Debate with CPML Begins

Two weeks ago we issued a challenge to the CPML for a debate on the situation in China. We offered to exchange articles in each other's newspapers as the form of debate. Since the CPML has not yet replied, we have decided to begin printing their articles anyway.

The first installment which appeared in the October 1st issue of The Call was titled—unbelievably, as usual—"China's flourishing culture seen in Bob Hope special." Among other things, this article shows that in order to reverse right and wrong politically, The Call also has to go to great lengths to reverse long settled questions such as whether or not Bob Hope is a fascist. The Gang of Four are accused of suppressing reactionary comedians like Mr. USO Bob Hope, who was also run out of Vietnam by the American troops he was sent to entertain. If this charge against the Four is true, then this proves conclusively that not only did they have a correct political line, but they were also artistically excellent and had a great deal of humor. The Revolutionary Worker printed an article on this same Bob Hope special in the September 21st issue. The Call article is reprinted in full below:

China's flourishing culture seen in Bob Hope special

Bob Hope's TV special "On the Road to China" provided American audiences with a good look at China's flourishing life in the wake of the gang of four.

The three-hour special, which was a product of a three-week stay in China by Hope and his company, featured traditional Chinese opera, acrobatics, classical ballet and the performances of three Chinese comedians.

The cultural dictatorship imposed on the Chinese people by the gang had suppressed most of these art forms. In fact, one of the comedians had been jailed for his political opposition to the gang and the two others forced to abandon their craft.

In place of a hundred flowers blossoming, the gang created a cultural desert. Jiang Qing's eight "model works," with their stereotyped style, were performed endlessly and nothing else was allowed.

The recent TV special, aired Sept. 16 on NBC, demonstrated that China is again experimenting with and mastering many different art forms. Compared to life under the gang, in fact, a cultural revolution of sorts is taking place in China today.

The U.S. contribution to this cultural exchange was well within the mainstream of American culture but without any of the T'Na usually associated with variety shows. Peaches and Herl and Crystal Gale carried the disco and country rock sounds to China while Big Bird, Sesame Street and minstrels Shields and Yarnell added comedy.

The show featured two especially touching moments. One was the reception given Mikhail Baryshnikov by a Chinese ballet company which had been unable to perform for nearly a decade due to the gang's xenophobic outlook. Classical ballet was one-sidedly viewed as bourgeois and "foreign" although millions find great beauty and powerful emotions in the incredible technique demanded by this art.

The other moment was an exchange between Hope and the three comedians whose pantomimes were both hilarious and poigniant in light of the fact that their talent had been suppressed for so many years. One thing marring the show were the chauvinist remarks made by Hope. But some of his humor was in fact geared to the Chinese. Hope confided that they especially liked two of his jokes. One was a track about how he had enjoyed the ride from Beijing airport even through the handlebars were a little rough. Another was when he quipped after a toast of Mao-tai, "One sip of that and your head will have a cultural revolution."

The Hope special had a larger significance, though, than just a cultural exchange. In part because of Hope's immense popularity among the American people, his "On the Road to China" special was symbolic of the developing ties of friendship between the American and Chinese people.

Gestapo Attack at Cabrini-Green

The Oct. 12 issue of the RW reported on the construction of an iron fence around the Cabrini-Green public housing project in Chicago and the militant resistance of the people to this attempt to wall off the projects and give the way for the bourgeoisie's plans to resettle the area with white, upper-income residents.

Not only did the residents tear up, dig up and saw through sections of the fence, but when police came into Cabrini-Green to harass some youths, people overturned two pig cars and set a fence on fire, but when police came into Cabrini-Green to harass some youths, people overturned two pig cars and set a fence on fire, so they had to go to great lengths to prevent the residents from monitoring their activities. Reports of corrosion eating away at the Cabrini-Green high-rise have been filed recently. The Thug State is fast becoming a corrosive and poisonous acid.

The cause and effects of acid rain have long been documented but this has meant nothing to the U.S. capitalist class. Over the last few years, they have worked to expand their industries and utilize the highly-polluting, high-sulfur-content coal. And this despite the fact that the pollutants of coal-burning power plants and factories, sulfur and nitric oxide, are the raw ingredients of acid rain.

The result is that acid rain is rapidly growing worse. A recent study of acid rain in the Rocky Mountain states has found that the acid content of rain has increased five to ten times in just three years.

It would be hard to imagine a worse situation for the millions who live in the Adirondack Mountains alone. Reports of corrosion eating away at marble statues and buildings. Sulfuric acid is thrown to the winds. Rainwater is fast becoming a corrosive and poisonous acid.

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