

A New Page in the People's Struggle at Lankao

— Battle Between Two Lines in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in Lankao County



Lankao County is in Honan Province. It was here that the late Comrade Chiao Yu-lu, Chairman Mao's good pupil and an outstanding county Party secretary, worked and fought. The following report tells how, in the great proletarian cultural revolution which is without precedent in history, Lankao's poor and lower-middle peasants, holding high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and following the example of Chiao Yu-lu, battled and vanquished the bourgeois reactionary line in a hard-fought struggle. This wrote a new page in the struggle of Lankao's people.

Comrade Chiao Yu-lu was the secretary of the Lankao County Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. True to Chairman Mao's teaching to be "... more eager to go where the difficulties are greater," he came in December, 1962, to Lankao, a place plagued by water-logging, sandstorms and alkaline soil conditions. To change the face of Lankao, he led its people to study and apply Chairman Mao's works creatively and wage a determined struggle against natural calamities and achieved remarkable results. In May, 1964, at the age of 42 he died of liver cancer. Despite his death, the red radiance of Mao Tse-tung's thought which he brought the Lankao people shines there ever more brilliantly. He is not dead. He will always remain

alive in the hearts of the millions of the revolutionary people. — Ed.

Revolutionary Atmosphere

THE excellent situation which now prevails in Lankao County, Honan Province, is the result of the unprecedented great proletarian cultural revolution.

During the past year and more, Lankao has experienced a soul-stirring struggle between the two classes, two roads and two lines. Ranged on one side were the broad masses of poor and lower-middle peasants determined to defend the red flag represented by Chiao Yu-lu, who had followed Chairman Mao's revolutionary line; on the other side were the handful of capitalist roaders in the old county Party committee and the diehard conservative forces under their control who tried by hook or by crook to haul down that flag.

Today, the proletarian revolutionaries in Lankao, who formed the biggest revolutionary organization of the poor and lower-middle peasants there, have decisively triumphed in this struggle and Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line has penetrated deep into the hearts of the people. The pernicious line pushed

by China's Khrushchov in Lankao has been denounced and thoroughly discredited. The handful of capitalist roaders in the old county Party committee has been overthrown. And the Lankao County Revolutionary Committee headed by Chang Chin-li, Chiao Yu-lu's close comrade-in-arms, has triumphantly emerged in the storms of revolution. A vigorous revolutionary atmosphere pervades the whole county. Every commune and production team has its Mao Tse-tung's thought study classes. Everywhere big-character posters expose and denounce the crimes of China's Khrushchov in attempting to restore capitalism.

With soaring enthusiasm that makes light of the severe cold, Lankao's poor and lower-middle peasants are pressing ahead with a winter work project to dig irrigation channels. These will bring in water from the Yellow River to turn the alkaline lands into fertile paddyfields.

With even greater confidence and courage than before, Lankao's heroic people are ushering in the all-round victory of the great proletarian cultural revolution. With their heroic labour they are continuing the magnificent epic which Chiao Yu-lu had to leave unfinished.

A Tortuous Road

The class struggle in Lankao has had its twists and turns.

A certain Wang, until 1962 first secretary of the county Party committee, was a faithful disciple of China's Khrushchov. From his very first day in office, he frowned on the calamity-ridden county of Lankao. When, during the three years of temporary economic difficulties, China's Khrushchov dished up his sinister programme of extending plots for private use, expanding free markets, increasing the number of small enterprises with sole responsibility for their own profits or losses and fixing output quotas based on the individual household, this Wang immediately devoted himself to pushing this programme as if it was a godsend.

The class enemies were on the move too. They incited commune members to engage in individual farming and frenziedly sabotaged the collective economy. Trees were felled and water conservancy systems destroyed. As a result, soil alkalinity rose, water-logging went from bad to worse and farmland lay barren and at the mercy of sandstorms.

It was at this critical juncture that Chairman Mao's good pupil Chiao Yu-lu came to Lankao in December 1962, bringing with him the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung* and the spirit of the Resolution of the 10th Plenary Session of the 8th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The first thing he did on his arrival was to raise high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and take firm hold of the key link of all work — the class struggle. By encouraging the peasants to recall their past sufferings and think of today's happiness, he succeeded in arousing tremendous enthusiasm for socialism among all the poor and lower-

middle peasants of the county. This dealt a heavy blow at the class enemies' attempts to restore capitalism.

With profound class feeling, he visited the poor and lower-middle peasants, paid high tribute to the new phenomena which gave expression to their spirit of making achievement through self-reliance and hard work and enthusiastically supported their firm determination to take the socialist road. He commended four production brigades in the county as pace-setters for such revolutionary spirit and determination. This further stimulated the enthusiasm and revolutionary spirit of Lankao's poor and lower-middle peasants and they battled heroically against natural calamities. After three years of hard struggle, they had brought sandstorms and floods in the main under control and transformed their alkaline land. Lankao, an area beset by natural calamities for many years running, reaped a good harvest for the first time in its history.

Always remembering, and grateful to Chairman Mao's good pupil Chiao Yu-lu, the people of Lankao said: "Secretary Chiao did exactly what Chairman Mao teaches. He was indeed close to us poor and lower-middle peasants."

After Chiao Yu-lu's death in May, 1964, Chang Chin-li, deputy Party secretary of Lankao, continued his work in accordance with Chairman Mao's teaching "never forget class struggle." He joined with the poor and lower-middle peasants and made his contribution to building a new, happy socialist Lankao.

However, the struggle between the two classes, two roads and two lines did not end. To fill the place left by Chiao Yu-lu, a certain Chou was appointed county Party secretary. Right away he tried to negate Chiao Yu-lu, a fine example whom Vice-Chairman Lin Piao had praised in an inscription. He also objected to publicizing the Lankao people's heroic achievements in overcoming natural calamities. Widespread reports of Chiao Yu-lu's deeds brought a steady stream of people to Lankao from every part of the country. When asked to recount Chiao Yu-lu's life, the new Party secretary Chou gave the visitors the cold shoulder. And when Chang Chin-li told the moving story, this same Chou smeared him as trying to "make political capital" out of it. Since one insisted on publicizing Chiao Yu-lu's exemplary deeds and the other was bent on negating them, the struggle between the two lines in Lankao grew ever sharper.

Mighty Torrent of the Great Cultural Revolution

As soon as the great cultural revolution started in June 1966, the handful of capitalist roaders in Lankao directed the spearhead of their attack against Chang Chin-li, branding him a "political pickpocket" and a "counter-revolutionary revisionist."

The poor and lower-middle peasants of Lankao, who had suffered most in the old society and who have a high level of socialist consciousness, could not remain silent. They knew very well that both Chiao Yu-lu and

Chang Chin-li were members of Chairman Mao's headquarters and had stood firm with the poor and lower-middle peasants. They realized that the capitalist roaders, in opposing Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li, were in fact opposing the poor and lower-middle peasants and Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line.

Then came the "Decision of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Concerning the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," a document drawn up under the personal guidance of Chairman Mao, and his great call: "You must concern yourselves with state affairs and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end!"

The poor and lower-middle peasants of the four model brigades commended by Chiao Yu-lu were the first to get together and set up a revolutionary mass organization defending the late county Party secretary. Poor and lower-middle peasants in other parts of the county promptly followed suit. Similar organizations were also established by the workers in the county seat, and by cadres of the county Party committee and the county people's council and students of a middle school.

The revolutionary workers, peasants, students and cadres were unanimously determined to defend Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li. Chairman Mao teaches us that "the peasants are clear-sighted. Who is bad and who is not . . . the peasants keep clear accounts, . . ." From their own experience, the poor and lower-middle peasants knew that Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li had been leading them along the socialist road, while Wang and Chou were trying to divert them into the blind alley of capitalism. Defending Chang Chin-li, therefore, meant defending Chiao Yu-lu, defending Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. They declared: "Chou is the top capitalist roader in the county Party committee and must be overthrown," "Chang Chin-li is a revolutionary leading cadre and must be given resolute support."

In January 1967, inspired by the "January Revolution" in Shanghai, the poor and lower-middle peasants in Lankao brought 66 revolutionary organizations into a great alliance and seized power from the handful of capitalist roaders in the old county Party committee and the old county people's council.

But as Chairman Mao has said: "The day of rejoicing for the masses of the people is a day of woe for the counter-revolutionaries," this handful of capitalist roaders did not take their defeat lying down. Ganging up with the handful of capitalist roaders in the regional and provincial Party committees, they launched a counter-attack soon after the seizure of power. One group after another of poor peasants, activists who were Party or Youth League members and revolutionary cadres were arrested and thrown into jail. Chang Chin-li was branded an "active counter-revolutionary." They slandered the four model brigades as "revisionist" brigades. In an attempt to force a change of views, they also resorted to counter-revolutionary economism against those who stood on the side of Chang Chin-li.

The decisive battle between the two classes, two roads and two lines had come. The class struggle, fiercer in depth and scope, began.

Defend Chairman Mao's Revolutionary Line!

The poor and lower-middle peasants of Lankao proved themselves to be the real heroes in this struggle. They were always mindful of Chairman Mao's teaching: "Without the poor peasants there would be no revolution. To deny their role is to deny the revolution. To attack them is to attack the revolution. They have never been wrong on the general direction of the revolution." They held that whoever went after the poor and lower-middle peasants was unquestionably opposed to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and was a follower of the sinister line represented by China's Khrushchov.

During the most difficult days they sat around oil lamps far into the night studying *Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-tung* over and over again. This gave them fresh strength and courage to carry on the struggle.

When followers of the capitalist roaders tried to make them change their views, they declared, "Never! We poor and lower-middle peasants have sworn to defend Chairman Mao with our lives!"

The Nanmazhuang Production Brigade has a production team called the "Hard-Bone" team whose leader is Chang Ying-tang, a fine cadre who loves the collective and is wholly devoted to the public interest. Because this team to a man stood by Chiao Yu-lu, the capitalist roaders declared its area "enemy-held territory" and wanted to arrest its leader. Team members urged Chang to go into hiding. But how could he leave the production team which meant everything to him! In the old society Chang Ying-tang's family had for decades been beggars. How many tears had he shed in those meetings to recall the bitterness of the old days! "No," he said, in those days of white terror, "I must stay and fight!"

In the Shuangyangshu brigade is an elderly woman called Chou Yu-hua whose father was driven to his death by a landlord and whose mother died of hunger in the old society. Her elder brother was killed by the Japanese. She had never known happiness until liberation. A mother of eight, she told everyone she met: "My heart will always be with Chairman Mao!"

During the great cultural revolution, when she heard that capitalist roaders who opposed Chairman Mao and who wanted to restore capitalism were found in the county, she exclaimed: "Take the capitalist road again? Never! I'm going to rebel against anyone who thinks differently from Chairman Mao!" So she joined a revolutionary mass organization defending Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

In the most difficult days, she travelled many miles every evening to make contacts and to exchange revolu-

tionary experience with other revolutionaries. Whenever she met those who took the same stand as hers she recited this quotation from Chairman Mao: **"In times of difficulty we must not lose sight of our achievements, must see the bright future and must pluck up our courage."** She used Chairman Mao's words to encourage other poor and lower-middle peasants to rise and fight.

Followers of the capitalist roaders had a bitter hatred for her and were also mortally afraid of her. They called her a "dichard" and attacked her in other ways.

Her answer was: "Revolutionaries are not afraid of death. I'm ready to die for the revolution. I'll hold Chairman Mao's red banner higher still. Let it fly high above us for ever!"

Grandad Yen Hsieh-chung, Vice-Chairman of the Lankao County Association of Poor and Lower-Middle Peasants and an activist in studying Chairman Mao's works, was one of the first in Lankao to rise up in rebellion against the capitalist roaders in the great cultural revolution. This old peasant is known for his utter devotion to others without any thought of self. When U.S. imperialism began bombing Vietnam, he saved 200 *jin* of wheat to help the Vietnamese brothers. Besides, he often extended selfless help to families in difficulties.

The capitalist roaders and their followers launched converging attacks on Yen Hsieh-chung, plastering his village with big-character posters slandering and condemning him.

Yen Hsieh-chung refused to yield even under this pressure. He stood firm in defence of Chairman Mao. "Chairman Mao's revolutionary line is our very life-blood," he said. "I must defend Chairman Mao before all else."

He turned every "debate" into meetings for recalling the suffering and misery of his life in the old society and told the audience how he came to have this happy life of today.

"What crime is it for us poor and lower-middle peasants to rise in revolution in response to Chairman Mao's call? Why do you believe in those bad elements and turn your spearhead of attack against us? Think it over." His words moved and helped those who for a while had been misled to see the capitalist roaders' true colours.

Everywhere in Lankao one can hear the exploits of the children of Hancun. The huge slogans they wrote on the walls declaring their opposition to the work team sent by China's Khrushchov can still be seen. What was back of these slogans? It was this: All but one household of the Hancun production team of the production brigade of the same name supported the stand of the "Defend Chiao Yu-lu" group, so the capitalist roaders inside the Party committees of the special administrative region and the county sent a 32-member work team to the village to get the 29 households to

change their stand. "You have been hoodwinked," the team said to them. "You are wrong to support Chang Chin-li. He is an active counter-revolutionary!"

This incensed the villagers. Everyone, old and young alike, knew that Party secretary Chiao was a good man, and so was Party secretary Chang. The fearless children were especially outspoken. "What sort of work team are you?" they demanded. "You're a work team of China's Khrushchov! So get out, and be quick about it!" Later they refused to provide food for the "work team." At meal times they swarmed around the "work team" shouting, "We're for Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and you're for the line of China's Khrushchov, so you can't eat our food!" Others said, "Since you say Chang Chin-li is a counter-revolutionary, then we're all 'counter-revolutionary' commune members, and our food is also 'counter-revolutionary,' so don't eat it!"

The "work team" finally gave up and went back for good to the county seat.

In the tit-for-tat struggle against the reactionary line, many children got organized and acted as sentries and scouts for the adults. They were both fighters and agitators.

This decisive battle continued for more than five months. The handful of capitalist roaders found themselves marooned in the vast sea of the heroic people of Lankao.

In July 1967, under the solicitous care and guidance of Chairman Mao and the Party's Central Committee, the proletarian revolutionaries of Honan won a decisive victory in the battle and an excellent situation emerged throughout the province.

Leading comrades of the Party's Central Committee in Peking received Chang Chin-li and representatives of the proletarian revolutionaries in Lankao.

When the good news reached Lankao, the whole county rejoiced. Chairman Mao's revolutionary line had triumphed! The revolutionary people had won! Poor and lower-middle peasants from all over the county streamed rejoicing into the county seat.

From the Lankao railway station to the tomb of Comrade Chiao Yu-lu on the ancient Yellow River dykes, the route was thronged with people beating drums and gongs, letting off fire-crackers and expressing their feelings in songs and resounding cheers of "Long live Chairman Mao!" "A long, long life to Chairman Mao!"

The heroic and militant people of Lankao, however, are not overwhelmed by their success. They are continuing their advance under the leadership of the newborn Lankao County Revolutionary Committee and holding high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought. They are following in the steps of Chiao Yu-lu, Chairman Mao's good pupil, in the fight to build a new socialist Lankao, resplendent with the thought of Mao Tse-tung.