

An Extremely Important Matter of Guiding Principle

RENMIN RIBAO on August 18 reprinted an article "We Should Be Bold in Using the Revolutionary Cadres" written by a commentator of the editorial department of *Weidong*, a journal published by Nan-kai University in Tientsin. The article has drawn nationwide attention.

The question raised in this article, to be bold in using the revolutionary cadres, is an extremely important matter of guiding principle in the current great proletarian cultural revolution. It is a matter that has a bearing on the establishment and consolidation of the revolutionary "three-in-one" combination, on the progress and development of the revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation, and on the accomplishment of the task of taking a firm hold of the revolution and promoting production.

Proletarian revolutionaries everywhere in the country are called on to study this article carefully, and correctly deal with cadres and use them boldly in accordance with Chairman Mao's cadre policy.

The tests of the rigorous struggle of the last year or so have proved that the majority of our cadres are good or comparatively good. The revolutionary leading cadres who were long tested in the revolutionary war and class struggle are relatively mature politically, have relatively strong organizational ability and have relatively rich experience in struggle. The large numbers of revolutionary cadres are valuable assets of the Party and the people. As the article pointed out: "Boldly using revolutionary cadres and drawing them in to take part in the leading groups at all levels is not only an important measure to ensure the vigorous development of all our work, but also a key to the consolidation of our young proletarian political power. Without revolutionary cadres, the political power seized by the young Red Guard fighters today may be lost tomorrow."

People have gained a much deeper understanding than ever before of Chairman Mao's cadre policy through the all-round exposure and mass criticism and repudiation over the last year or so of the bourgeois

reactionary line in dealing with cadres, a line which is summed up as "hit hard at many in order to protect a handful." In all places and departments where the stirring mass movement of the great proletarian cultural revolution has been carried out, the class line-up has become clear or relatively clear and it is not difficult to distinguish between persons in authority taking the capitalist road and proletarian revolutionaries.

At present, an important task confronting proletarian revolutionaries is to implement Chairman Mao's cadre policy even more consciously and to be bold in using revolutionary cadres.

Some people are full of misgivings on the question of using cadres. They are afraid of making a wrong choice, afraid that some day these cadres will go bad.

With regard to this question, the commentator's article we reprinted on the 18th gives an analysis which hits the nail on the head: "Like all phenomena in the world, cadres follow the rule of one divides into two. This is a universal law in the development of things. When we say we should be bold in using revolutionary cadres we do not mean that they will not change in the future. If we are aware of this we can estimate the question soberly. As the revolution develops, the few individuals who become corrupt will be weeded out and those good cadres who are loyal to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and to the dictatorship of the proletariat, and who maintain close ties with the masses and make continuous progress will be selected and promoted to leading positions from time to time."

Instead of viewing the cadre ranks one-sidedly from a static, metaphysical viewpoint, this analysis looks at them in an all-round way, dialectically and from the viewpoint of development. Such an analysis is in keeping with Mao Tse-tung's thought and Chairman Mao's policy on cadres.

Chairman Mao's policy on cadres follows certain principles. In judging a cadre we must distinguish between the major aspects of political principle and the minor ones, be clear on what his main trend is and

what is secondary, and examine his life and work as a whole.

The main aspect of political principle in a cadre is whether or not he is holding aloft the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, whether or not he is giving prominence to proletarian politics and whether he has or lacks revolutionary drive.

In examining a cadre at present, our main consideration should be whether or not he supports Chairman Mao, Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and the great proletarian cultural revolution; whether he stands on the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian headquarters or on the side of the bourgeois headquarters of China's Khrushchov, and whether or not he supports the proletarian revolutionaries.

It is quite often unavoidable for cadres to commit mistakes in revolutionary struggle. The traditional policy of **"learning from past mistakes to avoid future ones"** and **"curing the sickness to save the patient"** should be adopted in dealing with cadres who have made mistakes. This is the only correct policy. We must give cadres who have made mistakes the opportunity to make self-criticism and correct their mistakes. We must let them get tempered and tested in the storm of mass struggle and in the course of revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation, so that they may steadily increase their proletarian political consciousness, their understanding of Mao Tse-tung's thought and their awareness of the proletarian revolutionary line. We must not repeat what that book on "self-cultivation" preaches and make them "ponder over their mistakes behind closed doors." They are still good comrades, provided that they conscientiously correct their mistakes and really stand on the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line.

Even cadres who have committed serious mistakes **"should be allowed to correct their errors and encouraged to make amends for their crimes by good deeds, unless they are anti-Party, anti-socialist elements**

who persist in their errors and refuse to correct them after repeated education."

An unshakable principle set down by Chairman Mao is, **"have faith in and rely on the majority of the cadres."** Only when it is combined with faith in and reliance on the majority of the cadres, can faith in and reliance on the masses generate infinite power in the great revolutionary struggle.

Whether or not one is bold in using revolutionary cadres is an important indication of whether or not one is adhering to the proletarian revolutionary line.

The Central Committee of the Party calls on proletarian revolutionaries throughout the country to give resolute support to revolutionary cadres so that they can step forward, and calls on proletarian revolutionaries to use the cadres boldly. Proletarian revolutionaries must have the great communist spirit and get rid of unnecessary misgivings. They must dare to support and trust revolutionary cadres and enable them to play the role of serving as the backbone and core.

Using revolutionary cadres boldly does not mean that in general they should be restored to their original posts. As to how to use them, this should be subject to discussion by the revolutionary masses.

The Central Committee of the Party calls on all revolutionary cadres to step forward boldly, support the proletarian revolutionaries resolutely, take an active part in the great proletarian cultural revolution and courageously shoulder the heavy responsibility of taking firm hold of the revolution and promoting production so that through their own revolutionary actions they can win the trust of the revolutionary masses.

All revolutionary cadres and all cadres who want to make revolution but who have committed mistakes and are willing to correct them should unite with the revolutionary masses and win new merit in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

("Renmin Ribao" editorial, August 25.)