charged forward to attack Mr. Mark. This made the people sitting nearby in the audience angry.

CENTRE DAILY NEWS, 4-15-86

Feature/Commentary by reporter, Peter Lee

(headline) AAFE ACTS LIKE "CRAZY SHREW CURSING IN THE STREET"
AROUSING BLIND PATRIOTISM & IRRATIONAL BEHAVIOR CANNOT CONVINCE THE PUBLIC
NEVER CONSTRUCTIVE, ALWAYS DISRUPTIVE: OUR COMMUNITY'S MISFORTUNE

Two weeks ago, this newspaper knew that there would be conflicts at the Sunday hearing of the Manhattan Bridge Area Coalition because AAFE couldn't get Community Board 3's support to obstruct the Coalition from seeking to revise the Special District legislation with the City. According to AAFE's past "personality," they were bound to take some radical action. AAFE's show on Sunday far exceeded the community's tolerance, dangerously and ignorantly inciting blind patriotism in a way that makes people worry about the repercussions of AAFE's work.

AAFE's Sunday "disturbance" was totally beyond reason. They forced words into people's mouths and made irrational attacks in the style of "It's no crime to be revolutionary when you're fighting the system."* Their stupidity was in trying to arouse blind patriotism.

Most ridiculously, AAFE dared to compare the revision of the Special District to the British and French Concession Areas, and accused Coalition people of being "running dogs" and "traitors." These are all acts of a "crazy shrew screaming in the street." The most regrettable thing was when AAFE's Shirley Yan cursed at Stan Mark for "being Chinese, but can't speak Chinese," calling him "pathetic." Then Agnes Poon said, "Why should a Chinese hearing be chaired by an American? Why is the hearing held in English?" etc. This shows AAFE can't use reasonable debate, but resorts to reckless attacks to confuse people.

It's very simple to respond to these accusations. Shirley Yan will regret what she said when she cools down. Is it a crime for Chinese people not to understand Chinese? If you really want to press this point, Shirley Yan's Chinese is not much better, and AAFE's Bill Chong doesn't understand Chinese, does he?

The Coalition knew the majority of people at the hearing would be Chinese, so they specifically invited Yuet Fung Ho to translate. Margaret Fung, Charles Lai, and Sam Sue all grew up in the U.S. and are not fluent in Chinese. If they speak in English, does that mean they're oppressing Chinese people?

In order to allow Chinese people to understand the contents of the revisions, the Coalition hired a translator from the Chinese press to translate the entire report into Chinese. AAFE never translated a research study by an NYU supporter of their lawsuit against the city, yet demanded insistently for people to support the lawsuit.

*NOTE: slogan by the "Gang of Four" in China.

CENTRE DAILY, 4-15-86 (p3)

Shui Mak Ka of Chinese CLUW stood up and shouted, "You dare to hit someone?"

At this point, AAFE pulled together their community people to leave the hearing and set up a picket line at the door. As they were leaving, AAFE declared this was not a genuine hearing and accused the reporters of being "biased" to the Coalition. Bo-Lan Tam said, "Write whatever you want. If you want to write about how bad AAFE is, we're not afraid. Write what you want to write!"

XXXXXXXXXX