

Editorial on Struggle

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[WEN HUI PAO 22 March editorial: "Rectify the Party in the Course of Struggle"]

[Text] A raging movement of party rectification is now being unfolded. This is a very sharp and fierce class struggle. We must clean out the handful of renegades, special agents, and diehard capitalist-roaders who have wormed their way into the party.

The class enemy are bound to wage a desperate struggle; they are resorting to all sorts of schemes and tricks in a vain attempt to fight to the last ditch. We must absorb outstanding members among the proletarian revolutionaries into the party and elevate outstanding Communist Party members into the leading core of the party. The handful of class enemy are putting on disguises in order to sneak into our party.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "The party organization should be composed of advanced elements of the proletariat; it should be a vigorous vanguard organization capable of leading the proletariat and the revolutionary masses in the fight against the class enemy." These golden, glittering characters point out for us a red line in the class struggle.

In order to rectify the party, it is necessary to grasp class struggle vigorously. Should we fail to grasp class struggle, fail to dispel all interference from the extreme "left" or the right, fail to engage in "peaceful party-rectification," fail to remain calm and overcome fear, then we will not be able to unfold a party rectification campaign in accordance with the party-rectification program presented by Chairman Mao. Consequently, we would not be able to gain a victory for the party rectification campaign.

At present, some people are using party-rectification as an opportunity for throwing filth at our great party and directing the spearhead of struggle at the broad masses of revolutionary party members. They rave that "the ranks of party members are seriously impure," that "nonparty members are better off than party members," and so on. These remarks are "left" in form but right in essence. They negate all. They do not fit the facts. The majority of party members are good or relatively good; they are loyal to Chairman Mao. Many outstanding Communist Party members have fought their way out from under the white terror created by the bourgeois reactionary line. During the storm of the January Revolution, many party members rose one after another and, holding high the great banner of justified rebellion against reactionaries, seized power from a handful of capitalist-roaders in the party. Following that, many party members and cadres joined the "three-way" provisional organ of power. How can we overlook these basic facts and vilify the broad masses of party members?

Some party members once stood on the wrong side; however, as soon as they fully understood the struggle between the two lines, they immediately awoke and returned with determination to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. Whoever fails to realize this and uses the label "conservative" to keep others from making revolution is only imitating foreign devils. Some people say the party is great, glorious, and correct; however, when their own department or unit is involved, they say that the entire basic-level party organization is rotten, or the party organization in certain circles is rotten. This means acceptance in an abstract way, rejection in a concrete way. Very few party organizations are faced with serious problems.

How can we draw a general conclusion from certain specific premises? The leadership of a certain party organization had once been usurped by capitalist-roaders; but, as long as the broad masses of party members were good, we can not say the entire organization was rotten. Once the handful of renegades, special agents, and diehard capitalist-roaders were cleaned out, the fighting strength of the party organization was increased.

We should never allow ourselves "to see no ant at all while standing erect, but find ants all over the ground while squatting." To say that the entire basic-level organization of the party is rotten is in effect to negate Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line which has been in a dominant position throughout the party for the past 18 years. It is to negate our great, glorious, and correct party. Such rightist remarks should be strongly rebuked.

In the course of the party-rectification movement, we must pay attention to interference from the right. Some people regard the restoration of party life as a return to the old outlook. The so-called "giving consideration to the overall situation and letting them in before giving any thought to problems arising therefrom" is an example. If we do not lead the broad masses of revolutionary party members and revolutionary masses to carry on class struggle and try to cover up class contradictions, if we are merciful and hesitant in dealing with those who must be cleaned out, if we do not resist or resent bourgeois ideas and turn party life into a stagnant pool of water, cold and inert, then, how can we do a good job in rectifying the party organization? How can we educate the broad masses of party members? This is a situation that we should pay attention to. In order to successfully carry out party rectification in such units, it is especially necessary that we listen to the opinions of the broad masses of revolutionary party members and revolutionary rebels and fully arouse the masses so as to unfold a party rectification movement.

On various fronts and in various units, since concrete conditions and interference from the extreme "left" and right are different, the form in which class struggle is expressed also varies. Therefore, with concrete conditions as our basis, we must wage an uncompromising struggle against the class enemy and the trend of thought of the extreme "left" or right. Let us raise still higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, rectify our party organization so as to make it purer and more militant in the course of struggle, and turn our party into a truly vigorous vanguard organization capable of fighting courageously.