

## LEARN FROM THE WORKER-FARMER MASSES

[Following is a translation of an article by Chiang Yuh-chen (1203 0336 3791), originally entitled "The Words of an Old Worker," in the Chinese-language newspaper, Hung-ch'i, Peiping, No. 3, 26 December 1966, page 2.]

Editor: This paper publishes today the words of an old worker of the Staff-Workers Red Rebel Liaison Station of the Capital.

Rather than the record of an ordinary conversation, it serves as a supplementary text for the high level study of Mao Tse-tung's thinking and profound revolutionization. The old worker's words are filled with a stern yet intimate class sentiment. They produce a deep emotion and stimulate our desire to unite with, and learn from, the worker-farmer masses.

Upon entering the plant, whether one should make empty gestures with one's hands and feet, or act according to the old worker's advice, is, at the very bottom, a stand-point issue. There is no such thing as "naturally red." If one does not concretely unite with the worker-farmer masses, one will inevitably follow the steps of "enthusiasm, vacillation, and flight" and slide down the bourgeois mud hole as described by the old worker.

Red flag warriors! Let us follow the bright highway of uniting with the worker-farmer masses as pointed out by Chairman Mao, and build ourselves into reliable and firm proletarian revolutionary successors!

In the evening of 6 December, the worker-comrades of the Staff-Workers' Red Rebel Liaison Station of the Capital came to the red

flag college (hung-ch'i yuan) and made many valuable suggestions concerning the union of students and workers. These suggestions are arranged as follows:

1. Are the students arrogant, and do they feel that they are the ones who "created the world?" If so, they are forgetting their origin. The workers are the main force of the movement. If the students do not join the worker-farmer masses, whatever they undertake will fail. Just the student movement alone, in other words, just the scholars' rebellion alone, will lead nowhere. The May 4 Movement was a student movement which developed into a worker movement.

From the condition of the First, Second, and Third Commanding Headquarters, those willing and able to unite with the workers are revolutionary, and those unwilling and unable to do so are non-revolutionary, because they will not be able to prosecute thoroughly the great cultural revolution.

I am concerned that the three commanding headquarters may follow the steps of enthusiasm, vacillation, and flight in their union with the workers.

2. The students must learn from the workers humbly and act as elementary pupils. Even state leaders sixty or seventy years of age are so modest, let alone you students. However, when I come into contact with the students, I find some of them not quite right. Do they have the determination to endure the grease and the mud, unite with the workers and farmers as instructed by Chairman Mao, and act as elementary pupils? Or will they merely wave their hands and feet in the plant?

3. When the workers go to the three commanding headquarters to see the red guards, at times no one will pay any attention to them. They feel that they are college students and members of the commanding headquarters; therefore, they despise the industrial and mining occupations. They undergo the stages of enthusiasm, vacillation, and flight toward their work. They do not plant their root in the workers. They do not possess any worker class sentiment. They are enthusiastic at the beginning, but lose their interest and patience within a short time.

4. We feel some disfavor towards the students' organizational form. They are forever using the titles of "commander" and "chief." The three commanding headquarters have also a "chief" commander! Where will they be heading for as time goes by?! The Central Cultural Revolution (Chung-yang Wen-ko) gives the most attention to Chairman Mao's words, and it does not put on airs. However, many of our students worship such things as "commanders." Showing off, they ask for automobiles, secretaries, etc. Once given certain responsibilities, they frequently lapse into the habit of gesturing with their hands and feet.

5. The chief thinks highly of you all, and calls you the vanguard of revolution. But the students themselves must not consider themselves such vanguard. You should consider the workers your mentors and reform your petit bourgeois consciousness. Regardless of your background, you must all do so. What kind of education have you had? The revisionist education. The schools are like palaces. The Iron and Steel College (kang-yuan) is too fancy. The eight great colleges are great revisionist jails to poison the young people. Why is the Ta-ch'ing spirit missing in these colleges?!

If you give yourselves a lot of credit right at the beginning of the great cultural revolution, you cannot but take a tumble. It is not the workers who obtain help from the students, but vice versa. By pampering themselves and turning soft, even those who came after climbing the snowy mountains and traversing the grassy plains will deteriorate, let alone the students who cannot carry a load on their shoulders!

6. Is there the spirit to bear insults and endure heavy loads? Must you exact an eye for an eye and retaliate for all transgresses?

7. Then, there is the way to regard the workers. In these several years, through the study of Chairman Mao's books, the workers' ideological awareness has greatly improved. Those who are successful in their study are still the old workers who remember their misery and harbor a deep hatred, and who feel a profound class sentiment toward the party and Chairman Mao! An old worker among us put up a big-letter poster right at the beginning of the cultural revolution. He declared: "I do not want bonuses, wages, or the titles of labor model and branch committee member; what I want is Mao Tse-tung's thinking!"

Even when the workers are accused of being "counter-revolutionary," they remain cheerful; they do not become dejected like the students.

The old workers' spirit of rebellion is, in fact, higher than the students. Even when at home the wife is weeping and the children howling, they only stomp out of the house. Were a student put in such a position, he would have found it hard to handle.

8. Those students who come to the plant with a worn out padded cotton gown and a little bedroll become well adjusted in no time at all, but as for those who are neatly dressed and fastidious, even after one week's time, the old workers still frown at them.

9. When they first come to the plant, the old workers admire their enthusiasm, but they become disappointed as time goes by. Though they shout the slogans loud and clear, one wonders about their organizational structure and their conduct.

Short of uniting with the worker-farmer masses, the struggle, criticism, and reform in school cannot be carried out thoroughly! If their class sentiment is old and unreformed, and they only make gestures, they will encounter the resistance of the minority as well as the majority.

10. The students must also, in accordance with the concrete conditions of the plant, tackle the revolution and promote production. They must not limit themselves to playing the leading role only. They must act as elementary pupils.

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