

Revolutionary Big-Character Posters Are "Magic Mirrors" That Show Up All Monsters

THE great proletarian cultural revolution is now in full spate. We must stand at the forefront of this movement and actively guide it.

It is necessary to arouse the masses without reservation and adopt the method of full and frank expression of views and opinions, of putting up posters written in big characters and of carrying out great debates. It is necessary to let the masses speak out fully, expose all the representatives of the bourgeoisie who oppose the Communist Party, socialism and Mao Tse-tung's thought, expose all the monsters and, one by one, smash to pieces the reactionary bastions of the bourgeoisie.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung says: "Posters written in big characters are an extremely useful new type of weapon."

The revolutionary big-character posters are very good!

They are "magic mirrors" to show up the monsters of all kinds. With everybody putting up such posters, it is possible, quickly and from all sides, to reveal the true face of the sinister anti-Party and anti-socialist gangs.

These posters set out all kinds of opinions and bring out all kinds of contradictions. And through

these opinions and contradictions we should come to understand the situation and discover and solve the problems.

By presenting the cardinal issues of right and wrong and getting everybody to discuss, examine, appraise and criticize them, the revolutionary big-character posters concentrate in a single day 20 years' education of the masses, particularly in raising the proletarian consciousness of the younger generation.

In a big way, the revolutionary big-character posters fortify the high resolve of the proletariat, of the masses of the workers, peasants and soldiers, and in a big way deflate the arrogance of all the anti-Party and anti-socialist reactionaries and the high and mighty bourgeois "authorities."

The attitude towards these revolutionary posters is an important yardstick in the current great cultural revolution by which to differentiate genuine from sham revolutionaries and proletarian revolutionaries from bourgeois royalists.

Are you a revolutionary? Then you are bound to welcome these posters, stand up for them, take a lead in writing them and encourage the masses to write them freely and expose the problems freely.

Are you a royalist? Then you are bound to be scared to death of such posters. You will turn pale with fear and come out in a cold sweat at the sight of them, and in every possible way you will try to suppress the posters put up by the masses.

Fear of the big-character posters means fear of the masses, fear of the revolution, fear of people's democracy, fear of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

There are a few people in authority who have taken the capitalist road; their minds are like granite. They do not allow the masses to make revolution and write big-character posters. And when the masses write them, they use their position and power and, under a host of pretexts, organize the royalists to write counter-revolutionary big-character posters to encircle and attack the revolutionary big-character posters and suppress the proletarian revolutionaries. We are not afraid of these actions of theirs. The fact they come out and serve as teachers by negative example raises the vigilance of the masses and helps them to distinguish right from wrong on cardinal issues. Isn't that a very good thing!

Chairman Mao says: "We must have faith in the masses; we must have faith in the Party. These are two cardinal principles. If we doubt these principles, we shall accomplish nothing."

Precisely for this reason—precisely because we have full confidence in the masses, and are absolutely convinced that under the leadership of Chairman Mao, our great, glorious and correct Party enjoys tremendous and unshakable prestige among them—we encourage the masses to write big-character posters in order to facilitate our struggle against the enemy and improve our work and in order to ensure that our socialist cause goes forward still more healthily and in still greater strides.

Let us freely arouse the masses, freely encourage them to write big-character posters and, under the great banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and the leadership of the Party's Central Committee, resolutely carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end!

("Renmin Ribco" editorial, June 20.)