

# GREAT CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS

## Steel Mill Director Regains Workers' Trust

**C**HEN TA-TUNG, former director of the Shanghai No. 3 Iron and Steel Works, is one of the many revolutionary cadres who have tempered themselves in China's great proletarian cultural revolution.

As the Party Central Committee and Chairman Mao have many times pointed out, the overwhelming majority of our cadres are good or relatively good. In the great cultural revolution, only the handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road ought to be overthrown. Those cadres who made mistakes but are still revolutionary are being helped back to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line through mass criticism.

Chairman Mao teaches us: **"The veteran cadres made contributions in the past but they must not rest on their laurels. They should strive to temper themselves in the great proletarian cultural revolution and make new contributions."**

He has also said: **"Solve the problem of relations between the higher and lower levels effectively and harmonize relations between cadres and the masses. From now on, cadres should go in turn to the lower levels and see what's happening; they should persist in the mass line, always consult the masses and be their pupils. In a sense, the fighters with the most practical experience are the wisest and the most capable."**

Acting on Chairman Mao's instructions, many leading revolutionary cadres have gone deep among the revolutionary masses to join them in the mass criticism and repudiation of the handful of top Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road and to examine, in the course of mass struggle, their own past mistakes.

As director as well as, later, Party secretary of the mill for the past ten years and more, Chen Ta-tung had committed many mistakes, some of them fairly serious. He had followed the revisionist line in factory management pushed by China's Khrushchov and his agents in Shanghai and, during the early period of the great proletarian cultural revolution, had carried out the bourgeois reactionary line and suppressed the revolutionary masses. However, over the years as a whole he has maintained his political integrity. In his long years of revolutionary work he has in the main been diligent, active and responsible in his attitude. The

revolutionary workers of his mill held that, given active help, he could return to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

After Chen Ta-tung made his first appearance before the masses to criticize his own past mistakes, he tried to correct his faults by "making a self-examination behind closed doors." This, however, proved of no avail. To help him correct his faults, the proletarian revolutionaries decided that he must be placed in the fire of mass struggle and helped to return to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line through the masses exposing and criticizing his errors and laying bare his soul.

"High temperatures make fine steel," said the revolutionary masses. Capitalist and revisionist poison in one's head can be eliminated only in the fire of mass struggle, just as impurities are burnt out in making steel.

Chen Ta-tung went through some 30 criticism meetings. In the course of acute mental ideological struggles he began to see the seriousness of his past mistakes.

The revolutionary workers then had him study Chairman Mao's works with them to help him understand what is the socialist road and what is the capitalist road, what Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line is and what the bourgeois reactionary line is.

Such help greatly raised the level of Chen Ta-tung's understanding of Mao Tse-tung's thought and heightened his determination to fight self-interest and to make revolution consciously. Later, the several self-criticisms he made were on the whole considered satisfactory by the masses.

During the time he was being criticized, Chen Ta-tung was given temporary work. This he did well and willingly, and on his own initiative, he examined his mistakes before the masses.

On one occasion, the proletarian revolutionaries criticized him for chasing after profits only and neglecting the factor of man. Chen Ta-tung accepted this criticism and went to the workshops to make a self-criticism of this mistake before the workers there. At the same time, he encouraged the masses to propose measures for strengthening political and ideological work in the plant.

"We really got to know Chen Ta-tung through those series of criticism meetings, big and small," said the revolutionary workers. "And at the same time, those meetings gave Chen Ta-tung the opportunity to

show the revolutionary masses where he really stood." Such criticism and self-criticism laid a good foundation for the establishment of a provisional organ of power based on the revolutionary "three-in-one" combination.

Following this, differences of opinion arose during discussions on the make-up of the revolutionary committee. Some people held that since Chen Ta-tung had returned to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line he should head the committee. Others were afraid of the possibility of him taking revenge once he was again in the leading post. Chen Ta-tung himself was not very willing either. He was thinking that the person holding the leading position bore the heaviest responsibility and, as such, was often the first target of criticism.

When members of the unit of the People's Liberation Army working in the plant heard of these ideological problems, they pointed out that this, in the final analysis, was a reflection of self-interest.

A short-term course for studying Mao Tse-tung's thought was started up, and together, the proletarian revolutionaries and Chen Ta-tung studied Chairman Mao's "the three constantly read articles" — *Serve the People*, *In Memory of Norman Bethune*, and *The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains* — and relevant instructions given by Chairman Mao and the Central Committee of the Party.

Armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought, they brought into the open and fought against their selfish ideas. Chen Ta-tung came to see and admitted that his lack of courage showed that bourgeois, selfish thinking was again cropping up in his mind. He then pledged himself to follow Chairman Mao's teachings and foster **utter devotion to others without any thought of self** and be ready to shoulder the heaviest responsibilities.

At the end of the course, those revolutionary workers who had had misgivings declared that since they were not making revolution for personal ends and since Chen Ta-tung had returned to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, they should trust him and give him power and support.

At the beginning Chen Ta-tung worked gingerly on the revolutionary committee. This was noticed by the leading members of the proletarian revolutionary mass organizations. They encouraged him to follow Chairman Mao's line closely and urged him not to be so timid. They also called on the revolutionary masses to give him their fullest support as long as his leadership conformed to Mao Tse-tung's thought.

There is no danger of losing one's bearings so long as one follows Chairman Mao's line on the one hand, and keeps oneself in close contact with the masses on the other, this is the conclusion that Chen Ta-tung has drawn from the lessons of his past mistakes.