

A Party Branch Maintaining Close Ties With the Masses

THE 37 Communist Party members in the tool workshop of Hunan's Chuchow Rolling Stock Plant make up 20.5 per cent of the total number of workers and cadres there. Helped and led by the Chuchow Municipal Revolutionary Committee's Mao Tsetung Thought propaganda team stationed in the plant and the Chinese Communist Party's nucleus group in the Chuchow Rolling Stock Plant and by Party consolidation, the workshop established a new Party branch in December 1968 and took in new proletarian blood.

Direct reliance on the revolutionary masses is a basic principle of the Communist Party. Guided by Chairman Mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the Party branch has in the past year mobilized Party members and workers to study and apply the whole series of Chairman Mao's latest instructions in a living way so that the Party branch can become a militant fortress which maintains close links with the masses.

Leading the Revolutionary Masses in Fighting The Class Enemy

The fundamental task of the Party organization is to lead **"the proletariat and the revolutionary masses in the fight against the class enemy."** Shortly after the Party branch was established, some people thought: "The work of purifying the class ranks is **drawing to an end**, Party consolidation has been **accomplished**, the Party branch has been established, and so we can pause and relax." The Party branch saw that this idea was a manifestation of those people's weak sense of class struggle and lack of the spirit of continuing the revolution. It recognized that to grasp or not to grasp class struggle was a fundamental question involving whether the Party branch could lead the revolutionary masses to accomplish the various militant tasks of struggle-criticism-transformation and whether it could implement Chairman Mao's proletarian line on Party building.

In the light of the actual class struggle in the plant and the workshop, the Party branch scathingly criticized the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi's theory of "the dying out of class struggle," and through struggle against the enemy, constantly raised the consciousness of the Party members and the revolutionary masses in the struggle between the two lines, and took the initiative to launch one attack after another against the class enemy. Together with the workers, the Party members, after careful investigation and study, launched a powerful political offensive and eventually dug out a handful of deeply entrenched class enemies.

There was one bad egg in the workshop who pretended to be an activist and for a time pulled the wool over the eyes of some of the masses. Following Chairman Mao's teaching **"Never forget class struggle,"** the Party branch, after making an all-round investigation and study and acquiring conclusive evidence, mobilized the masses to expose the disruptive activities of this scoundrel during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and his counter-revolutionary features.

The Party branch constantly educated the Party members and revolutionary masses to always use Mao Tsetung Thought to observe the new trends in class struggle. At one time, the class enemies used bourgeois factionalism existing among some comrades in our own ranks to stir up an anarchist trend in an attempt to disrupt proletarian revolutionary discipline and undermine the work of grasping revolution and promoting production. Taking firm hold of this new trend, the Party branch promptly organized the Party members and the masses to conscientiously study Chairman Mao's teaching **"Let . . . the sense of discipline grow stronger, and the revolution will be ever-victorious,"** criticize the reactionary bourgeois theory of "many centres," that is, the theory of "no centre," and thus repulsed the offensive by the class enemies and helped to greatly strengthen the proletarian Party spirit within the revolutionary ranks.

Acting in accordance with Chairman Mao's great strategic thinking **"Be prepared against war, be prepared against natural disasters, and do everything for the people,"** the Party branch often educated the Party members and the workers concerning the international situation and exposed and denounced the crimes of U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionist social-imperialism so as to enable the revolutionary masses to get a better understanding of their aggressive nature. This has increased the fighting spirit of Party members and masses and strengthened their sense of organization and discipline and effectively carried the movement of grasping revolution and promoting production to a new high. Standing beside their machines, they have the interests of the world's people in mind. They regarded the making of every spare part and every screw as a shell fired at the enemies. Going in for technical innovations in a big way, they gave play to the militant style of daring to think and act, fearing no fatigue and engaging in continuous fighting and strove hard to solve every difficult problem. In 1969, 23 big and small innovated items were introduced, some of which were up to domestic advanced levels. Going all out and aiming high, under the leadership of the Party

branch, the revolutionary masses met the 1969 production targets ahead of schedule.

In the fierce class struggle, the Party members always led the masses and fought in the van, thus bringing about a closer relationship between themselves and the revolutionary masses. The worker comrades said: "Communist Party members can really stand up to any stiff tests in class struggle; they have set a good example for us to follow."

Criticizing the Theory That "the Masses Are Backward," Practising the Mass Line

It was because the revolutionary masses were asked to "attend the meetings and give comments" in the course of Party consolidation that Party members greatly strengthened their mass point of view. But the Party branch did not remain content with this achievement. Seeing that after Party consolidation certain Party members did not pay enough heed to opinions from the masses, the Party branch became aware that the pernicious influence of the theory that "the masses are backward" had not been thoroughly eliminated. So it continued to relentlessly criticize Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line and constantly raised the Party members' consciousness in learning from the masses. Meanwhile, the Party branch regarded the implementation of Chairman Mao's teaching "We must have faith in and rely on the masses" as one of the important aspects which they should pay attention to in building the Party in the ideological sphere.

The Party branch was concerned with the well-being of the masses and paid attention to methods of work. In doing their work, they always acted as pupils of the masses before becoming their teachers. They consulted the masses whenever problems came up, and listened to extensive opinions from the masses. Thus every type of work they did acquired a profound mass foundation and had the support of the revolutionary masses. The worker comrades said: "The new Party branch has close relations with the masses."

Led and helped by the Party branch, the overwhelming majority of the Party members are able to modestly listen to the opinions of the revolutionary masses and consciously look up to the masses as their teachers. They often use their holidays and work breaks to go to see the masses, have heart-to-heart talks with them, get to know the trend of their thinking, and accept supervision and help from the revolutionary masses. Influenced by the pernicious effects of Liu Shao-chi's theory that "the masses are backward," one Party member thought himself better than others, adopted a rude attitude towards the masses and thus incurred great dissatisfaction on the part of the masses. Making the advanced elements of the proletariat his example after Party consolidation, he set strict demands on himself. He was determined to be a pupil of the masses. On his own, he often called on them and chatted with them. At any time and under all circumstances, he was able to pay attention to playing the ex-

emplary vanguard role of a Communist and consult them about solving any problem. Without exception, the revolutionary masses said: "There's been a tremendous change in this comrade." He himself said with deep feeling: "Whenever we Party members take a step forward, the masses will keep an eye on our footsteps. If we are going the right way, they will follow us; if we are taking the wrong path, they will immediately point it out to us."

Because the revolutionary masses observed from numerous facts that the new Party branch earnestly followed Chairman Mao's teachings and maintained close ties with them, they took on the attitude of master of the house and constantly made proposals regarding the work of the Party branch. With the deep concern and help of the revolutionary masses, the Party branch has steadily progressed in its work.

On the other hand, as regards one-sided and incorrect opinions of the masses, the Party branch used Mao Tsetung Thought to analyse them and did explanatory and educational work among them. It guarded against and rejected tailism expressed in the statement "Do anything the way the masses want it to be done." Consequently, while the Party branch learnt from the masses, it also led them forward. The hearts of the members of the Party branch are linked with those of the masses.

Arming the Masses With Mao Tsetung Thought, Overcoming Non-Proletarian Thinking

In its work, the Party branch of the tool workshop paid close attention to arming the Party members and the revolutionary masses with Mao Tsetung Thought, helped them overcome their non-proletarian thinking and based the relationship between the Party and the masses on Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. They developed a deep-going mass movement for the living study and application of Mao Tsetung Thought, often organized Mao Tsetung Thought study classes and held forums to exchange experiences in their living study and application of Mao Tsetung Thought and worked hard to apply what they had been studying. They have held nine such forums since the establishment of the new Party branch. In the light of actual conditions in their workshop, they paid special attention to fostering the following viewpoints:

One. The viewpoint of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. The tool workshop has been praised many times for outstanding achievements in its work, but the Party branch did not in the least allow itself to be content with these; instead, it educated the Party members and the masses to arm themselves with Chairman Mao's theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, to constantly fight self and criticize revisionism and increase their consciousness and initiative in continuing the revolution.

First of all, the Party branch made strict demands on itself. It often adopted the open-door rectification

methods to listen to extensive criticism and opinions from the masses. The Party members also took the lead in fighting self and criticizing revisionism in front of the masses and, by their own exemplary deeds, helped the masses overcome their non-proletarian thinking. One Party branch committee member grew arrogant and complacent because he had been honoured. The Party branch realized that this was an obstacle on the road of continuing the revolution and the beginning of stagnation. Therefore they first began to conscientiously study Mao Tsetung Thought in the Party branch committee and wage active ideological struggle; they then asked the Party branch committee member to speak out about his selfish ideas before the masses and find out where he was lagging. Influenced by the Party branch, the tool workshop decided that whenever it was praised, it would try to find where it was lagging, sum up its experience, work out its measures and constantly display its vigorous revolutionary spirit.

The Party branch led the masses forward by displaying the revolutionary spirit of fearing neither hardship nor death. Whenever difficulties arose, its committee members invariably went ahead boldly to conquer them. In leading the masses in labour at the cast steel capital construction work-site one day in January last year, two Party branch committee members were the first to take off their shoes and socks. Barefooted in the biting cold, they began the battle to break up the ice and dig up the mud. They studied the "three constantly read articles" together with the masses and, with the tenacity and will power of fearing neither hardship nor death, they overcame many difficulties and fulfilled their tasks with credit. They were highly praised by the masses for their exemplary deeds. In one voice, the masses said: "We have faith in such Party members."

Two. The viewpoint of strengthening Party leadership. The new Party branch organized the Party members and the revolutionary masses to conscientiously study Chairman Mao's programme for Party building and the new Party Constitution, guided them to further recognize that the Chinese Communist Party, personally founded and nurtured by our great leader Chairman Mao, is a great, glorious and correct Party and that it is the leading core of the entire Chinese people. At the same time, they mercilessly criticized the counter-revolutionary revisionist fallacies spread by Liu Shao-chi in a vain effort to liquidate the Party leadership. This has further heightened the consciousness of the Party members and the revolutionary masses.

To strengthen Party leadership is to act in accordance with Mao Tsetung Thought and to conscientiously implement Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. As soon as any of Chairman Mao's latest instructions was published, they immediately publicized it without delay and saw to it that no one missed the chance to study it. They devoted conscientious efforts to studying it and took an active part in putting it into practice. At the same time, the Party branch set strict

demands on the Party members in accordance with the requirements laid down in the new Party Constitution and gave full play to the Party members' exemplary vanguard role. A keen political atmosphere was lacking in the group attending the grinding machines originally, and it was lagging behind in grasping revolution and promoting production. Later, the Party branch strengthened its leadership of this group and sent a Party member there. Acting in line with Chairman Mao's instructions, this Party member headed the masses in studying and applying Mao Tsetung Thought in a living way and in struggling against the undesirable tendencies. He took the initiative in helping the group leader do ideological and political work among the masses and get the whole group united on the basis of Mao Tsetung Thought. As a result, the revolution developed vigorously and production was on the upswing. Thus this group rapidly changed from a backward unit into an advanced one.

Three. The viewpoint of policy. Following Chairman Mao's teaching: "**Policy and tactics are the life of the Party,**" the Party branch persistently armed the workers with the Party's various proletarian policies. It firmly fostered the viewpoint of policy, energetically grasped implementation of Party policy and resolutely carried it out to the letter. This has greatly increased the revolutionary masses' understanding of Party policy. Now, they support whatever conforms to Party policy and oppose whatever runs counter to it. They firmly follow Party policy in handling all problems. Led by the Party branch committee, the tool workshop has conscientiously implemented Party policy and "liberated" those cadres who should be "liberated." Some people previously looked upon the intellectuals as a burden, but later, following Chairman Mao's teaching, they helped them take the road of integration with the workers and peasants and bring their positive factors into play. Because they unswervingly followed Party policy in handling every problem, they have united with all the people who can be united and brought the masses' initiative into full play.

Recently, under the leadership of the plant's Party committee, the Party branch of the tool workshop persevered in giving prominence to proletarian politics and conscientiously studied Chairman Mao's *On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party* and the decisions adopted in 1960 by the enlarged meeting of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. They organized debates on the relationship between politics and professional work and carried out the writing and telling of family histories, recalling suffering in the old society and exposing and criticizing the crimes of the exploiting classes. All this has further sparked the proletarian feelings of the masses. On this basis, they unfolded a deep-going "four good" movement and aroused the masses and relied on them. They have made up their minds to make still greater contributions to the socialist revolution and socialist construction in the first year of the 1970s.