

# Revolutionary Committees Are Forging Ahead

**I**N the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution the proletarian revolutionaries and revolutionary masses of our country, under the wise leadership of our great leader Chairman Mao, have crushed the small pack of renegades, enemy agents and absolutely unrepentant persons in power taking the capitalist road headed by Liu Shao-chi and regained that part of the leadership they had usurped. Political power in the country is today firmly in the hands of the proletariat since three-in-one revolutionary committees, consisting of representatives of the revolutionary cadres, representatives of the armed forces and representatives of the revolutionary masses, have been set up at all levels. This is a great victory for the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and a great victory for Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. This is an important development of Marxism-Leninism by Chairman Mao in building up political power.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "The fundamental question of revolution is political power. To have political power is to have all, to lose it is to lose all." Vice-Chairman Lin Piao says: "Leadership means political power." To guard against the political power of the proletariat from ever changing colour, it is imperative that the revolutionization of those in positions of leadership be intensified all the time. From their birth, the revolutionary committees at all levels, guided by Chairman Mao's great teaching concerning continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, have steadily forged ahead along the road of revolutionization.

## Leaders Set Example in Revolutionizing Their Thinking

Revolutionary committees were born in fierce class struggle. Those chosen to sit on them have been steered and tested in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Infinitely loyal to Chairman Mao, to Mao Tsetung Thought and to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, they are leaders who enjoy the support and confidence of the revolutionary masses. But they realize that participation in the revolutionary committee, far from meaning the end of the process, means setting a higher standard for the revolutionization of their thinking. They know they must make efforts in unceasingly continuing the revolution, for only in doing so can they meet the needs of the revolution. The revolutionary cause of the proletariat and the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat, they say, call for the revolutionization of the thinking of those who lead, and it is a matter of crucial importance for strengthening the build-up of proletarian political power.

Revolutionary committees at all levels abide by Chairman Mao's great teaching: "We Communists seek not official posts, but revolution." Animated by the spirit of making revolution consciously and thoroughly, revolutionary committees see that those in positions of

leadership make constant efforts in revolutionizing their thinking and acquit themselves well as leaders who guide the masses in the revolution and as servants of the people. Revolutionary committee members are assiduously studying and applying Chairman Mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat in a living way and, with "fight self, criticize revisionism" as their guiding line, make unrelenting efforts to remould their subjective world while remoulding the objective world and strive to become the vanguard in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Many revolutionary committees make Chairman Mao's brilliant article *Serve the People* required study for committee members in order that they do a good job in revolutionizing themselves ideologically. Revolutionary committee members take the initiative in gathering views and opinions from the masses by working in certain selected units, by organizing Mao Tsetung Thought study classes, by having heart-to-heart talks with the masses, etc. With these views and opinions in mind and contrasting their own thoughts with the spirit of serving the people "entirely" and "wholly," as displayed by Comrade Chang Szu-teh, they "fight self, criticize revisionism," remould their world outlook and take a step forward in fostering the spirit of serving the people "entirely" and "wholly" and "fearing neither hardship nor death."

Many revolutionary committee members come before the masses on their own to report to them how they are getting on with the remoulding of their world outlook, ask for criticism from the masses and put themselves under mass supervision. To enhance their own class consciousness, others often ask old workers and old poor peasants to recollect the history of their family misery and how they were oppressed and exploited in the old society. Still others invite activists in the living study and application of Mao Tsetung Thought to talk about their experience in order to learn from the masses how they revolutionize their thinking. The revolutionary committee of one dyeing textile mill in Puning County, Kwangtung Province, has moved the meeting place of its political study from the revolutionary committee office to the workshops where they can study with the workers. Using Chairman Mao's three brilliant articles — *Serve the People*, *In Memory of Norman Bethune*, *The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains* — as the criterion, they "fight self, criticize revisionism" before the workers. They lay down a heavy barrage against Liu Shao-chi's theory of "joining the Party in order to climb up," act in accordance with Comrade Chang Szu-teh's spirit of serving the people "entirely" and "wholly" and judge themselves by the communist qualities — utter devotion to others without any thought of self — displayed by Comrade Norman Bethune. They thus set stringent demands on them-

selves. From time to time they go into the workshops, complete with overalls, to work among the workers and engage in political studies with them, seriously remould their world outlook and raise their understanding of the need to make revolution consciously and ceaselessly.

Carrying out Chairman Mao's teaching "**Seek not official posts, but revolution,**" members of the revolutionary committees at all levels in the rural people's communes, frequently go among the masses and, together with the poor peasants and lower-middle peasants, learn how to study and apply Mao Tsetung Thought in a living way so as to promote their own revolutionization, thereby enabling the revolutionary committee to wield political power still more effectively on behalf of the poor and lower-middle peasants and wholeheartedly serve them. The Liliuchuang Production Brigade of Tulin People's Commune in Chingho County, Hopei Province, is one example. After the establishment of the brigade's revolutionary committee, committee members took the lead in enthusiastically studying and applying Mao Tsetung Thought in a living way, with the leading cadres studying and discussing experience in the application of Mao Tsetung Thought with the poor and lower-middle peasants. As a result, the masses helped the cadres progress and the cadres set an example for the masses. With the cadres and the masses understanding each other perfectly, they are now making continuous progress on the road of revolutionization.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "**We have the Marxist-Leninist weapon of criticism and self-criticism. We can get rid of a bad style and keep the good.**" In the course of promoting the revolutionization of the thinking of those in positions of leadership, revolutionary committees at all levels adhere to this teaching and constantly unfold criticism and self-criticism. Leading cadres on many revolutionary committees go to the masses, working, studying and living with them. They often seek out people for chats and listen attentively to their criticisms, and in doing so more often than not get rid of bad styles of work and develop good ones. The revolutionary committee of Sanhui People's Commune in Shangyu County, Chekiang Province, for example, holds periodic rectification meetings to which the masses are invited. Here the committee members frequently ask the poor and lower-middle peasants to make criticisms and suggestions so that they themselves can constantly improve their methods of work by immediately overcoming any defects and mistakes. With the cadres having the masses in their hearts and minds and the masses giving the cadres their enthusiastic support, the revolutionary situation at this people's commune has never been as fine as it is today and there is a solid upturn in production.

### Ordinary Workers

One of our Party's fine traditions is cadre participation in labour, which is a basic measure for preventing capitalist restoration. It was put forward by Chairman Mao after summing up the historical experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

One of the main reasons some cadres in the past committed the error of taking the capitalist road was that they had long been out of touch with labour, the masses and actual practice. As they were unable to withstand the bourgeoisie's sugar-coated bullets, they fell into the mire of revisionism.

Chairman Mao says: "**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.**" Guided by Chairman Mao's great thinking on continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, members of revolutionary committees at all levels in various parts of the country have from the start persevered in doing collective productive labour and being just ordinary people while being "officials." This has greatly stimulated the ideological revolutionization of all those in positions of leadership.

The members of the Revolutionary Committee of the Haicheng Commune in Pingliang County in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region, in accordance with Chairman Mao's great teaching "**The cadres of our Party and state are ordinary workers and not overlords sitting on the backs of the people,**" have persevered in regularly participating in manual labour. Like ordinary commune members, every one of them is equipped with farm tools. They take these along and work wherever they go. Back in the office, they regularly carry manure to the fields, plant vegetables, repair bridges, pave roads, and so forth with the masses there. When they return from meetings at the county seat, they always first go to the production brigades to work, and at the same time relay the instructions from the higher level and collect comments and suggestions from the masses before holding a meeting later to study the matter in an all-round way. Through labour, the leading cadres become ideologically tempered and red, their work becomes more meticulous and their feelings for the poor and lower-middle peasants steadily deepen.

In some fishing commune revolutionary committees, apart from leaving just one committee member behind in the office to look after routine work, all the others take up responsibilities in different places. They go deep among the people on the islands and fishing boats and go out to sea with the fishermen to take part in productive labour. The revolutionary committees of some factories and mines repeatedly study Chairman Mao's teaching: "**It is necessary to maintain the system of cadre participation in collective productive labour,**" and relentlessly criticize Liu Shao-chi's "theory of labour as punishment" and persevere in doing collective productive labour for at least one-third of their time every month. In some county revolutionary committees, the leading members are divided into three groups: one to attend to routine work, one to directly take part in productive labour at the basic levels, and the third to go make on-the-spot investigations and study, solve practical problems and sum up advanced

experience. These three groups rotate jobs at periodic intervals.

On returning to the production brigade after attending the Ninth Party Congress in Peking, Comrade Jao Hsing-li, Party Central Committee Member, found the commune members busy transplanting early rice. He immediately put down his travelling bag, removed his shoes, rolled up his trousers and hurried to the fields to work along with the commune members. After the day's work was done he did not stop to wash his feet and put on his shoes but rushed over to the cow barn and pigsties to check up on the condition of the animals. When the poor and lower-middle peasants advised him to take a rest, he replied: "A cadre is a servant of the people. If cadres don't work, they'll cut themselves off from the masses and gradually become revisionists and the political power of the proletariat will change colour."

Chairman Mao's great teaching: "The cadres of our Party and state are ordinary workers" has been implemented through deeds by the revolutionary committees in all parts of the country. They have come to understand deeply through participation in labour that a knife will get rusty if it is not ground and a man will turn revisionist if he does not labour. The more they sweat doing labour, the closer they are to the workers and the poor and lower-middle peasants; the more sunburnt they are, the redder is their ideology and the closer they are following Chairman Mao. Only by persevering in labour can they hold and use power for the people well and keep China's revolutionary political power from ever changing colour. The broad masses of workers and poor and lower-middle peasants say with joy: "The cadres nurtured by Mao Tsetung Thought are our best leaders. With such leading cadres holding power for us, we can march forward along Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line for ever."

### Going Deep Into Reality

Referring to the comrades at the basic levels who were newly elected to the Party Central Committee, Chairman Mao exhorted them during the Ninth Party Congress: "See to it that they do not divorce themselves from the masses or productive labour and that they must perform their duties." In his report to the Ninth Party Congress, Vice-Chairman Lin Piao pointed out: "Cadres, old and new, must constantly sweep away the dust of bureaucracy and must not fall into the bad habit of 'acting as bureaucrats and overlords.'" Following Chairman Mao's and Vice-Chairman Lin's teachings, revolutionary committees at all levels have constantly and sharply criticized the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line of encouraging



People's Liberation Army representative Li Tzu-hou, vice-chairman of the Hsingkuo County Revolutionary Committee in Kiangsi Province, has a heart-to-heart talk with commune members while working with them in the field.

cadres to behave like bureaucrats and overlords, and swept away the bureaucratic dust that they found on themselves. They have constantly gone deep among the masses and into reality, stood at the frontline of the three great revolutionary movements — class struggle, struggle for production and scientific experiment — and led the masses in marching ahead. At the same time, acting on Chairman Mao's great teaching "They [correct ideas] come from social practice, and from it alone; they come from three kinds of social practice, the struggle for production, the class struggle and scientific experiment," they have carried out investigations and research with the masses in the course of social practice, grasped first-hand information and discovered and summed up typical experience to guide and promote work in all spheres.

Leading members of the Revolutionary Committee of Chienping County in Liaoning Province usually spend half their time working at the grass-roots in the countryside. There they take part in productive labour and make investigations and do research. In one year alone, for instance, they summed up and spread more than 50 kinds of typical experience found among the masses, thereby greatly stimulating the development of work in the whole county. Practice has proved that when leading cadres go deep into reality, forge close links with the masses and grasp the experience of actual struggle, they take the initiative in work and are qualified to speak on questions when they arise and bureaucracy can in this way be prevented at the roots. On the other hand, if they separate themselves from reality, from manual labour and from the masses, they will certainly misuse their power and order people about to no purpose and thereby set out on the road of bureaucracy. Leading members of Penki County Revolution-

ary Committee personally went into battle to obtain a bumper harvest by overcoming the harm that frost could bring to farm crops. They discovered and spread the experience of the Chienchangpao poor and lower-middle peasants, who, displaying the spirit of the "Foolish Old Man" who removed the mountains, fought the frost for a day and a night by burning tree leaves to counteract the cold spell and succeeded in beating off the threatening damage and gathering a bumper harvest. The result was that grain output throughout the county increased by a wide margin as compared with previous years. Some leading members of the revolutionary committee have gone to production brigades and production teams in the countryside, or to workshops, shifts and groups in factories. Wherever they go, they work there, studying problems while taking part in manual labour, and they jointly sum up experience with the peasants and workers and then disseminate it in an all-round way. While engaging in actual struggle, they have also discovered and trained large numbers of activists who have emerged from the masses. These activists, who are boldly used and relied on to do mass work, become the backbone in rallying and leading the revolutionary masses to grasp revolution and promote production. With deep understanding, many revolutionary committee members have noted that once the leading cadres have firmly established themselves at the grass-roots and gone deep into reality, they will be wise and clear-sighted, capable of discovering new things and understanding new problems, bear the over-all situation in their minds and have typical examples on hand, give correct leadership, lead the revolutionary masses to conscientiously advance along Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and bring about steady development in both revolution and production.

### In Close Touch With the Masses

When the new revolutionary committees had just come into being, our great leader Chairman Mao issued the great call "**Remain one of the common people while serving as an official**" to cadres of the revolutionary committees at all levels. In the last two years, revolutionary committees at every level all over our country have followed Chairman Mao's teaching and adopted a series of measures which have promoted the ideological revolutionization of the leading groups, brought about even closer relations between the revolutionary committees and the masses and further consolidated the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Revolutionary committee members represent the masses and serve them. They can become good "officials" only after they have acted as good common people. That is why after the founding of the revolutionary committees at all levels the arch renegade Liu Shao-chi's revisionist fallacy "the masses are backward" was severely criticized. Following Chairman Mao's great teaching "**Don't lose touch with the people,**" they have faith in the masses, rely on them, represent their interests in everything, always have them in mind, persevere in "**from the masses, to the masses,**" consult

with them when problems arise, and are their modest pupils. Acting on Chairman Mao's teaching "**However high an official is, he should go among the masses as an ordinary worker,**" many revolutionary committee leading members have frequently visited the poor and lower-middle peasants in their homes to talk with them and study and hold meetings together. Some have constantly gone to workshops, shifts and groups in factories to eat, live, work, study and "fight self and repudiate revisionism" with the workers. Problems are solved on the spot as soon as they are discovered, and the leading members exercise the kind of leadership by tackling problems face to face with the masses. They have given full play to and maintain "**a style of work which essentially entails integrating theory with practice, forging close links with the masses and practising self-criticism.**"

Leading members of the revolutionary committee of the machine-building plant of the Huainan Colliery in Anhwei Province go deep among the masses and forge close links with them. Wherever they go, they do manual labour and carry on their routine work. They meet the masses any time and anywhere, on the roadside, in the workshops and at the eating table and amiably talk with them, ask them for suggestions and discuss their work with them, and enthusiastically help them solve practical problems in work and everyday life. On holidays, revolutionary committee members are on duty by turn so that the workers can have a good rest. From the day he took up his duties, Ayimuhan, chairman of the revolutionary committee of the Ahoerh Production Brigade of the Tayutuszu Commune in Hsinho County in Sinkiang, has constantly studied Chairman Mao's brilliant works *Serve the People*, *In Memory of Norman Bethune* and *The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains* with the commune members alongside the fields and ditches and sitting on the kang (a kind of bed) and helped them solve practical problems.

Speaking from personal experience, many committee members are of the opinion that they now have sharp eyes and ears and can effectively wield power for the people and serve them well only when they have got rid of bureaucratic airs and kept in close touch with the masses. Only when the leading group itself is revolutionized can it lead the people in revolutionizing their thinking and can there be solidarity between cadres and the masses. And only in this way can they be united as one, hold aloft the great red banner of Mao Tsetung Thought, grasp revolution and promote production, further consolidate the proletarian dictatorship and push the cause of socialist construction forward.

Under the wise leadership of our great leader Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee with Chairman Mao as leader and Vice-Chairman Lin as deputy leader, revolutionary committees at all levels in our country, holding high the great red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, are leading the broad masses of the revolutionary people forward in great strides along the brilliant road of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat!