

STATEMENT OF CLASS WAR, November 24th, 1973
New York City

THE "GUARDIAN"—25 YEARS OF POPULISM ON BEHALF OF THE C.P.U.S.A.

Tonight, the petty-bourgeois China-sycophants, many of them wearing the latest 'radical chic' attire, will cluster around the wretched Irwin Silber and the rest of his crypto-revisionist clique to celebrate the Guardian's 25 years of so-called "struggle", but even more importantly, to express their support for the current waves of populist hysteria which the Guardian, alongside the CPUSA, SWP, RU, etc. has attached itself to—namely the pseudo-issue of who will live in the White House over the next few years, or, as the Revolutionary Union expresses it, in that crude unpolitical style which is their trademark—to "throw the bum out".

The Guardian celebrates their "25 years of struggle" with a full evening's program of...non-struggle! So-called "people's culture" of the Pete Seeger variety, moaning and whining and pathetic imitations of actual workingclass "life-styles" along with the blatant commercial promotion of the Guardian's own "super-stars". What is the Guardian's real record over those 25 years? A closer look at this will reveal why, for all their recent "workerism" of the PLP variety, enthusing over "militants", etc., it is still the petty-bourgeois radicals, not the proletarian revolutionaries, who are here tonight to 'celebrate'.

The Guardian was initially launched by the CPUSA after WWII as a means of holding on to the petty-bourgeois elements the CPUSA had initially attracted in the 1948 Henry Wallace campaign, essentially, as a right-flank publication for the party. Why is it today that the once Browderite right-revisionist-leaning Guardian should today portray itself as a "left opposition" to the CPUSA? The reason is simple—it is the same essentially petty-bourgeois populism which underlies both the traditions of the 1948 "Progressive Party" effort and the New Left "workerism" and so-called "party-building" of today's Guardian, the same hostility to theory, to class-wide organizing, to revolutionary vs. reformist politics, to the genuine communists who they, along with the Moscow-line revisionists and trotskyites, decry as the "ultra-left". If the Guardian and the opportunism and centrism it represents are the left, then we are proud to be considered the Ultra-Left!

Look at the Guardian's positions on the important questions of the day, positions which they develop from the same basic assumptions, and using the same anti-Marxist methods, as the leading cliques in the CPUSA, SWP, etc. They supported the Nixonite clique of the old N.W.R.O. against NUWRO, faithfully repeating every single slander concocted by the CPUSA in what amounts to helping the government implement Slave Labor. Likewise in Operation Mop-up, the Guardian upholds the CPUSA. They also fell for the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment" not to speak of their sycophantic adulation for Third Worldism and virtually any tendency which fits their criterion for being "anti-imperialism". The Guardian is silent on the Second World Depression, on the actual character of the international crisis which is upon us now, of the underlying causes and effects of the actual world situation.

Yes, we need a revolutionary mass weekly newspaper in this country, a collective organizer for class-wide struggle and continually advancing and expanding polemics on the basic tasks of the day—but the Guardian definitely isn't it! The Guardian is a "loyal opposition" paper for the CPUSA, set up to coopt any and all new revolutionary forces emerging in this country under a pseudo-Marxist-Leninist banner. We will struggle to expose and wipe out this revisionist set-up, and we appeal to any individuals and groups who realize the falsity of the Guardian's claims to "anti-revisionism" to join us right away.