

# Red China: Nation Of Work, Hate

By JOHN STROHM

NEW YORK (NEA) — Communist China is a nation organized to work and to hate. No human beings have ever taken on a more complete mental and physical bondage in order to leap forward into the 20th Century than the subjects of Mao Tse-tung.

Nor has human intelligence ever been brain-washed into a more violent hatred of United States leaders.

I have just traveled 7,500 miles behind the Bamboo Curtain which for 10 years has shielded from American view the massive state that calls itself the People's Republic of China.

At the height of the Quemoy crisis, I have witnessed a hate-America campaign that extends to the most remote peasant village. Was this what the Red Masters of Peiping wanted me to see when they granted me a visa? Or did they accept my statement that I wanted to visit the farms and factories of the New China — the China I had first seen 21 years ago — so I could report to the people of America?

Back home now, I ask myself these questions while sorting out impressions. But the answer is not clear and it may never be. Enough that it happened that I, John Strohm of Illinois, walked with only minor incidents in the streets, fields and buildings of Red China, snapping pictures with four cameras, talking with whom I chose and visiting schools, farms, hospitals and landmarks without prior appointment.

For three weeks I traveled, by automobile, boat, train and airplane. My days began at dawn, ended at midnight. Although I saw militiamen training everywhere to repel the U.S. Marines who were expected to storm ashore any day, I do not believe there is danger of full-scale war in the Formosa Strait.

This backward people has too much to do to hoist its vast expanding bulk upwards toward seemingly impossible social and industrial goals.

It cannot afford war, but in cocky self-confidence it is willing to risk war to intuse an apathetic peasantry with nationalistic pride

to drive weary bone and muscle to accomplish prodigious works. The Communists say over and over that they licked Uncle Sam in Korea. People who know nothing of the power of a modern sea and air fleet chatter loudly and arrogantly that America is a "paper tiger."

As one who traveled among the Chinese people 21 years ago, I must report sadly that our once vast reservoir of goodwill built up in China by generations of good deeds by U.S. citizens and organizations is now being poisoned by a campaign unequalled in the history of the world.

I arrived at the tail-end of the hate-America demonstrations in Peiping which sent three million people coursing through the streets shouting "Down with American imperialism. Americans get out of Asia or be smashed."

But this was no window dressing in the capital. Everywhere in north, central and south China I saw my country portrayed as a bloody-fanged wolf, a ruthless and ravaging soldier or a dollar-blatting Uncle Sam.

All evidence of opposition has been swept away, and of this I will write later.

Everyone I talked with—farmer, housewife, factory manager or official—lectured me on the evils of American imperialism.

A militiaman in a Nanking factory shouted he was ready to work or go to the front—and he shoved his rifle into my stomach to dramatize his feelings to the first American he'd ever met.

A collective farm chairman in North China said: "We whipped the American aggressors in Korea and we will fight them if they invade China."

He added that his farmers were so indignant they worked 15 days and nights to overfulfill the farm plan—clear-cut example of the transmutation of hatred into labor force.

A woman chairman of a neighborhood cooperative in Tientsin said her neighbors were so incensed that 150 of the women are learning to shoot rifles to defend their homes against America.

As I stepped out of the Church of Christ in Nanking on a Sunday

morning a young man greeted me cordially in English, but when he found out I was an American he demanded: "Why do you want to invade China?" I could not persuade him to talk about religion, or anything else. He would only rant against "aggressors."

A worker in Hankow came over and gave me a written protest against "American butchery" which I walked through a hog-killing plant.

Chinese officials assert that 300 million Chinese have demonstrated against American imperialism. From all I saw, I believe that figure.

The official line is persuasively logical to these cocky Chinese, feeling their oats after centuries of slavery to their warlords and foreign domination. The line they believe is: "America admitted at the Cairo conference that Taiwan belongs to China . . . Quemoy and Matsu are to China as Long Island is to the U.S.A. . . . Chiang Kai-shek's government was so corrupt the U.S. couldn't save it from being overthrown in a fair fight by the Chinese people . . . Chiang exists only by protection of American guns and therefore the U.S. is interfering in the internal affairs of China . . . in other words, aggression."

These themes are developed by all means of communication, from hand-drawn cartoons on walls to elaborately-acted opera skits. Day after day newspapers devote 60 per cent of their space to stories bannered under headings like these: "Cairo Newspaper Refutes Dulles Policy," "New American Atrocities Uncovered in Korea," and "Demobilized Veterans Offer Services to Resist U.S. Aggression."

In factories, on trains, on farms and in the streets, loudspeakers constantly blared that the U.S. was talking peace at Warsaw while plotting war. And then the "commercial": "Therefore we must work harder to produce more food, more goods, to stop the American attack."

At movie houses, sold out days in advance, I saw newsreels purporting to show Chiang's "wanton attack" on the University of Amoy—without a mention of the Red

shelling of Quemoy. One huge wall painting showed the U.S. as a big crab which waddled from side to side in policy, another as a giant that crushes the innocent with atomic bombs, and as an insignificant insect about to be squashed by the weight of 600 million angry Chinese.

But they get the people into the act, too, from the cradle to the grave. I witnessed dozens of parades of 7 and 8-year-olds carrying red flags and banners supporting Premier Chou En-lai's statement.

An inmate of an old folks' home I visited carried on quite earnestly that he didn't want his old age security invaded by war mongering Americans.

Hundreds of thousands of letters carrying hate-U.S. messages have been beautifully brushed by hand and pasted to walls of homes, plants, hospitals and even seats of learning.

On my first day in China I was treated to a street show by a truckload of opera students. They first drummed up a crowd by beating on drums and cymbals, then put a skit with this cast of characters: a corpse, represented by an actor dressed like Chiang Kai-shek; a pompous, silk-baited John Foster Dulles and an Eisenhower, with painted grin, army uniform and a golf stick as a cane.

Like says: "Dulles, I authorize you to do the talking." Dulles tries to pump up Chiang with a tire pump filled with dollars. But the imperialists are swept away by victorious Chinese workers "producing 10 million tons of steel this year," by farmers "doubling their crops this year" and by soldiers who "won the war in Korea."

Everybody howls at the good clean Communist fun and the show moves on to another standing-room-only performance on another street.

Later I read a Chinese News Agency dispatch which reported with straight face that workers in a tobacco factory in Canton completed 600 such opera skits and folk songs on American aggression in just half a day—as king-sized a blending of art, nicotine and official poison as any dictatorship could ever boast!



THIS DISPATCH begins an exclusive six-part report from "Behind Red China's Bamboo Curtain" by John Strohm, globe-trotting author-editor, first authorized U.S. newsman to penetrate Mao Tse-tung's borders. With notebooks and cameras, he crisscrossed 7,500 miles of Red China, worked from dawn to midnight for three weeks to complete this journalistic exploit.



HANDPAINTED ANTI-U.S. POSTERS outside Shenyang factory depict U.S. caught in own noose and as a waddling crab about to be crushed by hand of Red China. Workers gladly posed beside the paintings, but glowered at American Strohm as he took this photo.



PEOPLE GET INTO PROPAGANDA ACT, too, from cradle to the grave whether it's anti-U.S. or anti-anything-else. These women are marching in demonstration against insect menace.

## Deer Hunter Fall Victim

HOOD RIVER (AP)—Harold Walters, 60, of The Dalles plunged 200 feet to his death Wednesday while deer hunting in the Puppy Creek Canyon area.

Members of two mountain climbing groups—the Craig Falls and the Alpinists—climbed down the sides of the steep canyon and brought Walters out. But he died a few minutes after being placed in an ambulance.

The canyon is in an inaccessible area 30 miles south of here. He was the fifth fatality of the Oregon hunting season. One man was shot to death and three others drowned. An additional five persons have suffered fatal heart attacks while hunting, and at least 13 have suffered non-fatal gunshot wounds.

## State Courts Levy Top Fines

SAN FRANCISCO—U.S. Courts in California have levied the heaviest fines in the nation on persons found guilty of breaking federal child-labor laws, the U.S. Department of Labor announced here today.

The Fair Labor Standards Act which prescribes age limits for youngsters working in agriculture and in many industries, is enforced by the agency's wage-hour division. The law prohibits youngsters under 16 from working on farms during school hours — nor may under-16's work in such industries as manufacturing, mining or transportation at any time. Eighteen is the minimum age for occupations classified as hazardous by the secretary of labor.

Gerald J. Mitchell, acting regional director of the division here, said that during the 19 months that ended June 30 California had four of the nation's total of eight "over-\$1,000" fines levied out by U.S. courts to violators of the federal child-labor laws.



RED CHINA MILITIAMAN in Nanking factory demonstrates with rifle that he is ready to work or fight, but not until he had shoved the weapon into Strohm's stomach.

## PERMIT GRANTED

McCLOUD — Wayne Young, of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, was awarded a tentative permit by the USFS to cut about 1,500 Christmas trees on Shasta-Trinity National Forest land near McCLOUD. Listed on the bid were 500 lineal feet of white fir and 540 lineal feet of Shasta fir. Young's bid was \$1,480.20, according to McCLOUD District Ranger Jack Prevey.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and permitted settlers to come into the territories which later became the states of Kansas and Nebraska.

## Teen-agers Win Contest Spot

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Two Oregon teen-agers Wednesday night were named runners-up in a national contest for special farming operations. In the soil and water management division, a second place went to Michael W. Rinkes, 18, of West Linn.

Leifoy V. Lim, 18, Canby, won second place in farm electrification competition.

All swans on the Thames River belong to the Queen of England.

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