

AFTER SEIZURE OF POWER

[Following is a translation of an article by the Red Rebels of the Peking Kuanghua Timber Factory, in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No 3, 3 February 1967, pages 45-49.]

Editor's Note: This article, "After Seizure of Power," is very well written, and it is hoped that proletarian revolutionaries all over the country will read it seriously. This article raises a question in regard to the orientation of the current great proletarian cultural revolution, that is, what should be done after seizure of power.

What should be done after seizure of power? The revolutionary rebels of the Kuanghua Timber Factory have put forward some comments of the character of a program. These comments are worthy of the attention of the revolutionary rebels of various industrial and mining enterprises.

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North and south of the great river, inside and outside the Great Wall, the great alliance of the proletarian revolutionaries is seizing power on a large scale from a tiny handful of power holders who are taking the capitalist road within the Party -- with a burst of force which is irresistible. One citadel after another of the diehards has been stormed and taken, and one position after another has been seized back.

In response to Chairman Mao's great call and acting after the fashion of the Shanghai revolutionary rebels, we red rebels of the Kuanghua Timber Factory on 17 January seized power from a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party. In less than half a month after the seizure of power, the whole factory was

enveloped in an atmosphere of prosperity. It made a thunderous success of the movement and was fired with enthusiasm for production.

Power in the Hands of the Revolutionaries Leads to the Development of Production on a Large Scale

Over a long period of time, a tiny handful of power holders within the Party taking the capitalist road in the Kuanghua Timber Factory loyally carried out the counter-revolutionary revisionist line of the former Peking Municipal Committee, and led the socialist enterprise onto the road of "peaceful evolution." During the great proletarian cultural revolution, the revolutionaries rose to rebel against them, but were frantically suppressed by means of White Terror. The red rebels defied such suppression. Therefore, the power holders resorted to economism, and instigated the workers to stop work so as to undermine production. They were able to take this course of action because they had power in their hands. Could they be left to wield such power? No, definitely not. Their power must be seized!

At that time some people said: "Now is not the time to seize power because the production task is so heavy this month. Let us wait until next month to seize power." The red rebels firmly said: "No, only when the revolutionaries are in power can a success be made of production."

This is actually the case.

Power must be vested in the hands of the proletarian revolutionaries before the great guiding principle advanced by Chairman Mao -- "Grasp revolution, stimulate production" -- can really be implemented.

With power in the hands of the proletarian revolutionaries, productive forces will be liberated on a large scale. Firing the activism of the broad working masses for production in the great proletarian cultural revolution is an important factor for making a success of production.

Following the victory of the struggle to seize power, a high tide in production was promptly swept up within the confines of the whole factory. Many workers said excitedly: "Now that we really are the masters, who will do the work for us if we don't do it ourselves? We must go into it in a big way!"

The day following the seizure of power, the daily output of Work Section 301 -- which manufactures plywood doors -- rose from 115 units to 210 units. On the third day, it further increased to 253 units, and very quickly, the highest record of 282 units a day was established. This was equivalent to 245 percent of the daily output on the day prior to the seizure of power. In January, the total output value of the whole factory amounted to 400 thousand yuan in the seventeen days

before the seizure of power, and 1.26 million yuan in the fourteen days after the seizure of power -- the latter amount equivalent to more than three times the former figure representing seventeen days' output value prior to the seizure of power. Various workshops of the whole factory all fulfilled or overfulfilled their production tasks.

With the working masses as the real masters, the communist spirit was brought into full play, and technical innovations were also carried out. The red rebels among the plank-slotter operators innovated the rapid double-slotting method and raised efficiency by double. When the medium heat press and the giant heat press of the rubber press section broke down, the comrades of the fitters' unit rushed over in the night to repair them, thus insuring the normal operation of the machines. After overfulfilling its production tasks ahead of schedule, Work Section 307 sent carpenters of its own accord to give aid to fraternal Work Section 302.

The rapid development of production after the seizure of power has greatly boosted the determination of the revolutionaries. It is a forceful reply to those conservative elements who want to avail of the opportunity to see us making foolish figures of ourselves, and a very good lesson to some of the masses in the middle who still do not believe that the revolutionary rebels can exercise good leadership in production. This vivid fact has further disintegrated the conservative ranks, and has united and won over even more of the masses in the middle to the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line.

Brand New Things -- the Revolutionary Production Committee and the Revolutionary Production Service Unit

Chairman Mao said: "We not only are good at destroying the old world but are also good at building a new world."

After our seizure of power, we have destroyed in a big way the superstructure incompatible with the socialist economic foundation, old rules and regulations, systems and conventions. We have completely abolished the system of "three levels under one head" which has for a long time ruled enterprises, and replaced it with brand new organizations -- the revolutionary production committee and the revolutionary production service unit.

The old management system is a bureaucratic system copied from Soviet revisionism for fettering the masses and impeding production. From the factory proper to the offices and workshops, a large number of cadres are detached from production. They do not understand the realities of production, but only know to hand down tasks to the lower level and to demand for figures. They stay aloft to lead the life of officials and lords.

Now, there are no more such "heads" and "chiefs" with us. The factory proper and the various workshops and offices have formed revolutionary production committees or revolutionary production service units. They are formed with a number of service personnel. The service personnel are elected by the red rebels. Those who are best in creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's writings, who are most revolutionary and who are best tied with the masses are elected as service personnel. The incompetent can be removed and replaced at any time.

The revolutionary production committee and the revolutionary production service unit are revolutionary organizations for the masses to educate themselves, to liberate themselves and to manage themselves. They are tied with the masses like flesh and blood, and they cannot for a moment be detached from the masses. The relationship between the leader and the led today is entirely a comradely one, and is absolutely not one between the ruler and the ruled.

Many service personnel said: "Now that the course is run by us, we can never regard ourselves as officials and lords and can never detach ourselves from the masses."

With the exception of some particular persons who are temporarily detached from production really due to the need of work, the overwhelming majority of the service personnel of the revolutionary production committees and revolutionary production service units are not detached from production. Most of them make use of their spare time to carry out the cultural revolution and to deal with problems in production. There is a chief coordinator for the whole factory, and each workshop employs from one to three planning or technical personnel. They make concrete arrangements for production activities under the leadership of the revolutionary production committee or the revolutionary production service unit.

For a time some people were worried that the elimination of the old system of management and the retrenchment of large numbers of cadres detached from production would lead to ineffective management and interruption in production. Facts prove that such misgivings are superfluous.

The service personnel play a direct part in production, are most familiar with production conditions, are best able to understand the working masses, and are most suitable to take command. They "come from among the masses and go back among the masses." They discuss things with the masses, closely rely upon the masses, and are best able to bring the activism and creativeness of the broad masses into play. Once problems are discovered in production, they can be quickly solved. The important problems are handed over to the revolutionary production committee for study, and they also can be solved opportunely. This is also one of the important reasons why production can be quickly developed

after seizure of power. The working masses said in reflection: "Production in the whole factory is now smoothly directed and opportunely led."

Although the revolutionary production committee and the revolutionary production service unit are still at the inaugural stage at present, yet because they are great new things born in the great proletarian cultural revolution, they have a profound mass foundation and a far-reaching future. They will manifest their peerlessly strong power in the socialist revolution and socialist construction.

"Make Revolution on the Basis of Economy," "Run the Factory with Hard Work and Thrift"

After our assumption of power, we resolutely follow Chairman Mao's teaching by "making revolution on the basis of economy" and "running the factory with hard work and thrift."

The conservative chieftain of our factory formerly constantly went out to conduct activities in a motor car. After seizure of power the Red Rebel Headquarters and the revolutionary production committee of the factory have decided that unless the business is extraordinarily urgent, everyone going out on duty should take a public vehicle or ride a bicycle, and the use of motor car is prohibited. After seizure of power, the motor car of the factory is very seldom used.

Every effort is made to practice economy and to guard against waste in the use of articles such as paper, ink, etc., for the cultural revolution. There are only a few wooden desks and chairs in the offices and the conference room.

The red rebels posted quotations from Chairman Mao on "making revolution on the basis of economy" by the side of machines. The workers said: "It is necessary to make revolution yield the best result and to incur the least expenditure. There is no point in making revolution if we are careless, extravagant and wasteful!"

After seizure of power, we firmly implement the guiding principle of "running factories with hard work and thrift" as advanced by Chairman Mao. Now that we are in power, the working masses have a stronger sense of responsibility as the masters, and they permit not the waste of a piece of wood. The red rebels of Workshop No. 6 do not ask the State for high-class coal. They said: "So long as we bring into play our subjective dynamic role, inferior coal can likewise be used to fire a boiler." Making economic use of raw and semi-processed materials also has become the fashion of the day.

Extravagance and waste is a bourgeois work style. It was the work style of the bureaucratic lords in the past.

Hard work and thrift is the proletarian work style. It is now the work style of the workers in power.

Unite the Majority of the Masses

Seizure of power is made by our factory in a down-to-earth manner. We have seized not merely one or two seals of authority and several offices. We have grasped leadership power in the real sense. The majority of the workers warmly support the seizure of power this time. They happily submit to the arrangements and adjustments made by the revolutionary production committee and the revolutionary production service units. This also means to say that such power has the approval of the masses.

Why is this possible? The reason is that before seizure of power, the red rebels paid attention to uniting the majority, and after seizure of power, they have paid even greater attention to carrying out such work more penetratingly and carefully.

We are of the opinion that the overwhelming majority of the masses have been deceived into joining the conservative organizations. In view of this, instead of discriminating against and excluding them, we unite them by means of persuasion and education on the basis of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. The concrete way adopted is to study and discuss Chairman Mao's writings and the important documents bearing on the great cultural revolution together with them. We hold forums to publicize Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line to those who have been deceived and to criticize the bourgeois reactionary line. We make use of rest time to visit their families to compare the present with the past, and to enlighten their class consciousness. We also pay attention to their living conditions. In this way we have united the overwhelming majority of the masses who have been deceived. After changing their minds, they expressed their determination saying: "We must heed well what Chairman Mao says and follow his lead to make revolution."

We have also dealt with the cadres analytically and discriminately. Some who firmly stand on the side of the revolutionaries have been chosen to serve on the revolutionary production committee or the revolutionary production service units. Those who have no serious problems and are needed by work are kept for certain work. Those who are not needed by work are as a rule sent to the workshops to work together with the workers. The tiny handful of persons who were in authority and taking the capitalist road within the Party and the extremely small number of diehards who cling to the bourgeois reactionary line are subject to criticism and struggle, made to work under supervision, and required to make confessions. In this way we have won over a number of cadres.

A cadre of the supply and marketing section was formerly a conservative. After he was sent to work in the workshop, a red rebel there actively directed ideological and political work toward him, and at the same time, showed concern for him in work and in livelihood. He gave him his own gloves and work uniform. As a result, this cadre changed his mind, and he told the red rebel that he wanted to say in the workshop to work together with the workers.

After the victory of the struggle to seize power, the revolutionary ranks quickly grow. Many persons ask to join the revolutionary rebels. Under such circumstances, we must pay attention to the mass character of the organization as well as its purity. In the case of those who are sincere in wanting to join the revolutionary rebels, even though they had been deceived before, so long as they change their stand we welcome them. However, we must especially guard against those who flaunt the "rebel" banner in the attempt to infiltrate into the revolutionary ranks to carry out sabotage.

Chairman Mao has said: "Today, it is necessary for revolution to organize millions of the populace and to mobilize a vast revolutionary army to counter the attack of counter-revolution." For the sake of seizing power, it is necessary to have such "millions of populace" and "vast army" in our command. In order to consolidate the power seized and to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end, our revolutionary ranks need to be expanded and elevated continuously.

Make Uninterrupted Revolution, Forever March Forward

As we waged the most arduous, life-and-death struggle against a handful of those in authority who were taking the capitalist road within the Party and an extremely small number of diehards who clung to the bourgeois reactionary line, it was Chairman Mao's writing which gave us unlimited strength and made us "resolute, fear no sacrifice, and surmount every difficulty to win victory." Now that we are in power, the load on our shoulder has grown heavier. How can we carry such a heavy load? We deeply understand that of the thousands of important things, placing the thought of Mao Tse-tung in command is most important.

After our seizure of power, we earnestly study Chairman Mao's writings. With an eye on reality, we have seriously studied Chairman Mao's "three old articles," "On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party," "Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership," "Methods of Work of Party Committees," and other great works.

Wei Hsiu-ho, a 52-year-old worker who serves on the revolutionary production committee often studied deep into the night like many other red rebels. He said: "Without studying Chairman Mao's writings, how can we carry the load for the service personnel?"

New problems will arise under the new situation. Chairman Mao has warned us: "With victory, certain moods may grow within the Party -- arrogance, the airs of a self-styled hero, inertia and unwillingness to make progress, love of pleasure and distaste for a continued hard living." The buds of these mistaken ideas also exist to a varying extent in the ranks of the red rebels. This has arrested our attention. We are deeply convinced that through studying Chairman Mao's writings and making criticism and self-criticism, we certainly can overcome these mistaken ideas.

"The inaccessible pass is really guarded like iron, but now we are passing through it with big strides."

After several months of hard struggle, we have stormed through numerous barriers, seized power in our hands, grasped the revolution and stimulated production. We clearly know that this is but the first step of the long march. The class enemies will not take their defeat lying down, and they still want to make a last-ditch struggle. Recently, a handful of reactionaries still keep secret "accounts of change in political climate," and they crazily attempt "to settle accounts after autumn" and to stage a comeback. We must maintain a high degree of vigilance against their plot and wage a resolute struggle against them to the end. Because we are in power, we also face many new problems. We have even sterner tests in store for us. The red rebels are making preparations for the new battle.

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