

Mass Debate Wins Wide Support

THE mass debate on the revolution in education successfully going on in Tsinghua University has won support from workers, peasants and soldiers throughout the country.

Since the latter half of last November, large numbers of letters warmly acclaiming the debate have been sent to Tsinghua from all over the country, expressing the unanimous view: The revolution in education is excellent! They firmly support the revolutionary struggle in the university to defend and develop the fruits of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

More than 200,000 people have recently paid visits to learn from the university. From government cadres to neighbourhood community activists, from white-haired old men to children wearing red scarves — all show concern about the debate.

The wholehearted support given by workers, peasants and soldiers to this struggle in Tsinghua shows that Chairman Mao's thinking on the revolution in education has gone deep in the minds of the people. Adhering to the orientation that "education should be revolutionized," the university's teachers and students went to more than 170 factories, work-sites, rural people's communes and P.L.A. units in recent years to carry out open-door education, thereby closely combining education with revolution and production. Under the centralized leadership of the Party, workers, peasants and soldiers have taken part in leading the

revolution in education and the main links of teaching. They have joined teachers and students in studying the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat and Chairman Mao's thinking on the revolution in education, and in criticizing the revisionist line in education and the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius. They have also played a major role in political work, in drawing up teaching plans, preparing and giving lectures, compiling and writing teaching material and introducing changes in examination.

With workers, peasants and soldiers taking a direct part in managing schools and colleges, education really becomes an undertaking of society as a whole. Consequently, when some people fabricated and spread all sorts of absurd talks in an attempt to change the orientation of the revolution in education and negate the Great Cultural Revolution, they are bound to meet with resistance from the workers, peasants and soldiers. And when the teachers and students in Tsinghua unfolded the mass debate on educational revolution and launched a vigorous counter-attack against the Right deviationists trying to reverse previous verdicts, they naturally win the support of the masses.

By way of supporting the revolution in education in Tsinghua, all Communist Youth League members and other young workers in the assembly workshop of the Changchiang Telecommunication Equipment Plant in the city of Wuhan in central China worked three

days and nights to turn out equipment urgently needed by the university for teaching and scientific research. They also sent a letter saying: "The revolution in education is a profound social revolution. The struggle on the educational front is an important component part of the struggle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines. Your struggle also is our struggle and your victory also is ours. We hope you will make fresh achievements to win honour for Chairman Mao, the working class and the poor and lower-middle peasants."

The secretary of the Party committee of the Changping Bridge Girder Plant under the Ministry of Railways said in a meeting at a site where open-door education was conducted: "Some people in the educational field attack open-door education as being no good. But we of the working class say: It is excellent! Tsinghua University teachers and students have come to our plant for their open-door education programme;

this is a new thing which has the firm support of our plant's Party committee. If students are trained in buildings, whose successors will they become? If intellectuals do not take part in physical labour, how can the difference between manual and mental labour be eliminated? How can the goal of communism be attained?"

The support from workers, peasants and soldiers in all parts of the country has helped deepen the mass debate on the revolution in education in Tsinghua. Under the leadership of the Party and with still greater revolutionary vigour, the teachers, students, staff members and workers of Tsinghua are bringing about a new upsurge in study and criticism. Adhering to the Party's basic line and firmly grasping class struggle as the key link, they are determined to work together with the people of the whole country and carry the proletarian revolution in education through to the end.