

NEVER FORGET THE GENERAL ORIENTATION OF THE STRUGGLE

-Once Again on How Proletarian Revolutionaries  
Effectively Seize and Utilize Power-

Following is a translation of an article in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peking, No 10, 21 Jun 67, pp 66-68.

Editor's note: Wen-hui Pao has carried three consecutive editorials on how the proletarian revolutionaries can do a good job of holding and exercising power.

At present, a major question confronts the revolutionary committees at all levels, that is, to do a good job of holding and exercising power for the proletariat.

This question involves acting resolutely in accordance with Chairman Mao's instructions and resolutely carrying out Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. We must use Mao Tse-tung's thought as our guide, firmly grasp the general orientation of the struggle, correctly understand and handle the contradictions between the enemy and ourselves and the contradictions among the people, constantly gain experience and sum up experience so as to keep our revolutionary committees always vital and red.

As for the present situation, the crux of the issue is whether we are holding power for the proletariat or struggling for power and holding power for an individual or for a small group. This is a manifestation of the struggle between the proletarian world outlook and the bourgeois world outlook within the ranks of the people.

So long as we hold power whole-heartedly for the proletariat, we can advance from little experience to much experi-

ence, from inability to ability to work very well; we can learn to do things we were unfamiliar with and advance with big strides along the road of Mao Tse-tung's thought.

But if we struggle for personal power and hold power for a small group, we will turn a deaf ear to what Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee say, we will 'go it alone' arbitrarily, forget about the class enemy and direct our guns at our class brothers. If we go on like this, we will commit errors of line and orientation.

Wen-hui Pao has pointed out: "We absolutely cannot allow anybody to struggle for personal power. Not an iota of this criminal idea can be tolerated. If 'power' is wedded to 'egoism,' if some one thinks only of 'power' for 'my' small group or for 'me,' he might as well blind-fold himself. He will see nothing and will take a tumble.

"Those who are possessed by 'egoism' are liable to brand the other side as 'old conservatives,' 'adverse current' and 'restorationists' once different opinions clash. They will demand another seizure of power indiscriminately. If they go on like this, they will even seize power from the proletarian revolutionaries and direct the spearhead of struggle at the proletarian headquarters."

How profound is this remark and how well expresses! All revolutionary cadres and responsible members of revolutionary mass organizations, irrespective of whether a revolutionary committee has been established where you are or preparations are being made, you must maintain a high vigilance and never let yourselves be entangled by this devilish "egoism."

This is a new and harsh test for people both in the course of the seizing of power by the proletarian revolutionaries and after.

After the seizure of power by the proletarian revolutionaries there is still a question of holding fast to the general orientation in the struggle. Only by holding fast to the general orientation can power be properly held and exercised. After the seizure of power the main contradiction before us remains one between the proletariat and the handful of party people in authority taking the capitalist road, we must direct the spearhead of struggle at the handful of party people in authority taking the capitalist road and thoroughly repudiate and discredit them. We must never forget this general orientation in the struggle.

But there are still some comrades in some areas who have failed to see this point. After the seizure of power they have almost forgotten the class enemy and the general orientation of struggle. They are not too interested in struggling against the handful of party people in authority taking the capitalist road.

They are easily duped by rumors, zestfully engage in fighting "civil wars," and are even used by the class enemy to exercise pressure on the young revolutionary committees from the right side or the extremely left side, weakening the proletarian dictatorship. Some comrades have even developed to such a dangerous extent that they despise the authority of the proletariat and listen to nobody's advice.

Who gives us the power? It is given by the proletariat and by the people. Since the people have entrusted us proletarian revolutionaries with power, we have the obligation to use this power to completely destroy the old world, thoroughly criticize and repudiate the handful of top people in authority taking the capitalist road, and in the course of the mass criticism and struggle to build a new world, and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat. We have no right at all to use this power to suppress our own comrades or to harbor the mountain-stronghold mentality, create splits, and undermine unity.

We must always keep in mind that we are holding power for revolution and for the proletariat, not for a small group of for self-interest. Since we are holding power for revolution we must always think of the duties on our shoulders, always keep in mind what we have been trusted by the proletariat, always study new forms of expression of class struggle, use Mao Tse-tung's thought as a guide to draw a clear-cut line of demarcation between the enemy, ourselves, and our friends, hold fast to the general orientation, and unite with the majority to hit hard at a handful. By so doing, even though contradictions may appear within the ranks of the revolutionaries in the course of holding power, they will be able to solve the by calmly sitting down to conduct meticulous criticism and self-criticism.

To hold fast to the general orientation in the struggle, the correct policy of persisting in principle and strengthening unity must be adhered to by the revolutionaries. The mistaken attitude of creating splits at random must be opposed. At present, to open a fierce fire on the handful of top party persons in authority taking the capitalist road is the greatest task. It is also the principle for us to unite under. To

depart from this principle to fight "civil wars" and create splits will only grieve those near and dear to us and gladden the enemy and bring about great losses to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat.

The revolutionary ranks should be consolidated, expanded, and developed every day. Some people said there will still be wild disorder within the ranks of the revolutionaries. This is a slogan of splittism and a reactionary fallacy. In places where the proletarian revolutionaries have already held and exercised power those who claimed that "there will still be wild disorder" are either ignorant or have ulterior motives. We are convinced that the true proletarian revolutionaries will not do so.

At present the struggle between the two lines has not ended. The great cultural revolution is not yet over. We must maintain a clear mind and hold fast to the general orientation of the struggle. Otherwise, if things go wrong we may fall into the enemy's trap, again commit mistakes in orientation and organization, and even bring about the restoration of capitalism. In this case a revolutionary will become an easy-come easy-go character.

Following the development of the revolutionary situation, the proletarian revolutionaries' task of remolding one's world outlook has become more and more pressing. We should be able to see that the bourgeois and petty bourgeois thinking around us, like poison gas, is always blowing toward us.

If we fail to strengthen our remolding and become a conservative with self-interest in mind, it will not take long for us to lose our bearings and our revolutionary spirit.

Therefore we must continuously make revolution to eliminate self-interest and foster devotion to the public, and attack the concept of self-interest in our minds. Only by so doing can we be able to carry through the revolution along the revolutionary line of Chairman Mao.

- END -

CSO: 3530-D