

Big-Character Wall Newspapers — A Sea of Revolutionary Criticism

BIG-CHARACTER poster wall newspapers are mushrooming in the streets of Peking, Shanghai and other cities. The revolutionary masses — workers, soldiers, young Red Guard fighters and others — have written hundreds of thousands of big-character posters denouncing China's Khrushchov and his followers and a handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road.

The current mass campaign of revolutionary criticism and repudiation is a magnificent people's war. Mass critics in their millions have turned the streets into a vast battlefield of revolutionary criticism and repudiation. China's Khrushchov, who for so long spread around his pernicious influence in various fields, is, as the old Chinese saying has it, like a rat scurrying across the street with everyone yelling "Hit it! Hit it!"

Big-character posters are an effective weapon widely used in the great cultural revolution by the revolutionary masses who enjoy the right of extensive democracy in this medium as in the free airing of views in meetings and discussions and in great debates.

At the start of the cultural revolution, the revolutionary masses wrote countless big-character posters putting forward their opinions and exposing contradictions from different angles. And the anti-Party, anti-socialist revisionists were laid bare in their true colours.

At the 11th Plenary Session of the 8th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party held in August last year, our great leader Chairman Mao wrote his famous big-character poster entitled "Bombard the Headquarters" (see *Peking Review*, No. 33, 1967). It was the signal gun for demolishing the bourgeois headquarters headed by China's Khrushchov hidden within the apparatus of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Revolutionary big-character posters have greatly enhanced the morale of the proletarian revolutionaries and punctured the arrogance of all reactionaries opposed to the Party and socialism. On the basis of the problems brought up and the views set forth in the posters, the revolutionary masses mounted discussions to reveal the true situation. As a result, they have spotted and dug up the hidden revisionists and at the same time received a profound education and raised their ability to analyse things in the light of Mao Tse-tung's thought.

Chairman Mao says: "Posters written in big characters are an extremely useful new type of weapon."

A recent development in the course of the mass criticism and repudiation of China's Khrushchov has been big-character poster wall newspapers. These are run by revolutionary mass organizations in factories, government offices, schools and P.L.A. units. The contents are changed regularly. In Peking, they are pasted up either on make-shift hoardings erected along the pavements or simply on the walls of big buildings. Most are three to four metres high and eight to twelve metres wide. They are carefully edited, with columns and boxes and bold headlines. The masthead is usually a coloured portrait of Chairman Mao alongside a quotation from his works. With a clear-cut revolutionary point of view, using Mao Tse-tung's thought as their weapon, the critical articles are rich in political content. Embellished with lively cartoons and illustrations, all

this adds up to a militant revolutionary proletarian style.

This new form of criticism and repudiation has been warmly received by the broad masses. They describe the wall newspapers as "written forums for creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works" and "mass criticism meetings without a meeting place."

An article in the papers by two Red Guards put it well: "The wall newspapers in the streets are shells raining down on China's Khrushchov. They are class-

rooms propagating Mao Tse-tung's thought. They have made clear to the masses the heinous crimes of China's Khrushchov in opposing Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, in plotting to usurp the Party, army and government leadership and in bringing about an all-round capitalist restoration. They have carried Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line deeper into the hearts of all."

Mass opinion is unanimous: "The wall newspapers are fine!"