

OPERATION AND CONTROL MUST REFLECT POLITICAL PRIMACY
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[From an article by Wang Meng-k'uei (3769 1125 7608),]

All major forms of socialist production require a complete system of operation and control. This is not open to any doubt, but it is not enough to rely on regulations, which alone can never assure good operation and control. The successes of Ta-ch'ing, Ta-chai, and the innumerable advanced units in the whole country patterned after them show that the satisfactory operation and control of the socialist economy hinges on the assignment of the position of commanding importance to politics...

All systems of operation and control should be socialist and beneficial to the consolidation and development of the socialist economy and the increase of the awareness of the masses. Only such systems of operation and control can meet the requirements of the increasingly active socialist revolution and construction and the rapid development of the national economy, and become an effective tool for the strengthening of the proletariat and destruction of the capitalist class.

On the contrary, by failing to make politics stand out, forgetting the classes and class struggle, starting from a purely economic viewpoint, dealing with systems for their own sake, and grabbing hold of production for its own sake, we would not only be disqualified to talk about the strengthening of operation and control and the development of production, but step on the evil road of capitalism. It is clear then that the question of whether the work of operation and control should make politics stand out is tantamount to the beg question of whether the said work should persist in the socialist direction...

Since its cooperativization, Ta-chai, the standard-bearer on the agricultural front, has reformed its system of labor remuneration more than once and, as a result of rigid analysis and criticism, adopted norm control,

piecework recording of work points, calculation of remuneration according to items, etc. These arrangements have more and more clearly brought to the fore the principle that there should be insistence on the socialist tenet of distribution according to labor and the recognition of differences without letting them drift too far apart, and that there should be greater remuneration for more labor, with opposition to absolute equalization and without "material stimulation." All systems have been geared to the conquest of selfishness and habitual forces and the cultivation of the collective spirit...

In engaging in production the capitalist class relies on the policy of starvation, and the modern revisionists seek their support from "material stimulation." Their eyes cannot see the masses, and they only see things, and not men. This is determined by their class essence. Their interests are basically opposed to those of the masses. Being Marxist-Leninists and engaged in socialist production, we rely on the masses of the people. Socialist production, built on the foundation of the public ownership of production materials, is the vital work of thousands upon thousands of the masses. Among these masses is stored up a very great socialist positiveness and an inexhaustible creative strength. Only by mobilizing fully the positiveness and creativity of the broad masses can the operation and control of the socialist economy be satisfactorily managed...

Of course the necessary regulations and systems are indispensable to the operation and control of great socialist production. To carry out effective production, the people must formulate plans, disciplines, regulations, and systems. Correct systems of operation and control are the expression of the wisdom of the masses and the summary of their practical experiences. They can unify people's will and action, help them act according to objective laws, and better develop their working zeal and intelligence.

Democratic centralization is a basic system in the life of our party and state and also in the operation and control of the socialist economy. The latter requires a high degree of centralized leadership, without which there can be no socialist economy. However, centralization must be built on a democratic basis, and without a high degree of democracy there can be no centralization of a high degree. The adoption, execution, and improvement of all correct systems of operation and control must insist on the method of the mass line, i.e., to "come from among the masses and go into their midst."

Systems of operation and control thus formulated come from production, from the practical, and from the masses. So, they can more correctly reflect the objective laws governing operation and control, express the wishes and will of the broad masses, help the mobilization of their positiveness and creativity, and rapidly develop productive capacity. With the development of production, the awareness of the masses is raised and systems of operation and control uninterruptedly summarized, revised, amplified, and perfected. These are live systems with their stress on "reliance." Those which restrict people and enslave them with "foreign frames" and dead rules are away

from the masses, bind them hand and foot, and hinder the development of production. They should be firmly opposed.

Good systems of operation and control are the necessary conditions for the work. Revolutionized systems of operation and control must be executed by revolutionized people. Without bringing about the revolutionization of men's thinking, no system, no matter how good, can play its proper role. To make politics stand out, operation and control must first make possible the revolutionization of thinking, that is to say, in performing the human side of the work in the course of operation and control, we should have a firm grip on the "four first things" and on live thinking and guide our comrades in the strengthening of proletarian and destruction of capitalist thinking...

To bring about the revolutionization of leadership, the most basic steps are to make politics stand out, to make the live study and live application of Chairman Mao's works, and to implant the thoroughly revolutionary spirit of "all for the revolution and single-mindedly for the people." All levels of cadres of operation and control in all economic departments are the attendants of the people and not the masters of the masses. The relations between cadres and the masses are those of equality involving mutual aid and cooperation. All levels of cadres charged with operation and control must appear among the masses with the deportment of ordinary laborers and must not ride roughshod over them. They must penetrate into the first lines of the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, production struggle, and scientific experimentation, get into close contacts with the masses, and listen to their views. They must all resolutely participate in physical labor.

Only thus can the correct leadership of operation and control be produced. Without making proletarian politics stand out it is impossible to establish new relationships between man and man and to give a good performance of the operation and control of the socialist economy.

To sum up, the assignment of the commanding position to politics in operation and control is to have a firm grip on the network of struggles between the two roads, to implement seriously the party's mass line, to perform the human side of the work, to impart ideological and political education, to accelerate the revolutionization of mass thinking, and to construct revolutionized leadership.

How should all this be done? Only by reliance on Mao Tse-tung's thinking... [end]