

Chen Yung-kuei — A Revolutionary Cadre Who Maintains the Fine Qualities of the Labouring People

CHEN YUNG-KUEI, Communist Party branch secretary of the famous Tachai Production Brigade, Hsiyang County, Shansi Province, became Vice-Chairman of the Shansi Provincial Revolutionary Committee and Chairman of the Hsiyang County Revolutionary Committee in the course of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

He is one of the 4,000 or so members of the present revolutionary committees of 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of the country, that is, throughout the land with the exception of Taiwan Province. The overwhelming majority of them are representatives of workers, peasants and soldiers.

Chairman Mao teaches us: **"We Communists seek not official posts, but revolution."** Chen Yung-kuei is just such a Communist Party member who acts according to Chairman Mao's teachings.

Chen Yung-kuei's position has changed, but he has kept the qualities of the working people. He holds a high position, but he steadfastly continues to take part in collective productive labour. Though heavy responsibilities of leadership rest on his shoulders, he keeps up a good working style of maintaining close ties with the masses. Great honours are his, but he remains modest and prudent.

Chen Yung-kuei has not put away his hoe, the calluses on his hands are as thick as ever. With a peasant's white towel round his head, in well-worn clothes and home-made shoes, he works with the other peasants in the fields, studies Chairman Mao's works with them and makes criticism and self-criticism together with them in Mao Tse-tung's thought study classes.

Tachai's poor and lower-middle peasants say in praise of him: "Yung-kuei is an official, but he doesn't act like an official. He continues to be one of us peasants."

Retaining the Qualities of the Working People

Born in a poor peasant family, Chen Yung-kuei began working for the landlords at the age of eight. His mother, elder sister and younger brother were sold as a result of dire poverty. His father toiled as a farm-hand for a landlord and was kicked out in his old age,

and he hanged himself. As Chen Yung-kuei says, "Chairman Mao saved me. It is the great thought of Mao Tse-tung that transformed me from an ordinary peasant who only knew about making revolution for his own emancipation into a Communist Party member."

Over the past decade and more, Chen Yung-kuei has stood firmly by Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in the acute struggle between the two lines in the countryside. He was among the first in the country to have organized co-operatives, and he has steadfastly followed the socialist road despite the pressure of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line.

Before liberation, as a result of ruthless landlord exploitation, Tachai's output of food grain was very low. Its peasants were always under the lash of hunger. After liberation, under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party, the Tachai peasants, with a spirit of self-reliance, transformed their poor and backward mountainsides and gullies into a high-yield food grain area which is not only self-supporting but supplies surplus grain to the state every year. Tachai's spirit of self-reliance has set an example for the peasants throughout the country. Chairman Mao has issued this call: **"In agriculture, learn from Tachai."**

Following Chairman Mao's teachings, the Tachai cadres, maintaining the fine qualities of the working people, constantly work in the fields and lead production work while participating in field labour. It is precisely because of this that they enjoy the warm support of the masses, and have become a strong core of leadership in the revolution.

In February 1967, the proletarian revolutionaries in Hsiyang County seized power from the capitalist roaders, and selected Chen Yung-kuei chairman of the county revolutionary committee. When the Shansi Provincial Revolutionary Committee came into being, he became its vice-chairman.

When he took up his new posts, Chen Yung-kuei was both happy and worried.

From whom was power seized? Why were the capitalist roaders overthrown? These were questions that Chen Yung-kuei kept pondering over.

Among the handful of capitalist roaders in Shansi Province and in its Hsiyang County, some were evil

elements hiding in the Party, while others were people who had degenerated after liberation. During the years of the War of Resistance Against Japan and the Liberation War, many leading cadres of our Party lived and laboured with the revolutionary people and fought in battle shoulder to shoulder with them. Cadres and masses shared difficulties and hardships, and together rejoiced over their victories. This relationship was an important guarantee for defeating the enemy and winning victory in the revolutionary wars.

After the liberation of the whole country, big changes took place in the status of certain comrades and in the working environment and material conditions in leading organizations. The majority of the cadres have stood the test, and maintained the qualities of proletarian revolutionaries. But, there were a few who began to stand above the masses and whose thoughts and sentiments and class stand began to change. They divorced themselves from productive labour and, at the same time, divorced themselves from the masses. The former relation between them and the masses, a relation as close as that between fish and water, changed into one as disparate as that of oil and water. People no longer wanted to speak out their minds to such cadres and they became blind to the wisdom and talents of the people. They became uncertain about how to tackle problems that cropped up and could not find the answers to them. They lost their power to lead the masses. They were no longer with the masses, but went on issuing orders. It was inevitable that they should make mistakes. In directing production, they told people what to do without making inves-

tigations, and this caused damage to production and the welfare of the people. In leading mass movements, they would exercise a bourgeois dictatorship over proletarian revolutionaries. Instead of serving as a channel for the Party to **"concentrate ideas from the masses and once again go to the masses so that the ideas are persevered in and carried through,"** they became stumbling blocks in the Party's relations with the people.

Chen Yung-kuei came to this conclusion: "We seized power from the capitalist roaders because they divorced themselves from manual labour and from the masses, because they no longer lived a hard life and had become revisionists. If we ourselves forget labour, forget the masses, forget the hard way of life, we, too, will go the way of the capitalist roaders. With revisionism creeping into our minds, the Party will change its nature. The political power of the proletariat will be lost."

So Chen Yung-kuei worries about four things: being divorced from the masses, having privileges, being wasteful and not constantly taking part in manual labour.

Constantly Taking Part in Collective Labour

Chen Yung-kuei says: "To become lazy is often the beginning of degeneration. Not taking part in labour is the starting point for laziness, and a break-through for revisionism."

So whenever he leaves Tachai for provincial and county work, Chen Yung-kuei studies this quotation from Chairman Mao: **"It is necessary to maintain the system of cadre participation in collective productive labour. The cadres of our Party and state are ordinary workers and not overlords sitting on the backs of the people. By taking part in collective productive labour, the cadres maintain extensive, constant and close ties with the working people. This is a major measure of fundamental importance for a socialist system; it helps to overcome bureaucracy and to prevent revisionism and dogmatism."**

As he reads these words, Chen Yung-kuei always thinks back to the old life of his family and that of all the poor and lower-middle peasants.

He often reminds himself: "You are from the labouring people. You must not forget labour. If you forget labour, you will forget your class origin."

Busy as he is, Chen Yung-kuei returns to Tachai to work in the fields whenever there is a break of a few days between meetings or during office work in the county or elsewhere. Sometimes he works in the



Comrade Chen Yung-kuei (centre) holds leading posts in both the provincial and county revolutionary committees, but he still maintains his fine working style of keeping in close contact with the masses. Here he is talking with the poor and lower-middle peasants about grasping revolution and promoting production.

fields till dusk, goes to the county seat to attend meetings after supper and gets back home after midnight. Early the next morning, he is out in the fields again. In Tachai, he uses the early morning and evening hours for leadership work, and spends the day in the fields working among the peasants.

On October 3 last year, a group of foreign friends visited Tachai. The sun had set when they left. After seeing off the guests, Chen Yung-kuei again joined the peasants, working for a whole hour out in the fields, and returned to the village only after dark.

One day in early April of this year, he was notified by the Shansi Provincial Revolutionary Committee to go to a meeting in Taiyuan. Chen Yung-kuei finished breakfast and went to a work site, talked over matters there with the cadres, then went to work in the fields with the peasants and, during the break, encouraged and exhorted them to keep in mind Chairman Mao's teaching "**Never forget class struggle**," and to do a good job in spring ploughing and sowing so as to seize all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution. He left for Taiyuan at the last possible moment.

Chen Yung-kuei says: "Taking part in collective productive labour makes one better able to fight laziness. The more you take part in collective productive labour, the more dedicated you become in serving the people. The more you sweat from manual work alongside the peasants, the deeper your proletarian revolutionary feelings. If we stick to it, we can build an impregnable ideological wall against revisionism, we can defend Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line."

Maintaining Close Ties With the Masses

The Tachai Production Brigade has become famous throughout China and in other countries. During the great cultural revolution, more than 1,700,000 people from all parts of the country and more than three thousand foreign visitors have gone to Tachai. Chen Yung-kuei's work schedule includes meeting visiting guests, giving lectures, attending meetings and doing work for the province and the county.

He pays the closest attention to avoiding getting bogged down in daily routine and maintains close links with the masses.

He often tells himself: In the past, we defeated Japanese imperialist aggression and Kuomintang reaction because we followed the leadership of Chairman Mao and relied on the revolutionary masses. Today in the great cultural revolution, we have defeated the No. 1 Party capitalist roader Liu Shao-chi and his agents in various places again because we follow the leadership of our great supreme commander Chairman Mao and rely on the millions of revolutionary masses. To keep power firmly in our hands in the future, we should all the more follow the leadership of Chairman Mao and rely on the revolutionary masses.

Chen Yung-kuei seldom stays in his county office.

Between February and April 1967, he and other county cadres, carrying the "Letter From the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party to Poor and Lower-Middle Peasants and Cadres at All Levels in Rural People's Communes All Over the Country" to all the 20 communes in the county, made investigations, propagated the instructions from Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee, and helped more than 200 brigade cadres to realize the mistakes they had made under the influence of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line, accept criticism from the masses and do their work in a revolutionary spirit. Chen Yung-kuei and the other county cadres also helped the county's 415 production brigades to establish new cores of leadership in order to do a better job in grasping revolution and promoting production. After one year's hard work, grain output in Hsiyang County in 1967 was over 40 per cent higher than in 1966.

During the autumn harvest last year, Chen Yung-kuei led the brigade's kindergarten children and their teachers to glean the grain left scattered in the fields and on threshing grounds. He said: "The main thing isn't the grain they save, but training them to look at things like working people; this is education aimed at opposing and preventing revisionism." He also said: "In making revolution, if a man thinks only of his own lifetime, he cannot be regarded as a thoroughgoing revolutionary. To be a thoroughgoing revolutionary he must make sure that no future generation will degenerate."

Always Remaining Modest and Prudent

Chen Yung-kuei enjoys the complete confidence of the masses, and often hears their praise.

Aware of the need to guard against being corrupted by praise, he asks himself, "Whom does this honour really belong to?" "Tachai," he insists, "owes all its achievements to Chairman Mao, to the Communist Party, to the invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung, to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, to the people, to the collective."

Whenever he goes to attend meetings in the city, he keeps to the living standard of the poor and lower-middle peasants. When he stays in hotels, he eats simply. When he has minor ailments, he keeps it to himself. At one point, the commune doctor suggested that Chen Yung-kuei take some medicine to build him up. He refused, saying: "Eating millet and working in the fields is a cure for all ailments."

By putting high demands on himself, Chen Yung-kuei thus pays constant attention to keeping the qualities of a proletarian revolutionary, and preventing corruption by bourgeois ideas.

Through his fine style of work, Chen Yung-kuei has set an example for numerous proletarian revolutionaries who have been assigned to new leading posts and for revolutionary leading cadres throughout the country.