

Experience of Kweiyang Cotton Mill in Forming Alliances Based on Administrative Units

In the initial stages of China's cultural revolution, proletarian revolutionaries established broad revolutionary contacts with each other to strengthen their ranks for breaking through the obstacles set up by the bourgeois reactionary line. They set up many kinds of revolutionary fighting organizations. In a factory, school or unit, there were often several separate headquarters formed by such organizations, and these led the resolute fight against the handful of persons in the Party who were in authority and were taking the capitalist road and against the bourgeois reactionary line. Their contributions were immortal.

The great cultural revolution now has developed to the stage of the decisive battle to seize power from the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road. The proletarian revolutionaries of the Kweiyang Cotton Mill in southwest China, in order to concert their efforts to successfully carry forward the common tasks in their respective units of struggling [against and overthrowing those persons in authority taking the capitalist road], of criticizing and repudiating [the reactionary bourgeois academic "authorities" and the ideology of the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes] and of transforming [education, literature and art and all other parts of the superstructure that do not correspond to the socialist economic base], and to take firm hold of the revolution and promote production, have created a new experience in forming alliances of all revolutionary masses and revolutionary mass organizations based on their different working units. (See "Peking Review," No. 11, pp. 8-9.) This valuable experience is now being popularized in many parts of the country.

On March 8, the "Renmin Ribao" published an article written by the mill's revolutionary committee — the provisional organ of power which was formed by the proletarian revolutionaries after they had forged great alliances based on administrative units. The article tells of their experience in applying Mao Tse-tung's thought to eradicate the concept of self-interest and foster devotion to the public interest in the process of forming great alliances based on working units. We publish excerpts from the article. — Ed.

WE proletarian revolutionaries of the Kweiyang Cotton Mill have formed alliances based on administrative units and founded a unified revolutionary mass organization — the Mao Tse-tung's Thought "March 1" Fighting Regiment. We have also set up the provisional organ of power in the mill — the revolutionary committee.

Our experience showed that Mao Tse-tung's thought is the soul of our great alliance. The forming of the great alliances based on administrative units is a process in which the public interest conquers self-interest.

Before the seizure of power, there were some dozen different revolutionary fighting organizations in the mill. All were formed by the revolutionary masses themselves in the course of the great proletarian cultural revolution. They cut across the limits of shifts, teams and workshops and some were affiliated with bigger inter-factory or inter-trade organizations. They played an important part in the struggle against the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road and against the bourgeois reactionary line. On January 17, our mill's revolutionary mass organizations forged an alliance and in one stroke seized all power from the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road. The situation then underwent a

big change. At the time, we had shared the Party, administrative, financial and cultural powers among the different fighting regiments and units. A few days later, the conflict between this organizational form and the need for unified arrangements both in the cultural revolution and in production arose. The different fighting regiments and units, which were each independent, could not keep each other informed and could not act in unison. Sometimes one organization could not decide on matters concerning the whole mill and had to call meetings of all the organizations before anything was decided. This affected work and created confusion. We discovered that the various fighting units and their headquarters, which had played a good role in the past, now became stumbling blocks to the movement and to production under the new conditions of struggle.

Confronted by this situation, we turned to Chairman Mao's works for help.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "It is only through the unity of the Communist Party that the unity of the whole class and the whole nation can be achieved, and it is only through the unity of the whole class and the whole nation that the enemy can be defeated and the national and democratic revolution accomplished." Chairman Mao also says: "Everything must serve vic-

tory at the front, and the organizational task must be subordinated to the political task." Reviewing what we did in the light of these teachings, our conclusion was:

There was not enough unity among our proletarian revolutionaries and an ununified organizational form did not suit the needs of the movement. We also listened to the masses' opinions, and many of them said: "We work and live together, why can't we make revolution together? What's the point in dividing ourselves up into separate organizations, each acting independently?" Some said pointedly, "The revolutionaries of the whole mill should form alliances according to their own workshops, shifts and teams, and then form a unified revolutionary organization of the whole mill."

But this revolutionary proposal from the masses was rejected by leaders of some organizations, mainly because these leaders had not got rid of the "self" in their minds. One of them said: "We were the first to rebel. We planted the peach tree and are entitled to pick the peaches." Another said: "We made herculean efforts to set up an organization of several hundred people and fought through to victory. A merger would mean an end to it all." The worker comrades were enraged by these words and they said: We don't make revolution for our own sake. A revolutionary shouldn't be selfish.

So we studied such brilliant works of Chairman Mao's as the "three constantly read articles" and *On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party*. We criticized the mistaken ideas which had begun to grow in our ranks, using Mao Tse-tung's thought as the weapon.

Many workers withdrew from their former organizations — some of which cut through the limits of shifts, teams and workshops and some affiliated to bigger inter-factory or inter-trade organizations — and formed unified fighting organizations in the same workshop or department. This led to the founding of the mill's "March 1" Fighting Regiment.

Revolutionary workers in the different workshops, in accordance with the requirements laid down by Chairman Mao for worthy successors to the revolution, elected by secret ballot "servants of the people" who really represented the will of the proletarian revolutionaries and the broad revolutionary masses. These formed into the two leading groups for the revolution and for production.

While acting as workshop heads, these newly elected "servants" continued to take part in productive work. They listened to criticism from the masses and made self-criticisms and willingly accepted the supervision of the masses. Whenever differences arose among the members of the leading groups, they turned the issue over to the masses for discussion and solution.

Many small groups were also set up to supervise production. Veteran workers and technical personnel were asked to join such supervisory groups. Those cadres who had proved themselves revolutionary comrades were, in accordance with the Party's policy, also asked to join. As for those cadres who were willing

to rectify their mistakes and return to the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, we also assigned them suitable work.

After the great alliances were formed on the basis of administrative units, the workers, following discussions, threw out old, unreasonable rules and regulations and set up new and reasonable work systems and mutual pacts, so that new order was swiftly established in production.

The revolutionary workers said: **"Now that we proletarian revolutionaries are the masters, we must become models in production."** The spinners responded with fine results to Chairman Mao's call to take firm hold of the revolution and promote production. They overfulfilled the February quota for 21-count cotton yarn.

Having formed great alliances based on administrative units, we proletarian revolutionaries made further efforts to unite with the majority of the masses and expand our ranks.

Some of the workers in the mill, having been fooled by the few persons in authority taking the capitalist road, had joined conservative organizations. But we analysed that most of them had only been hoodwinked; they were still our class brothers. We realized that we must warmly help and encourage these comrades who had committed mistakes to rectify their mistakes and welcome them to return to the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. Many revolutionary workers took the initiative in holding heart-to-heart talks with them, telling them their own experience in making revolution, and inviting them to attend discussion meetings at which their criticisms and opinions were solicited. After all this work, many of these formerly hoodwinked comrades realized their mistakes, and we accepted them into our revolutionary organizations. Thus, the antagonistic feelings among the masses which had been stirred up by the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road began to cease, and workers and staff members who had held different views began to be concerned for each other.

All this further isolated the handful of persons in the Party who were in authority and were taking the capitalist road. The great alliance of the proletarian revolutionaries also became further consolidated.

In the process of forming great alliances according to working units, we workers of the cotton mill realized more and more the importance of creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works. Now, a new high-tide in the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works has unfolded throughout the mill. During work breaks, people gather together to study Chairman Mao's works, and we read Chairman Mao's quotations before each shift. We proletarian revolutionaries of the mill understand that the forming of great alliances according to administrative units is only "the first step in a long march of 10,000 li." Our tasks are heavy, and we still have far to go. We will hold still higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and contribute all our efforts to carrying the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.