

Cadres Should Persist in Taking Part in Collective Productive Labour

A YEAR ago, our great leader Chairman Mao issued the extremely important instruction: "Going down to do manual labour gives vast numbers of cadres an excellent opportunity to study once again; this should be done by all cadres except those who are old, weak, ill or disabled. Cadres at their posts should also go down in turn to do manual labour."

In accordance with Chairman Mao's teaching, thousands upon thousands of cadres on all fronts and from leading bodies at all levels throughout the country, carrying hoes or hammers, have since taken an active part in collective productive labour in industry and agriculture. Millions of educated young people have gone to the countryside or mountainous areas, and vast numbers of city-dwellers have taken part in agricultural production. This constitutes a most magnificent new chapter in the stage of struggle-criticism-transformation of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Many fine ways of organizing cadres to take part in collective productive labour have been introduced in various places in the course of this great practice.

For example:

"May 7" cadre schools of different types;

Going down to the countryside to become members of production teams, sometimes in teams consisting of cadres, teachers, medical workers and educated young people;

A "three-thirds" system introduced in leading bodies whereby one-third goes down to do manual labour, another third makes investigations and studies of the situation, and the remainder takes care of routine office work. The three groups rotate at fixed intervals;

A "two-group rotation system," whereby some cadres go down to do manual labour while the others attend to day-to-day work. In some places cadres spend half a day doing manual labour. In others, leading cadres of revolutionary committees head their staff members to work in turn in the agricultural production teams or workshops as ordinary commune members or industrial workers; and

Cadres at the grass-roots level, in workshops or rural production teams, do manual labour together with the workers or commune members so as not to divorce themselves from production.

It is very important that the representatives of the masses on the revolutionary committees go back to their own units to take part in manual labour and not divorce themselves from production. And this is also one of the ways of organizing cadres to participate in collective productive labour.

Whatever the form, each unit should, according to its own conditions, work out concrete and effective measures for cadre participation in manual labour, measures which must be adhered to and can be checked upon. Some units proposed that cadres participating in manual labour should work at fixed jobs on designated work-days and fulfil fixed quotas of products of specified quality. This proposal is feasible and has the approval of the masses.

All the above-mentioned ways are extremely valuable creations for implementing Chairman Mao's great instruction that "it is necessary to maintain the system of cadre participation in collective productive labour," and are vigorous new-born things which have come into existence in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. They are being developed and perfected. After taking part in manual labour, more and more cadres have deeply realized that "knives will become rusty if they are not sharpened, water will become foul if it stagnates and the cadres will become revisionist if they don't take part in manual labour." They have said: "Our clothes are getting dirty, but our minds have become cleaner; our faces are sunburnt but our loyalty to Chairman Mao has been tempered; our shoes are worn out, but we've taken the correct road." Some have stated: "We had finicky airs when we remained in our offices, but after comparing ourselves with the workers and the poor and lower-middle peasants, we now admit that we have fallen far behind. Having been tempered, we are now filled with vitality." The workers and poor and lower-middle peasants praise the cadres who have persisted in taking part in collective productive labour

as "May 7" cadres, and say: "With such cadres, we can set our minds at ease."

Our great leader Chairman Mao teaches us: **"By taking part in collective productive labour, the cadres maintain extensive, constant and close ties with the working people. This is a major measure of fundamental importance for a socialist system; it helps to overcome bureaucracy and to prevent revisionism and dogmatism."** At present, an important problem confronting us is to ensure that the cadres, especially those remaining at their posts, adhere to the system of taking part in collective productive labour, as consistently prescribed by Chairman Mao.

Cadre participation in manual labour is a fine tradition of our Party, a tradition fostered by Chairman Mao. It is a measure of fundamental importance which Chairman Mao has put forward, after summing up the historical experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat, to prevent capitalist restoration. Why did some cadres commit the errors characteristic of the capitalist-roaders in power? An important reason was that they were divorced from manual labour for a long time and, therefore, became divorced from the masses and the realities and susceptible to the corrosion that set in from the bourgeoisie's sugar-coated bullets. So they fell into the mire of revisionism. This is a historical lesson which all cadres, old and new, must always bear in mind throughout the historical period of socialism. Repeatedly, from the very day the revolutionary committee was born, Chairman Mao has stressed that the cadres must participate in collective productive labour and **"remain one of the common people while serving as an official."** Referring to the comrades from the basic levels who were newly elected to the Central Committee, Chairman Mao exhorted us during the Ninth National Congress of the Party to **"see to it that they do not divorce themselves from the masses or productive labour and that they must perform their duties."** This is an expression of the greatest solicitude and love that Chairman Mao shows for the cadres. We must have a deep understanding of the far-reaching significance of this teaching of Chairman Mao's, and persistently participate in collective productive labour. Only in this way is it possible to become the true servants of the people and successfully wield power on behalf of the proletariat.

Cadres' participation in manual labour is a penetrating ideological revolution. It is not easy to persevere in it; protracted and repeated struggles must be waged to ensure its success. The influence of the old ideology of the exploiting classes in looking down on manual labour over the last several thousand years is deep-rooted, and the poisonous influence of the counter-revolutionary revisionist line on the question of cadres, advocated by the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu

Shao-chi, has not been completely eliminated. To regard those cadres going down to do manual labour as people who are "inferior to others," to think that doing manual labour is something that concerns only those cadres who are assigned to go down, and to think that those who form the backbone of a department, and those cadres who have been elected recently from the ranks of the workers and peasants need not participate in manual labour are all reflections in our minds of Liu Shao-chi's fallacies, such as "doing manual labour is a punishment" and "doing manual labour is a means of gilding oneself," and of the old ideology of the exploiting classes. If we fail to firmly grasp revolutionary mass criticism and win an ideological battle in the first place, it is impossible to persist in participating in manual labour.

All cadres must raise their consciousness with regard to manual labour. Whether they are new or old cadres, whether they are going down to do manual labour or remaining at their posts, whether they are leading or ordinary cadres, whether they are relatively good cadres or cadres who have made serious mistakes, all cadres must consider participation in manual labour their duty. This is the basic requirement of a fighter in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. One must adopt the **"to study once again"** attitude in honestly doing manual labour together with the workers and poor and lower-middle peasants and in modestly accepting re-education by the working class and the poor and lower-middle peasants, and so thoroughly transform one's world outlook.

To maintain the system of cadre participation in manual labour, it is also necessary to bring about a change in office work. It is necessary to pay attention to methods of work, resolutely reduce redundancy and concurrent posts, cut down and simplify meetings and paper work to free cadres from routine work so as to assure them the time they need to go deep among the masses and take part in manual labour. At the same time, it is necessary to correctly handle the relation between participation in manual labour and the effective performance of one's duties. Concern should be shown for the study by cadres who go down to do manual labour and for the livelihood of their families; appropriate arrangements should be made in this respect.

Let us always adhere to the system of cadre participation in collective productive labour and bring up contingents of revolutionized cadres who maintain closer ties with the masses and are always filled with vigour. With such cadres closely integrated with the revolutionary masses, we can smash the class enemies' attempts to stage a come-back and the plots of aggression and subversion by U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism. This is a measure of long-term importance to the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat!

("Renmin Ribao" editorial, November 20, 1969)