

UNITE THE BIG MAJORITY AND
ISOLATE THE SMALL NUMBER

Following is a translation of an article in the Chinese-language newspaper, Jen-min Jih-pao (People's Daily), Peking, 7 May 67, p 4.

In response to the big criticism against the most influential person in authority in the party who is taking the capitalist road, the Shanghai Hardware Purchase and Supply Station has carried out the "combination of three" and has established the Revolution Committee.

During the first few months of the great proletarian cultural revolution, the work team assigned to the Shanghai Hardware Purchase and Supply Station by the Shanghai Party Committee wholeheartedly implemented the bourgeois reactionary line of "hitting the great majority and protecting the small number" in their handling of the cadre problem. They tried to fool the masses and conducted struggles against cadres without discrimination, thus "isolating" more than 30 cadres of departmental level, more than 20 of them were even labelled as "anti-party elements" or "rightists." At the same time, they also used cadres to attack more than 40% of revolutionary workers and staff of the station.

In the storm of the great "January Revolution," the proletarian revolutionary group of the Stations courageously came out to seize power and started fierce counter-attacks against the bourgeois reactionary line. However, the poison of that line relating to cadre problem was not completely eliminated. Therefore, when the "three combined" temporary control organ of the Station was being organized, a lot of ideological obstacles were created. The masses were not quite satisfied with cadres who had made mistakes and doubted if combining these cadres would hurt the Station. Many comrades who were hurt before did not feel assured under the leadership of those cadres who once implemented the bourgeois reactionary line, and they also found it difficult in adjusting their ideology and sentiment towards

these cadres. On the other hand, some cadres also felt they had suffered some injustice.

Discover the Main Cause of What Blocking the "Combination of Three."

After the publication in No. 5 of Red Flag of articles by columnists and investigators, as well as by Comrade CH'I Pen-yu (2058/2609/4416), the revolutionary workers and staff, as well as revolution cadres of the Station all seriously carried on their study and discussion, thus eventually discovering the main cause which is responsible for blocking the revolutionary "combination of three ." They then realized that the situation at the Station was the same as in the Tsinghua University, and they all suffered from the bourgeois reactionary line suggested and promoted by the most influential person in authority in the party who is taking the capitalist road. If they wanted to carry out the "combination of three," they must get rid of this cause. Therefore, a big mass critique against the most influential person in authority in the party who is taking the capitalist road and against the bourgeois reactionary line he represented was developed.

In the process of this big critique, the proletarian revolutionary group at the Station conscientiously led the vast masses of workers and staff, kept the problem of seizing power, and holding power closely related, and criticized the bourgeois reactionary line on the handling of cadre problem, thus making everybody realize the reactionary nature of "hitting the great majority and protecting the small number." They said: "cadre line is to serve political line. The most influential person in authority in the party who is taking the capitalist road and his henchmen hit the majority, thus blocking cadres from participating in revolution and seriously isolating cadres from the masses. They meant to cover themselves up and wait for the opportune moment to carry out a nation-wide anti-revolutionary restoration. This is an extremely serious struggle. Formerly we were fooled by the bourgeois reactionary line, therefore we indiscriminately considered all cadres as unreliable and pushed all of them aside. This is not beneficial to the seizing and holding of power by the proletarian class."

Is it true that all cadres of the Station are not to be trusted? All revolutionary workers and staff of the Station tried to get the answer from studying Chairman Mao's writings. Chairman Mao said: "Must know how to differentiate cadres. Not only must we watch one moment and one behavior of each of our cadres, but also must watch his entire history and entire work." He also said:

"Must draw a clear line between two lines--the revolutionary line and anti-revolutionary line." Then they considered local situation and used class viewpoint in their analysis of issues. They were firmly convinced by the estimate in the "Twenty-three Articles" personally written by Chairman Mao that a majority of cadres are comparatively good. Although some cadres did make mistakes, they still could be united, educated, and trusted. As to those cadres who have implemented the bourgeois reactionary line and have oppressed the masses, most of them were either fooled by the small number of persons in authority in the party who are taking the capitalist road or poisoned by the bourgeois reactionary line. As long as they sincerely realize and correct their mistakes and return to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, they still can be trusted.

Crushing the Spiritual Cangues on Cadres

For the vast masses, the process of the big critique of the revolution is a process of touching fiercely their soul, forsaking tradition, and actively participating in combat. Many cadres told of the poison they suffered from the book Cultivation at the critique meeting. They said: "Formerly we regularly studied cultivation. The more we study it, the more bourgeois individualistic ideas and less the thought of Mao Tse-tung we have." Some cadres who were hurt by the bourgeois reactionary line said: "Due to the influence of Cultivation, although we were hurt, we still tried to be patient and swallow humiliation, and hesitated in joining the revolution." Some cadres who have implemented the bourgeois reactionary line also said: "At the early stage of the great cultural revolution, we still followed the wrong ideas of 'party and discipline' and 'being the obedient fools' of the party advocated by the Cultivation, thus treating the small number of persons in authority in the party who are taking the capitalist road as representatives of the party and ourselves serving as their tools in hitting the revolutionary masses. At that time we blindly believed that we did all these because we had strong party loyalty. Today, under the education of the great thought of Mao Tse-tung and with the assistance of proletarian revolutionary groups, we have finally crushed the spiritual cangues imposed on us by the most influential person in authority who is taking the capitalist road."

During the big critique, the proletarian revolutionary group mobilized all workers, staff, and cadres of the Station to make flexible study and flexible use of Chairman Mao's writings. They not only solved ideologically the problems of correct handling of cadres and the masses, but also eradicated the ideological and

emotional misunderstanding through the use of the thought of Mao Tse-tung and absolute unselfishness in discussing if a certain cadre should be "combined ." At one meeting, the assistant secretary of the party branch at the Tools Department accused the crime of the bourgeois reactionary line and made a sincere self-criticism. Then another worker who was hurt by him came up to the stage, saying: "Every tree has its roots and every stream has its source. The poisonous root of purging the masses and cadres is really the most influential person in authority in the party who is taking the capitalist road. We should unite and get rid of this poisonous root. " Now, both of them are the leadership nucleus of the department and are working shoulder to shoulder in the fight of the big critique.

Test Cadres in the Storm of Class Struggles

The proletarian revolutionary group and revolutionary workers of Shanghai Hardware Purchase and Supply Station dared to combine with cadres out did not compromise with them. They have given sincere help to those cadres who made mistakes but have been very demanding of them. They have supported those cadres who "took a stand" in the struggle against the most influential person in authority in the party who is taking the capitalist road and against the small number of revisionists in the Station, thus encouraging them to join Chairman Mao's side. If any individual cadre did not part ways with the other side, the masses would continue to criticize him and touch deeply his soul. In the differentiation through class struggles, a satisfactory leadership of the "combination of three" was finally elected. Seven cadres at the department level were elected to be members of the Revolution Committee and other revolutionary cadres were also given appropriate assignments, thus uniting a large number of cadres and isolating the small number of persons in authority in the party who are taking the capitalist line.

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