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China Adopts a New Constitution

China adopted a new Constitution on Saturday at the Fifth Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, amid prolonged applause in the Great Hall of the People, Xinhua reported.

The Constitution, the fourth of its kind, was endorsed by 3,037 deputies by secret ballot.

There were three abstentions, said Xi Zhongxun, executive chairman of the meeting. And he declared that the Constitution of the People's Republic of China was officially endorsed.

The Constitution chiefly has the following new additions:

- · Reinstatement of the posts of president and vice-president;
- Institution of a central military commission to direct the armed forces;
- Extension of the functions and powers of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the institution of the system of the premier's overall responsibility for the State Council;
- Change in the institution of combining rural people's commune management with government administration;
 - ·Establishment of special administrative regions when necessary.

The consensus of views expressed at panel discussions on the draft of the new Constitution is that it scientifically sums up China's historical experience in socialist development and reflects the common wish and fundamental interests of the people of all nationalities in China.

Distinctively Chinese and suited to the needs of China's socialist modernization, the Constitution is the general chart for steering the ship of state in the new historical period of development, the deputies said.

Saturday's meeting also adopted a resolution on the functions and powers of the present NPC Standing Committee. The resolution stipulates that before the election of the president and vice-president of the People's Republic of China in accordance with the new Constitution, the current NPC Standing Committee and its chairman and vice-chairmen continue to exercise their functions and powers as prescribed in the Constitution of 1978.

The meeting also approved a resolution to restore the original words of the national anthem, the "March of the Volunteers."

(Excerpted from China Daily, December 6, 1982)

从一九八一年到本世纪末的二十年, 我国经济建设总的 奋斗目标是,在不断提高经济效益的前提下,力争使全国工农 业的年总产值翻两番,即由一九八〇年的七千一百亿元增加 到二○○○年的二万八千亿元左右。

实现了这个目标, 我国国民收入总额和主要工农业产品 的产量将居于世界前列,整个国民经济的现代化过程将取得 重大进展,城乡人民的收入将成倍增长,人民的物质文化生活 可以达到小康水平。到那个时候,我国按人口平均的国民收 入还比较低, 但同现在相比, 经济实力和国防实力将大为增 强。只要我们积极奋斗,扎扎实实地做好工作,进一步发挥社 会主义制度的优越性,这个宏伟的战略目标是能够达到的。

- 擁自胡耀邦周志在中国共产党 第十二次全国代表大会上的报告

The general objective of China's economic construction for the two decades between 1981 and the end of this century is, while steadily working for more and better economic results, to quadruple the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural production - from 710 billion yuan in 1980 to 2,800 billion yuan or so in 2000. This will place China in the front ranks of the countries of the world in terms of gross national income and the output of major industrial and agricultural products: it will represent an important advance in the modernization of her entire national economy; it will increase the income of her urban and rural population several times over; and the Chinese people will be comparatively well-off both materially and culturally. Although China's national income per capita will even then be relatively low, her economic strength and national defence capabilities will have grown considerably, compared with what they are today. Provided that we work hard and in a downto-earth manner and bring the superiority of the socialist system into fuller play, we can definitely attain our grand strategic objective.

> - from Report to the 12th National Congress of CPC by Hu Yaobang

本刊今年取消合刊号,为了继续刊载录音听力材料,以应读者需要,从本期起辟出"录音读物"专栏,刊登将出的盒式磁带上的全部文字材料。每篇材料均附中文译文,并有少量中文注释。这次的配音听力材料文字难易程度类似 1981 年 7—8 期内容,预计磁带将于五月份发行,仍由北京外国语学院知青社邮购组负责办理邮购事宜。这盒磁带的编号是 ELL No.8。——编者

RUNAWAY!

by Michael Strauss

It was 3:37 in the morning that Sunday. Lt. John Terry of the Essex Junction, Vermont, police was on patrol. He noticed a railroad engine moving through town. "Mighty strange," he thought. "Who would send a locomotive up here in the middle of the night?"

Terry drove alongside the tracks. He looked through the darkness at the locomotive's cab. He thought, "That cab looks empty."

Terry followed the engine. He recalled, "It was running backwards. It didn't stop or sound a whistle at street crossings, and it seemed to be picking up speed. The writing on the engine's side said No. 602 of the Vermont Railroad. These tracks belonged to the Central Vermont Railroad."

Terry wondered if the engineer was lying on the floor, dead. He watched the engine silently pass two more crossings, and then he decided to act. On the police car radio, he called two police officers, Wayne Bither and Rodney Mills.² He told them to watch other crossings in Essex Junction to protect motorists. Then Terry called the state police and the Central Vermont Railroad.

Bither and Mills had no trouble keeping up with the locomotive. They could see a jacket and hat hanging inside the cab. Bither said, "Maybe we'd better hop aboard." Getting on the train proved to be very difficult. Both men had to use their flashlights to see the engine's

^{1.} Terry ['teri]: (人名)特里; Essex ['esiks]: (地名) 埃塞克斯; Vermont [vo:-'mont]: (美国州名)佛蒙特。 2. Wayne Bither [wein 'biðə]: 韦恩·比瑟; Rodney Mills ['rodni milz]: 罗德尼·米尔斯。

boarding rail.

Mills got aboard on his first try. Bither managed to grab the handrail. But he couldn't get a footing, and his legs thrashed. At 4:10 a.m., he got on board.

"We shouldn't have any trouble now," said Mills. He had talked with railroad officials. They told him all he had to do was reach for a big lever over the engineer's seat and yank it. That would stop the train. Mills turned on his flashlight in the cab. There was no lever over the seat. The railroad official was wrong about what kind of engine this was. Mills looked at all the levers and switches and said, "I might as well be in a spaceship."

Now the two men wondered how to get off the runaway engine. "Just keep pulling on those switches, Mills. I'll see if I can spot a clearing we can jump into."

Mills found a lever that could make the engine move forward. "But we were on a hill, and the lever couldn't stop us from going backward. Caught between two hills, the engine kept rolling back and forth."

Help came at last. Police cars from other towns, railroad officials and the state police arrived. One of the railroad workers hopped on board. The worker turned the handbrake at the front of the engine. Finally the engine stopped.

But where had the train come from? The Vermont Railroad's yards were in Rutland,³ many miles south of Essex Junction. The engine must have gone through more than 100 highway crossings. But no accidents had been reported.

How did the engine get started? The railroad's chief engineer explained. "Our engine house in Rutland has room for only two engines. We keep the third outside, with the motor running. That way it won't freeze. Someone broke the lock to the cab. Since the locomotive was facing away from the main track, that person had to start in reverse."

But to this day, the thief has not been caught. There are few clues, not even fingerprints. The railroad officials think that the thief may have known a lot about trains. In any event, it's a good thing that Lt. Terry spotted the engine at Essex Junction. If he hadn't, old 602 might have kept going. All the way to Canada.

^{3.} Rutland [tratlend]: 拉特兰市,位于佛蒙特州中西部。

无 人 机 车

(参考译文)

星期日凌晨三点三十七分。佛蒙特警察局埃塞克斯站的约翰·特里中尉 正在巡逻。他看到一辆火车机车打镇上穿过。"真奇怪,"他心里想。"三更半 夜谁把一辆机车调到这里干什么?"

特里驱车沿铁道行进。黑暗中,他向机车司机室瞅了瞅。他想,"司机室 好象没人。"

于是特里紧紧跟踪着那辆机车。他后来回忆说:"当时机车在侧行。每到交叉路口,它既不停下来,也不鸣笛,而且好象越开越快。机车一边写有"佛蒙特铁路局 602 号"的字样。这条铁道属于佛蒙特铁路总局。

特里心想,是不是司机死了躺在车上。他眼睁睁地看着机车不声不响地 又通过了两个交叉路口,于是他决定采取行动。他用警车上的无线电跟两名 警官——韦恩·比瑟和罗德尼·米尔斯——通了话。他让他们注意监视埃塞 克斯站的其他交叉路口,以保护驾车行驶的人们。随后他又给该州警察当局 和佛蒙特铁路总局打了电话。

比瑟和米尔斯跟踪机车倒没费什么事儿。他们能够看到司机室里挂着一件夹克和一顶帽子。比瑟说,"咱们最好跳上机车去。"可是跳到火车上去不容易。他们俩必须用手电照着才能看清车边的踏板。

米尔斯试了一下,结果跳上去了。比**惹设法抓住了扶手,可是他没能踩** 到踏板上,双腿悬着,凌晨四点十分,他才上到了机车上。

"我们现在不应该再费什么事儿了,"米尔斯说。他同铁路局的官员谈了话。他们对他说,只要找到司机座位上方的一个大控制杆,使劲拉一下,便可使火车停下来。米尔斯在司机室里按亮了手电筒。可是座位上方却没有什么控制杆。原来那位铁路官员没搞清楚这是一辆什么型号的机车。米尔斯瞧了所有的控制杆和电钮,他说,"我简直象是置身于宇宙飞船之中。"

比瑟和米尔斯现在寻思如何从这辆失去控制的机车上跳下去。"把这些开关一个一个都拉拉试试,米尔斯。我来看看能不能找到一块空地跳下去。"

米尔斯找到了一个控制杆,它倒是能使机车向前行进。"可是我们当时正处于一处山坡上,因此那个控制杆没法使我们不朝后倒。夹在两个山之间,机车一会儿朝前移动,一会儿朝后移动。"

援兵终于来了。其他市镇的警车、铁路官员以及州警察都赶来了。一个 铁路工人跳上了机车,他拉了一下机车前方的手煞车,机车终于停下来了。

但是这辆机车是从哪里来的呢? 佛蒙特铁路局的调车场在拉特兰, 在埃

塞克斯站以南岸多英里。机车想必经过一百多个公路交叉点了,但是竟然没 出任何事故。

机车是怎样发动起来的呢? 铁路总工程师作了解释: "我们在拉特兰的机车房只能停两辆机车。因此我们把第三辆机车放在外边,为了防冻,我们使发动机不停地转动。有人撬开了司机室的锁。由于机车背向主道,因此那人只好开倒车。"

但是时至今日,还没抓到盗贼。没有多少线索,连指印都没留下。铁路上的官员认为,那个盗贼可能懂得不少关于机车方面的知识。谢天谢地,特里中尉在埃塞克斯站发现了这辆机车。不然的话,602 号机车就可能不停地运行,一直开到加拿大去。 (张长号 译法)

(上接第 44 页)

这里不用 opinion, response, 而是用了一个电子学上的名词 feedback (反馈)。

这类科技术语用在日常生活和其他领域,如用在恰到好处的地方,可以使语言 生动,表达形象化,但如果使用过了头,生搬硬套,则会引起相反的效果。下面 这个例子可以清楚地说明这一点。

The writers on educational affairs talked about stepping up the output of graduates who are the end-product of university training and who have presumably been suitably processed. 研究教育的作者们谈到要增加毕业生产量,毕业生是大学训练的最终产品;而且一般认为是经过了适当加工的。

这里把生产上的一套完全搬到教育上来了。把毕业生说成是产品,要增加其产量;把大学教育说成是加工过程。 process 这个词原是工业方面的常用词,而现在几乎成了一个万能动词,可以指一切重复性活动或造成某种变化的活动。可见,要避免乱用科技词。



On High Steel

by Mike Cherry

The building in Elmira, New York, was 23 floors high and still growing. I took a construction job with the crew that was building it. It was the start of my education as an ironworker.

When I reported for work, the *super* (big boss) introduced me to the *pusher* (little boss). I was told that I would be put on the bullstick. On the elevator I decided not to ask what a bullstick was. The super asked me if this was my first building job. I nodded. "Can you follow orders and keep yourself safe?" he asked.

"Sure," I said.

"Don't hand me that," he said. "Safe is a matter of working at it all the time."

We picked our way through giant heaps of machinery on the top floor. Julio, a short fellow, was waiting for us. He pointed to the bull-stick. The bullstick is a pole that sticks out of a building. It has a rope hanging from its end with a hook on it. The bullstick is used to lift things from the street. My job was to swing the lifted cargo onto the building.

"When I signal you to swing left, push left," Julio said. "When you have to swing right, pull right. That's all you do." He gave me a thump on my helmet. I stood motionless. I wouldn't move until I was sure where it was safe to stand. I was able to work, but just barely.

That afternoon a worker asked if the height bothered me. I said it didn't. "By the way," I added, "exactly how high was I?"

"I'd say about 30 floors."

I lay awake most of the night. I wondered why I was doing a job like this. I also wondered why people like me tell lies about whether or not they are scared.

I've worked on a lot of buildings since that first job in Elmira. I

I. Elmira: (地名)埃尔迈拉。 2. "Don't hand me that": 原意为"别把那交给我"。根据上下文来看,这句话是针对 "Sure"来说的。因此有"别夸口"的意思。 3. Julio: (人名)朱利欧。

learned how to use a torch that burns through metal. I learned to use hand signals to talk to other workers when thundering machines drown out voices. I learned all about derricks, cranes and bullsticks. But there's nothing like working on a New York City skyscraper to make you realize how little you do know.

One February morning, I drove to the city to begin a new job. All the fears I thought I'd overcome were suddenly there again. I knew New York well. But now I saw it in a different way. The city had never seemed so tall before.

I asked some of the other workers if they were nervous working 50 stories above the streets. "Of course not," one man said. "After the first three floors, it doesn't matter how far you fall."

To work on this one building, I needed all the skills I had learned. I carried long pieces of wood. I worked the controls of a derrick.

I taglined (guided) a steel beam into place by pulling on a rope tied to one end. And I almost got killed doing it. A crane had lifted a heavy steel beam up to the 32nd floor. I took the end of the tagline and wrapped it around my hand. Suddenly the crane pulled up sharply, carrying me with it. The beam started to swing out. The next thing I knew, I was dangling hundreds of feet above 48th Street.

The work crew just stared at me. Then the super walked over. "What are you doing out there?" he asked casually. "Losing my grip," I said, trying to make a joke.

"Boom him back, Tommy," the super said to the crane operator. Slowly the beam swung back, and I was safely on the building. "Lots of men have gone on little rides with taglines," said the super, smiling. "But I think you hold the altitude record."

It took one year to put up that skyscraper. We topped out (started the last floor) in the spring. The building was 44 floors high. When it was finished and all the machinery was gone, it was as though we had never been there. But to this day, I have a warm feeling when I walk past the building. I have a sense of having started something and having finished it. I don't know if people who work in factories, doing the same thing day in and day out, feel like saying, "I made that." But ironworkers, looking at buildings, do.

^{4.} Tommy: (人名)汤米,是 Thomas 的昵称。

吊在高高的钢梁上

(参考译文)

在纽约埃尔迈拉修建的那座楼已经有二十三层高了,还在往上盖。我当 建筑工人就是从参加修建这座楼开始的。一开始我学习吊装。

报到之后,大工头领我见了小工头,说让我干吊杆的活儿。在电梯上我打定主意不问吊杆是个什么玩意儿。大工头问我是不是第一次干建筑活儿。我点头答是。他问我,"你听得懂口令,能保证安全吗?"

"没问题,"我说。

"先别说大话,"他说。"安全是个从始至终都要注意的问题。"

我们在顶层堆积如山的机器中间择路穿行。小个子朱利欧在等着我们。 他指了指吊杆。那是根伸向楼外的杆子。杆头系着一根绳子,上面带个钩。 吊杆是用来把街上的东西吊上来的。我的工作就是将吊上来的建筑材料拉过 来放在楼上。

"如果我示意你往左,你就往左推,"朱利欧说,"如果必须往右,就往右拉。 这就是你干的活儿。"说完他在我的安全帽上重重地敲了一下。我呆呆地站着。 我得等弄清楚站在哪儿安全才挪动位置。我倒是可以干了,可是十分不熟练。

那天下午有个工人问我那么高怕不怕。我说不怕。我接着问了他一句, "哎,我们这儿离地面到底有多高!"

"我看有三十层楼高吧。"

我一晚上都没有睡好觉,我不明白自己干吗要干这么个活儿,也不懂为 什么象我这样的人对怕不怕不敢说心里话。

自从第一次在埃尔迈拉干活以后我还在好多楼里干过。学会了用吹管切断金属,在机器的轰鸣声中学会用手势和别的工人谈话。开塔吊,开起重机,使吊杆,这些我全会了。可是,干什么活儿都比不上盖纽约的那座摩天大楼,只有那时你才明白自己懂得太少了。

二月的一天早上,我开车到市里开始新的工作。我认为自己已经克服了 的恐惧情绪突然又冒了出来。纽约我是很熟悉的。这时我却从另一个角度去 看它了。它看来比以往任何时候都要高。

我问别的工人,他们在离地面五十层高的楼上干活紧张不紧张。"当**然不**紧张啦,"有个工人说,"过了头三层,从哪层摔下去结果都是一样的。"

在这一栋楼里干活,我得把学到的所有的本领都用上。我又扛长木,又 开大吊车。 我拉住系在钢梁一头的绳子把钢梁放好。干这个活儿时差一点要了我的命。一辆吊车把一根很重的钢梁吊上了三十二层楼。我抓住牵引绳的头,把它挽在手上,突然间吊车猛地往上一吊,把我也一起吊上去了。钢梁开始往外摆动,等我明白是怎么回事时我正悬挂在四十八街离地几百英尺的高空中。

那些干活的人都瞪眼瞧着我。这时大工头走过来,随便地问道,"你在那 儿干什么?"我尽量以开玩笑的口吻说,"我没抓住。"

大工头对吊车司机说,"汤米,把他吊回来。"钢梁慢慢地摆了回来,我也平安地回到楼上。"好多人都被吊上去过,"大工头微笑说道。"不过,我看你是最高的纪录的保持者。"

盖那座摩天大楼花了一年的功夫。第二年春天开始盖最后一层。全楼高四十四层。等盖完了,机器一搬走,就好象我们从来没在那儿呆过似的。可是至今只要从它跟前走过,我就有一种亲切的感觉。我觉得自己开始干了一件事而且把它完成了。我不知道那些在工厂里天天干着同一种工作的人会不会这样说:"那活儿是我干的。"可是吊装工人们,瞧着那些盖好的楼房时就喜欢这么说。

(南启 译注)



What's the best way to keep milk from turning sour? (Leave it inside the cow.)

What word is always pronounced wrong? (Wrong.)

Why did Robin Hood only rob the rich? (Because the poor had no money.)

Name two things you can never eat for breakfast. (Lunch and dinner.)



The Names of the Months

Sometimes students have difficulty in remembering the names of the months in English. If we know something of the history of these names, possibly they will not seem so difficult to us.

The names of the months all come from Latin. Many of the names were names of Roman gods. January, March, May, June — these months

are named after Roman gods. January was named after the god Janus. I Janus was a strange god with two faces. He could look in two directions. He could look forward and back at the same time. He was the god of endings and beginnings. January, which is named after him, is the first month of the year. It is a month in which one looks forward to the new year. One also looks back to the old year.

The name February comes from a Roman celebration. The name of this celebration was Februa. It was a celebration of cleaning. Toward the end of February, after the long winter months, women begin to think of spring cleaning. Probably this was the origin of the name of the month. February has only 28 days. Every fourth year it has an extra day making a total of 29 days. The reason for this is that in every year there are exactly 365 days and six hours. At the end of four years these six extra hours of each year add up to 24 hours or one full day. This fourth year, in which February has 29 days, we call "Leap Year."

The third month, March, is named after the Roman god of war, Mars. Mars was a strong god. The Roman people always connected him with thunder and lightning.⁸ Pictures of Mars always show him with light-

^{1.} Janus ['dʒeinəs]: 罗马神话中的门神。 他有两副面孔,一往前看,一往后看。
2. He was ... beginnings: 他是终结和起始之神。 3. is named after him: 以他的名字命名。 4. one looks forward to the new year: 人们展望新的一年。 5. look back to the old year: 回顾过去的一年。 6. add up to: 总计达。 7. leap year: 闰年。 8. connected him with thunder and lightning: 把他同雷和闪电联系起来。

ning about his head. It is natural that the name of March comes from this god Mars. March is a month of storms. The wind is strong. It rains very hard. There is often thunder and lightning.

The origin of the word April is not known exactly. Probably the word comes from the Latin word aperiri. This Latin word means "to open." In Spanish today there are the words abrir (to open) and abierto (to open). In the month of April the skies open. It rains very often. The trees become green. Grass and flowers appear.

The month of May is named after the Goddess Maia. ¹² Maia was young and pretty. She was the goddess of the fields. She was the mother of the god Mercury. ¹³ The month of June was named after the goddess Juno. ¹⁴ She was the wife of Jupiter. ¹⁵ Juno was a beautiful womain.

The seventh month of the year, July, is named after Julius Caesar. ¹⁶ Julius Caesar was a famous general. He became dictator of Rome. Before the time of Caesar another calendar was used. The year began in March instead of January. The present month of July was then the fifth month instead of the seventh month. Caesar changed this. He made a new calendar. This is the calendar we use at present. Caesar himself was born in July. He gave the name of July to this month, the seventh month of the new calendar.

After Julius Cacsar came his nephew, Augustus.¹⁷ At first the name of Augustus was Octavius.¹⁸ Later, when he became emperor, the people wished to please him. They gave him the title of Augustus, meaning "noble." They also called the eighth month August after him. Possibly you have read something of the Augustan period of Roman history. It is called the "Golden Age." It was a period of great literature and art. The great Latin poets, Horace and Virgil, 19 lived at this time.

^{9.} aperiri:(拉丁语)意为动词"开"。 10. abrir: (西班牙语)意为动词"开"。 11. abierto: (西班牙语)意为"开放的,敞开的。" 12. Maia: 罗马神话中的一位女神。 13. Mercury ['mə:kjuri]: 水星。这里是罗马神话中的使者或商业之神。 14. Juno ['dʒu:nəu]: 罗马神话中的罗马女神、专管婚姻、生育、妇女等事务。 15. Jupiter ['dʒu:pitə]: 朱庇特。他是罗马神话中的主神。 16. Julius Caesar ['dʒu:ljəs 'si:zə]: 凯撒(公元前 102 或 100—44),古罗马将军。 17. Augustus [ɔ:'gʌstəs]: 奥古斯特、凯撒的侄儿、罗马第一任皇帝。 18. Octavius [ɔk'teivjəs]: 奥古斯特的原名。 19. Horace ['hərəs], Virgil ['və:dʒil]: 这二人均为罗马著名诗人。