

Chinese Bourgeoisie Honors Its Big Hero

In the continuing saga of the political resurrection of Liu Shao-chi, that dead revisionist traitor to revolution and mortal enemy of Mao Tsetung who was overthrown by the Chinese people during the Cultural revolution 15 years ago, two recent items have come to light that show once again the depth and breadth of the attacks by China's current rulers on Mao's revolutionary line and legacy. (see *RW* 44, March 7, 1980)

On May 17, in the Great Hall of the People in Peking, a memorial meeting was held that put the finishing touches on the halo now being bestowed on Liu by the equally villainous pack now running China. There were, however, more than a few hitches in planning this spectacle. According to the *New York Times* (May 18) a Chinese official told them that the meeting had been delayed since April 15 and that one reason was that Liu's widow, Wang Guangmei (a hated revisionist herself) had objected to a phrase in the eulogy which called her husband a "close comrade in arms" of Mao. The phrase was omitted when the eulogy was finally given by Teng Hsiao-ping.

Apparently some of the more class-conscious reactionaries in China, represented here by Wang Guangmei, are now seeing that they must begin to attack Mao openly, as opposed to the current practice of "only" attacking everything Mao stood for, while

"upholding" him in name. But even while they do this, these cynical cowards are still trying to use Mao's name and hide behind his great revolutionary prestige. In Teng's eulogy he claimed that Liu's ideas "were a component of the scientific system of Mao Tsetung Thought." This is nothing but an exposure of Teng's current trick of "redefining" Mao Tsetung Thought to mean everything that Mao Tsetung fought against all his life. Teng also claimed that Liu was the "first to advance the concept of Mao Tsetung Thought." In the highly unlikely case that this is true, it shows that Teng's little redefining trick is not just a current one, but an old one. To go along with this, the Chinese *People's Daily* hypocritically titled their editorial on Liu's rehabilitation "Restore True Qualities of Mao Tsetung Thought."

But this thin pretense of claiming Mao Tsetung Thought, even while they attack it, is something that the international proletariat, including the revolutionary Chinese people, will never let these revisionists get away with. And, anyway, they are finding it a hot potato they have to drop. The fact that they are planning new attacks on Mao is also signalled by the new phrase Teng used to describe his enemies in China: "Lin Piao, Chiang Ching and company". Apparently this so-called "company" has a Chairman and his name is Mao.

(According to the Hong Kong pro-China press Teng's most immediate target is Kang Sheng, who died in December, 1975 and was in charge, under Mao's direction, of writing the polemics against the Soviets in the 1960s. Whatever Kang Sheng's role internally in China, the attack on him is significant in relation to the changes underway in China's stand on the Soviets.) (See last week's *RW*, p. 13)

Other troubles for the Chinese revisionists in planning Liu's memorial were indicated by the fact that Yeh Chien-ying, the head of the National Peoples Congress and a powerful participant in the 1976 counter-revolutionary coup did not show up at the meeting. Although Yeh is old, that is unlikely to be the real reason for his absence. Tactical differences among the top revisionists are obviously increasing as their rush-ahead plans for capitalist restoration encounter troubles along the way.

Revisionist Book

The other item is the restoration of Liu's book, *How to Be a Good Communist*. The book, along with Liu, was knocked down and trashed as anti-communist during the Cultural Revolution. Nowhere does the book (republished as late as 1962) mention the dictatorship of the proletariat or criticize Soviet revisionism. No doubt these

omissions alone will make the book now become required reading in China.

Overall the book is a manual for the preening and self-cultivation of a bureaucratic capitalist class within the Communist Party itself. Take the following quote: "Party members do have their personal problems to attend to, and, moreover, they should develop themselves according to their individual inclinations and aptitudes. Therefore, so long as the interests of the Party are not violated, a Party member can have his private and family life, and develop his individual inclinations and aptitudes." The true meaning of this sugary little statement can be seen clearly by the behavior of China's new bourgeoisie, who are following this sage advice to the letter. The *New York Times* has reported (most recently on May 11) that one of Teng's sons has been sent to the U.S.A. to pursue his "inclinations" at the University of Rochester while one of his daughters crams down English courses in her bid for foreign schooling. Foreign Minister Huang Hua's son has been admitted to Harvard for the fall term and the daughter of Deputy Prime Minister, Bo Yibo, is on her way to Brandeis. What better exposure of the fact that a new privileged class of capitalists, barely pretending to be "good communists," is now enjoying their rule in China. □