

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 funny. 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 sense 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 cultural life in the wake of the gang of four.

The three-hour special, which was a product of a four-week stay in China by Hope and his company, featured traditional Chinese opera, acrobatics, classical ballet and skits performed by 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'n'A usually associated with variety shows. Peaches and Herb and Crystal Gale carried the disco and country rock sounds to China while Big Bird of Sesame Street and mimes

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 poignant 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 crack about how he had enjoyed the ride from Beijing airport even though 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

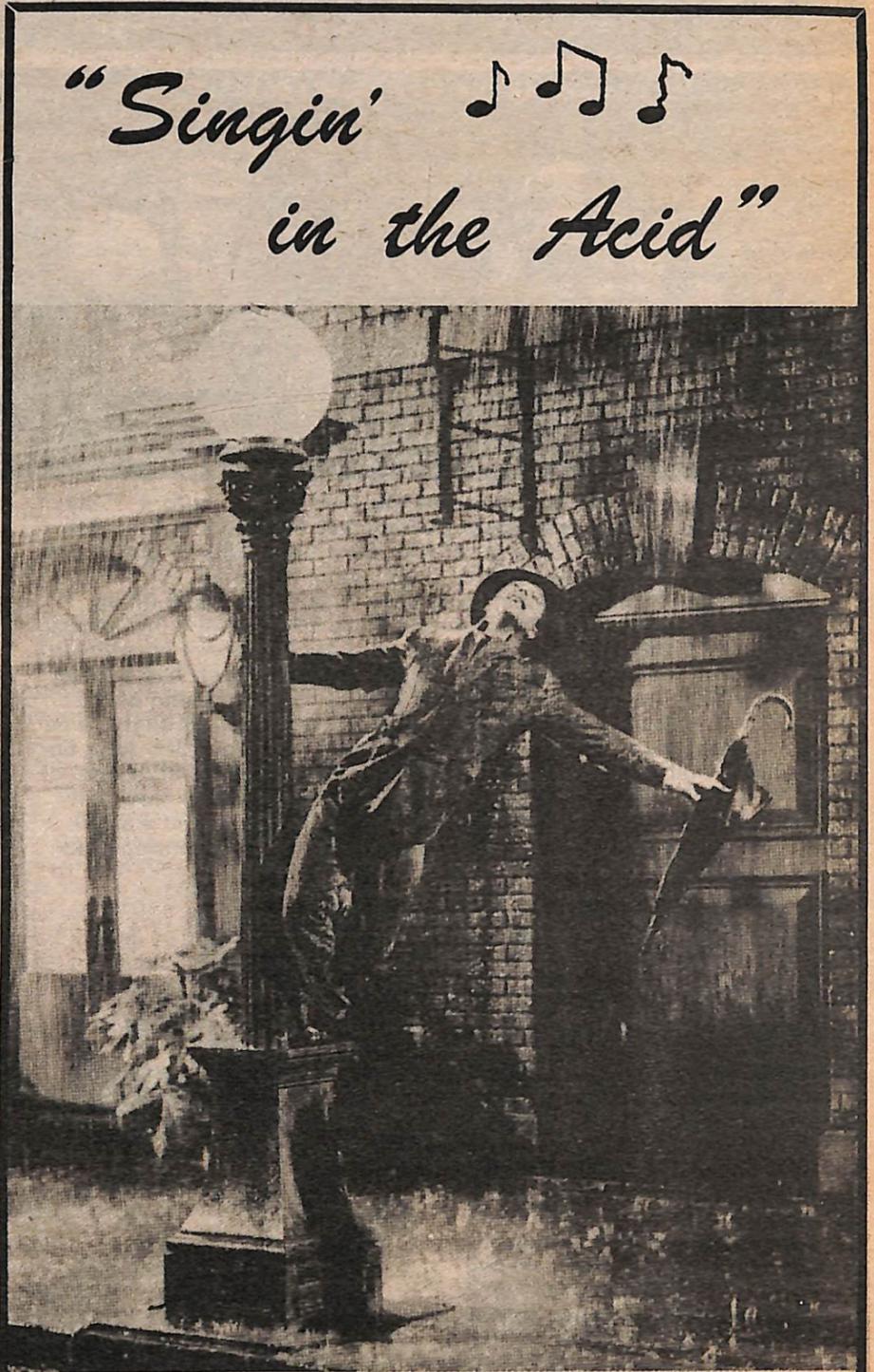
The Oct. 12 issue of the RW reported on the construction of an iron fence around the Cabrini-Green public housing project in Chicago and the militant resistance of the people to this attempt to wall off the projects and pave the way for the bourgeoisie's plans to resettle the area with white, upper-income 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 one ablaze. Tenants also organized to protest against rent increases of up to \$100/month which were aimed at driving people out of the projects. One organizer, Rosemary West, collected 500 signatures on a petition in the space of a few days, and then went on a local radio show to expose the intolerable conditions in this made-in-America bantustan.

This was too much. On the night of

Oct. 29 Rosemary West was watching TV in her fifth-floor apartment in a Cabrini-Green hi-rise. Suddenly the door burst open and 3 well-known Chicago detectives forced their way in, brandishing pistols and a rifle. While two armed pigs stood guard outside the door, the thugs swaggered through the rooms, thrusting their weapons in the woman's face. Foamy-mouthed, they spat out their message: "We're tired of this shit. The CHA (Chicago Housing Authority) is tired of this shit. We're not going to put up with it any more." With that, the pigs slammed out, retreating nervously down the corridor, guns at the ready.

What was "this shit" that prompted this gestapo-style invasion? Nothing more than an attempt to stand up against oppression. "They are trying to intimidate me," said Rosemary West. "But I have been living in Cabrini-Green too long to scare that easy." ■



"Singin' in the Acid"

Hundreds of fishless lakes in the northeastern U.S. and Canada—90 in the Adirondack Mountains alone. Reports of corrosion eating away at marble statues and buildings. Lakes and drinking water in some areas contaminated with poisonous mercury and lead picked up in the runoff. Rainwater 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 use of coal, particularly the highly-polluting, high-sulfur-content coal. And this despite the fact 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.

And the worst is yet to come. With the dollar falling like a rock while their balance of payments deficit soars, the appeal of high-sulfur coal which can be cheaply strip mined in many parts of the country has become irresistible. The fact that high sulfur coal causes the most sulfur, acid-rain producing pollution of all is thrown to the winds.

Jimmy Carter's summer "energy crisis" program called for "relaxing" the few remaining pollution-prevention requirements on coal-burning power plants and the lifting of restraints on the use of the high sulfur coal.

The response of the Environmental Protection Agency to this has, appropriately enough, been the funding of "a study of aging tombstones throughout the U.S." to "reach a better understanding of acid rain effects." No doubt they expect plenty more tombstones to "study" in the years to come.

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