

#### VIII. UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES

With the rapid expansion of the national economy in the past ten years, the ranks of the working class have swollen as never before. Unemployment, a hangover from the Old China, has disappeared.

Immediately after liberation, one of the chief tasks in the cities was the gradual solution of the problem of unemployment, a problem inherited from the reactionary Kuomintang government. When the People's Republic was established, the state took over several million employees from the former Kuomintang military, administrative, public and educational organizations. Even so, there were about four million unemployed and a still larger number of young people who had never been employed and had been unable to continue their studies, housewives and other employable people. Although the problem of mass unemployment could not be solved in old China, the People's Republic has satisfactorily solved it in less than ten years. By the end of 1957 the number of workers and other employees actually working reached 24,510,000, more than triple the figure of eight million at the end of 1949. The number was further increased to 45,320,000 by the end of 1958 as a result of the great leap forward in the national economy. This was 20 million more than the number employed at the end of 1957. By this time the unemployment left over from the old days had disappeared. With the setting up of the people's communes in all rural areas, household chores have been gradually taken over by community services, releasing tens of millions of women from drudgery and enabling them to take part in social labour, thus greatly reinforcing the labour force. Day by day the number of employed has increased. The elimination of unemployment in China is a glaring contrast to the ever-growing army of unemployed in capitalist countries, eloquent testimony to the superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

In the course of the past ten years the state adopted a series of measures aimed at simplifying administrative offices. The personnel in non-productive work was reduced, while the personnel in productive work was increased. From 1949 to 1958 the proportion of the personnel in productive departments rose from 65 per cent of the total number employed to 85 per cent, while the proportion of the personnel in the non-productive departments decreased from 35 per cent to 15 per cent. The rapid increase in the personnel in productive departments ensures the speedy advance of production and construction.

The Party and Government have attached great importance to the education and training of cadres, technical personnel, new

workers and apprentices. Many of them have been educated and trained in schools, special courses and actual practice in enterprises. From 1949 to mid-1959, eight million apprentices were trained, of whom 5,400,000 have already completed their apprenticeship. The technical schools have trained 270,000 students, of whom over 200,000 have already graduated. The number of engineering and technical personnel in China reached 618,000 in 1958, 3.8 times the number in 1952.

During the rectification campaign in 1957, the Party and Government decided to send cadres to the countryside or factories so that they may take part in manual work and learn through labour. Each cadre was called upon to spend some time each year doing manual work so as to come into closer contact with the masses. From 1957 to 1958 more than a million cadres have gone to the countryside, factories or mining enterprises to engage in manual labour, so that they may combine mental work with manual work and come into closer touch with the masses. At the same time, industrial and mining establishments instituted a system of having the cadres take part in labour and the workers take part in management. The three-way co-operation between management, technical personnel and the workers has served to popularize experiences in technological reform. As a result, the enthusiasm of the workers was greatly aroused and production increased.

Through vigorous socialist emulation campaigns and the movements for increasing production and practising economy, which were launched by the broad masses of workers and other employees over the last ten years, a large number of outstanding workers and outstanding groups have continuously emerged. Taking the statistics of the trade unions alone, the number of model workers who were selected after comparison by the trade unions on the primary level exceeded 2,440,000 in 1958, and the number of outstanding groups reached 200,000. In the nine years between 1950 and 1958, 31,960,000 rationalization proposals were submitted by the workers and other employees in industrial and mining enterprises throughout the country. These proposals have been put into practice and have either saved or earned large sums for the state and have effectively accelerated the rapid expansion of production and construction.

CONTINUOUS INCREASE IN NUMBER OF WORKERS AND  
OTHER EMPLOYEES (I)  
(thousand persons)

	<u>Number at year-end</u>	<u>Increase over preceding year</u>	<u>Increase over 1949</u>
1949	8,004	-	-
1950	10,239	2,235	2,235
1951	12,815	2,576	4,811
1952	15,804	2,989	7,800
1953	18,256	2,452	10,252
1954	18,809	553	10,805
1955	19,076	267	11,072
1956	24,230	5,154	16,226
1957	24,506	276	16,502
1958	45,323	20,817	37,319

- Notes: 1. The number of workers and other employees for 1958 includes those employed in newly opened industrial establishments at the county level and below and the workers and other employees in those industrial and commercial enterprises, grain agencies, and cultural and educational organizations which the state transferred to the people's communes.
2. The average number of workers and other employees in 1958 was 32,000,000, an increase of about 8,000,000 over 1957.

CONTINUOUS INCREASE IN NUMBER OF WORKERS AND  
OTHER EMPLOYEES (II)  
(index numbers)

	<u>1949=100</u>	<u>1952=100</u>	<u>Preceding year=100</u>
1950	127.9	-	127.9
1951	160.1	-	125.2
1952	197.5	100	123.3
1953	228.1	115.5	115.5
1954	235.0	119.0	103.0
1955	238.3	120.7	101.4
1956	302.7	153.3	127.0
1957	306.2	155.1	101.1
1958	566.3	286.8	184.9

## INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FEMALE WORKERS

	<u>Number</u> (thousand persons)	<u>Index numbers</u>		
		<u>1949=100</u>	<u>1952=100</u>	<u>Preceding year=100</u>
1949	600	100	-	-
1952	1,848	308.0	100	-
1953	2,132	355.3	115.4	115.4
1954	2,435	405.8	131.8	114.2
1955	2,473	412.2	133.8	101.6
1956	3,266	544.3	176.7	132.1
1957	3,286	547.7	177.8	100.6
1958	7,000	1,166.7	378.8	213.0

## RAPID INCREASE IN NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

	<u>Number</u> (thousand persons)	<u>Index numbers</u>		
		<u>1949=100</u>	<u>1952=100</u>	<u>Preceding year=100</u>
1949	3,004	100	-	-
1952	4,939	164.4	100	-
1953	6,188	206.0	125.3	125.3
1954	6,408	213.3	129.7	103.6
1955	6,477	215.6	131.1	101.1
1956	8,626	287.2	174.7	133.2
1957	9,008	299.9	182.4	104.4
1958	25,623	853.0	518.8	234.4

Note: Data do not include apprentices.

## INCREASE IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

	<u>Number</u> (thousand persons)	<u>Index numbers</u>	
		<u>1952=100</u>	<u>Preceding year=100</u>
1952	164	100.0	-
1953	210	128.0	128.0
1954	262	159.8	124.8
1955	344	209.8	131.3
1956	449	273.8	130.5
1957	496	302.4	110.5
1958	618	376.8	124.6

RAPID INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS AND OTHER  
EMPLOYEES IN PRODUCTIVE WORK  
(total=100)

	<u>Productive work</u>	<u>Non-productive work</u>
1949	65.0	35.0
1950	60.9	39.1
1951	63.8	36.2
1952	66.1	33.9
1953	67.7	32.3
1954	68.7	31.3
1955	68.5	31.5
1956	72.2	27.8
1957	72.9	27.1
1958	85.1	14.9

NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING GROUPS AND WORKERS

	<u>Outstanding groups (thousands)</u>		<u>Outstanding workers (thousand persons)</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Of which: outstanding teams</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Of which: female</u>
1949-1952	19	18	208	26
1953	15	14	155	21
1954	17	14	234	19
1955	21	18	316	33
1956	114	81	1,259	113
1957	106	78	1,078	103
1958	199	136	2,441	281