

THE TEN "NO FEAR"

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[From an article by Chung T'u-ch'uan (6988 0956 0356),  
a production team leader in Hunan Province originally printed  
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As production team leader in the past ten years, I have experienced numerous setbacks and run into considerable twists and turns in the course of tackling my job. Through the party's efforts to educate and foster me and particularly because I have creatively studied and applied Chairman Mao's writings with specific problems in mind in the three great revolutionary movements in recent years, I have raised my understanding, kept to the correct direction and found a source of strength.

I have deeply realized that to be a good production team leader who dedicates himself to the revolution, I should insist on doing things according to the thought of Mao Tse-tung, taking the socialist road, putting "public interests" in command and putting "daring" before anything else. By doing so, I shall not fear ghosts, or believe in evil spirits. I shall then have the daring to struggle with heaven, with earth and with man, fighting against men's erroneous ideas. I shall then have the daring to destroy the old world and create a new one.

My personal experience in these respects comprises the following ten "no fear."

1. Don't Be Afraid of Being Scolded When Making Revolution

It is quite customary for cadres making revolution to meet with rebuffs or to be scolded by others. I myself, for instance, have been scolded by others countless times. Speaking frankly, at the outset I was unable to reconcile myself with the rebuffs. I once entertained the idea of quitting my post and seeking a quiet life. After going over Chairman Mao's articles concerning class and class struggle, I heightened my understanding of the inevitable manifestations in the sphere of class struggle. Toward those who scolded me, I took the attitude of not being daunted by them. In addition, I employed the method of class analysis in dealing critically with those who were against me...

2. Adhering to Truth and Unafraid of Offending Others

Some people are of the opinion that a cadre will offend people. While I agree that it is impossible for cadres not to offend people, much depends on whom we have offended. For example, if we have offended our class enemies, poor and lower-middle peasants will certainly endorse our actions. On the other hand, if we have offended those who have taken the capitalist road, we shall have the backing of those who keep to the socialist road. As a result, of course, we should avoid as far as possible offending those who are on our side, so as not to hurt their feelings.

To be a cadre, one should avoid behaving like an "obliging official." If all members of a production team speak approvingly of their leader, I won't think the team leader is good at all. Chairman Mao has taught us to unite with more than 95 percent of the masses, not all of them. Therefore, we have to offend those who make up less than five percent of the masses. This is because there is no such thing as "cutting all the fingers to exactly the same length. There are always class enemies in a production team who are seriously imbued with capitalist ideas. If even these people back you up and say nice things about you, it shows that you have not adhered to matters of principle and stood firm...

### 3. Unafraid of Being Criticized for Shortcomings

Some people who regard criticism as something bad are only ready for words of praise but not words of condemnation. They dare not reveal their own shortcomings and dare not wage struggle. They are afraid of being discredited and getting hurt. In nine cases out of ten, these people will sooner or later be struck down.

To criticize or to be criticized, in my opinion, is something very fine. Only through mutual criticism can the critic and the one who is criticized overcome their shortcomings and do away with those things that are of no benefit to the revolution. In this way, ideological understanding can be raised and steady progress achieved in work.

Chairman Mao said long ago: "We should suppress self-complacency and constantly criticize our own shortcomings. For instance, to keep ourselves clean and remove dust, we have to wash our face and sweep the floor every day."

In the past few years I have been given commendation on numerous occasions and subjected to considerable criticism. The party organ at a higher level imposed very exacting demands on me. Whenever leading comrades came upon certain defects, they would criticize me, teach and assist me, enabling me to avoid making grave errors in what I did.

In the past year in particular I studied Chairman Mao's writings intensively. As a result, I realized all the more the importance of examining myself on the basis of the concept of one divided into two. Whenever I was commended, I would try to locate my own shortcomings. Whenever I was criticized, I would go deeper into the recesses of my mind, in a constant effort to spur myself and overcome my shortcomings...

### 4. For the Revolution, Don't Be Afraid of Being Wronged

Should one give up when an injustice is done him or should he brace himself up and continue to tackle his job? This is a test for every Communist Party member and every revolutionary cadre. I myself have been subjected to such a test.

For example, when I first came to Lungchiachou as production team leader, class enemies and those who were seriously imbued with capitalist ideas held that I cared only for the State to the neglect of commune members. In conjunction with some other people, they condemned me at a denunciation meeting. As they failed to pull me down on the evening of the first day, they continued struggling against me in the following evening, proposing without making any bones about it that they would get rid of me. I told them I was a party member assigned to the production team by the party. "Since the party has not told me to go, I will stay."

I had the feeling that I had in a way been wronged after thinking that I had accepted the party assignment neither for fame nor for personal gain -- but for the purpose of remolding the backward. When this conflict in my mind became intense, I recalled Chairman Mao's teaching:

"Countless revolutionary martyrs sacrificed their lives for the people's interests making us, the living, feel painful whenever we think of them. Are there any personal interests we cannot sacrifice and errors we cannot discard?"

I became at once clear-headed. Since martyrs offered their precious lives for the revolution, it mattered little if I was wrongfully judged.

Only real gold can stand the test of fire. As long as I myself stand firm, what injustice I have suffered will be removed sooner or later. I should trust the party and the masses. When one makes true revolution, he will not be deterred by injustice inflicted on him. But if he makes sham revolution, he will give up trying once he has the sense of being wronged. This is the touchstone.

#### 5. Unite with Comrades and Don't Be Afraid of Meeting Rebuffs

We should be ruthless toward the enemy but conciliatory toward our own people. There is nothing condescending if in uniting with a particular comrade to meet the needs of revolution, we have to meet repeated setbacks, say nicer things and do something more. Rather, we proceed from the interests of the party.

For instance, Chiang Tse-lin, a poor peasant, suffered some injustice some years ago. As a result, he was unwilling to work. Believing that poor and lower-middle peasants were the supporters the party was looking for and that the greater the number of supporters, the stronger the revolutionary forces would be, I was determined to win him over. After discussing with him several times, I found that he took no heed of what I said. I then tried to find the answer from Chairman Mao's writings.

Chairman Mao says in his works: "Instead of taking the attitude of looking down upon and despising the backward, Communist Party members want to be close to them, uniting with them, convincing them and encouraging them to forge ahead."

Chiang was guided to recall his family history. He soon came to realize that without the Party and Chairman Mao, he would not have become the master of his own house and that he would be ungrateful to the party and Chairman Mao if he did not make revolution...

Progress made by Chiang Tse-lin has made me realize that poor and lower-middle peasants are the most revolutionary. If they are not well united, it means that we have not satisfactorily tackled our work. On the

other hand, if we reject them because we have met rebuffs and if we stop uniting ourselves with them, we shall err in the struggle between the two basic lines.

#### 6. Cadres Should Not Be Afraid or Suffering a Loss

As last year I was outside most of the time attending meetings, completion of my allotted farm jobs was delayed. My wife was dissatisfied and told me: "You have been so busy attending this or that meeting that you have earned fewer work points than others. You are behind others by 800-900 work points a year, meaning a loss of more than 100 yuan from your income. What a big loss to a cadre!"

I told her the story of Norman Bethune before recalling our past suffering in contrast to our present happiness. After her thought was straightened out, she realized that to be a cadre was to hold firm the class seal of power and to serve the people -- without any thought of trying to get any benefit out of being a cadre and of "suffering a loss."

In my opinion, those who are afraid of suffering a loss and who only think of their own interests cannot be good cadres. Chairman Mao said long ago: "When something comes up, people who make plans for themselves before doing so for others are not really Communist Party members. At least, they should not be regarded as pure Communist Party members..."

#### 7. For the People, Fearing Neither Hardships Nor Death

"The masses turn to cadres just as one village or one household turns to another." This shows that Communist Party members and revolutionary cadres play a very important role in being the vanguard and model. If a cadre fails to take the lead when things come up and if he fears hardships and death, what he says -- no matter how much -- will be largely ignored by the masses. Only by taking the lead himself, fearing neither hardships nor death, will his words be taken to heart by the masses.

I have kept closely in mind Chairman Mao's teaching to the effect that Communist Party members should always carry the heavy burden, tasting the bitterness of hardships before others but enjoying themselves after others have done so. Chairman Mao has also taught us to fear neither hardships nor death as Comrades Wang Chieh and Chia Yu-lu did -- wholeheartedly devoting ourselves to the revolution and the people...

#### 8. Struggling with Nature and Having No fear of Defeat

A proverbial saying goes, "Failure is the mother of success." To struggle with nature, we should have the dauntless spirit of having nothing to fear in meeting reverses. This means that we should have the daring to break through, to act and to brave storms and stresses.

During the 1964 spring sowing in the rice fields, the hsien agricultural department suggested that I should go ahead with single-crop breeding and cultivation of pure seeds. As I had not done this before, I had to make a try as suggested by the higher level. Hardly had I transplanted the rice seedlings over 1.6 mou of the paddyfield then a heavy shower poured and washed away all the seedlings. Some commune members urged me to try again without paying any attention to the single-crop variety.

Undaunted by the setback, I started all over again first thing on the morning of the following day, using bamboo sticks to support the young sprouts. After a few days, the growth was so poor that I myself also became impatient. Still undaunted by the setback, I put ashes on the soil. The crop grew so well later that a thousand chin per mou was brought in.

In cultivating the seeds of the early rice crop this year, I used a different approach by immersing the seeds into the water several days earlier than others. However, the onset of the cold spell wiped out nearly half the "shortstem" variety.

Some people were skeptical, saying: "Heaven knows whether Chung T'u-ch'uan can retain the red banner this year!" Another said, "His new method has surely boomeranged."

Was I discouraged by the setback? No, I was not and I insisted on trying again. I told comrades of the seed cultivation team that they were not to blame if this year's crop failed to grow well. Apart from urging them to stick to the new method, I cultivated more than a thousand chin of the "short stem" variety. With comrades' careful attention to the seeds, the young crop grew very well and ripened at the right season. In consequence, a bumper crop of more than 900 catties per mou on the average was brought in.

If one is afraid of failure at the outset and if he is dismayed by difficulties, his efforts will be all but successful. Failure is nothing we should be afraid of. As long as we are good at learning profitably from failures, summoning all our courage and advancing in the face of difficulties, we shall be able to turn defeat into victory...

#### 9. Fostering New-Born Things and Don't Be Afraid of Getting Discouraged

When making revolution, we should do so energetically, summoning all our courage and exerting our utmost in getting things done. Under no circumstances should we give up halfway or fear of getting our spirits dampened. Pouring cold water is a struggle against the new and the old and between the advanced and the conservative -- a manifestation of class struggle.

Whenever we undertake something new, some people will always say something sarcastically, instead of actively supporting us -- thwarting things rather than assisting in making them successful. At this crucial

moment, we should straighten ourselves and carry on with clenched teeth until total victory is won. If our spirits are dampened and if we lose heart, doing things over cautiously or beating a hasty retreat, we shall certainly waste all efforts...

#### 10. Devoting Oneself to the Public Good Without Fearing Committing Errors

Some comrades become nervous when finding others criticized or punished for making mistakes. They become so apprehensive that they tackle their work over-cautiously, fearing of making this or that error and not having the daring to act and to break through. In some cases, some people who have erred no longer have the courage to straighten their backs and to begin all over again.

A proverbial saying goes, "Once bitten by the snake, the victim is scared at the sight of a rope for as long as three years." People who have entertained such an idea are not entirely thoroughgoing revolutionaries.

When a person has erred, the root-cause, in my opinion, lies in his selfish attitude. If he puts the thought of Mao Tse-tung in command, discarding all his selfish ideas and completely and wholeheartedly serving the people, he will not commit errors, at least not grave ones. Individualism is at the root of the fear of making mistakes. This is because first of all he has made the big mistake of not having the daring to make revolution.

When making revolution, we should not be afraid of making mistakes. We should foster the spirit of daring to do anything. As long as we persist in doing things according to Mao Tse-tung's teachings, correcting errors where they are committed, we need not fear anything at all, least of all difficulties, obstructions or monsters and demons.