

KEEP LEFT

Number 1

NOVEMBER 1950

Price 1d

I find great pleasure and a feeling of honour in writing this first editorial of the League of Youth magazine. In this edition and those following you will be able to read articles by well known leaguers. The Editorial Board does, however, appeal for articles and letters expressing your particular point of view. Do not be afraid of writing because you might make mistakes, it is wrong to waste talent because of a few easily corrected errors. Remember, this is your mouthpiece to the Adult Party so I would repeat the Editorial Board's appeal to you to take advantage of this paper.

oOo

We have all been disturbed by recent events - such as the gaoling of the Gas-strikers - Comrade Deakin's denunciations of the Communist Party - and of the proposed re-armament of Western Germany. Comrades, do you too feel strongly on these matters - if so write to us and we will publish it.

oOo

For too long Youth has been neglected by the Adult Party, the most blatant example of this being the National Youth Officer - Comrade Len Williams' attitude at the Hoddeson Youth Rally, when he refused point blank to answer questions from the large assembly of Leaguers on the dis-affiliation of Wandsworth Central League of Youth, saying that he chooses to whom he speaks and this was from the paid Youth Officer of the Labour Party!

oOo

At the Party Conference at Margate the resolution proposing National Status for the League of Youth was referred back to the Executive Committee of the Party. Have we gone any further forward than we were at Filey? So long as the leaders of the Party persist in this ridiculous attitude towards the League, it will drive members into the Young Communist League and other nefarious organisations.

oOo

We are the Adult Party of tomorrow and refuse to be treated in this way.

oOo

Your articles and letters in this magazine will add weight in Youth's fight for recognition and true Socialism.

EDITOR

-oOo-

All articles in this magazine are purely the personal opinions of the writer.

In the conflict between East and West, each side claims to fight for Peace, Democracy, Freedom etc., etc., and our first task is to see if these are the real issues or not.

On the side of Western freedom we find gentlemen like Dr. Malan, the upholder of the oppression of Africa by a white minority, and Chang-kai-shek, the butcher of Canton. There is even talk of having the gangster Franco to help to defend democracy!

The Communist Party, on the other hand, will tell us that they and their Muscovite friends stand for democracy and peace. Let us remind them of the German C.P.'s support for the Nazis in 1931, the Stalin-Hitler pact of 1939, and of the Communist ministers in the French Government which engaged in the Colonial War in Indo-China. Nor must we forget the aggressive attitude of the Soviet Union towards Jugoslavia.

No, Comrades, we must not be taken in: as the Korean affair has shown, neither Wall Street or the Kremlin cares about freedom, national independence or, for that matter Socialism.

What, then, is the real reason for the present world struggle?

Capitalism has always been faced with the alternatives: expand or die. The economics of the profit system drive it constantly to find new sources of raw materials, new markets for its surplus, new fields for exploitation. To-day, the dominant capitalist power, the U.S.A. sees the exploitable area of the globe being eaten away by the advance of a non-capitalist force: Stalinism.

The other side of the conflict is more complex. In October 1917 began the first attempt to build Socialism, but in backward Russia instead of one of the more advanced Countries. The Great Powers, weakened by war and internal struggle against their own workers, failed in their attempt to crush the new state, but capitalism was still too strong to be replaced by Socialism. Out of the poverty, illiteracy and isolation of the country, there arose the force which rules Russia to-day. This regime keeps itself in power by the elimination of democracy and by the suppression of the masses. It is based on a privileged group of officials, which is in opposition to the workers and therefore to Socialism, but its existence is due entirely to the continued rule of Capitalism outside the U.S.S.R. Churchill and his kind, by sending armies of intervention to the Soviet Union between 1917-22 assisted the rise of Stalin to power; now, by their hostility, they help to keep him there.

The Stalinist bureaucracy is only interested in its own position, but it is forced to try to use socialist and other mass movements outside Russia, for its own ends. Stalin is afraid of Capitalism, but he is also afraid of the overthrow of Capitalism by Socialism, for it will mean his own downfall. This is the reason for the contradictory nature of C.P. policy and its sharp and sudden changes of line.

Tories (in all parties) tell us to re-arm to stop the advance of what they call "Communism". This course can only lead the world into the greatest war of all time. To try and overthrow Stalin by force is like curing chilblains by amputation, for it would result in the destruction of the world as we know it.

The C.P. and its fellow-travellers say that war can be avoided by banning certain weapons and by agreements between the Great Powers. But history shows that such pacts are a fraud and cannot have real effect. Whether or not it is sincere, the "Peace Campaign" only acts as a Cold War Campaign-on the side of Russia.

to avoid war we must remove its causes, and these lie in the very existence of Capitalism. That is why, in my opinion, the only way to Peace lies in the disappearance of the Capitalist System. A movement which is not Socialist cannot bring peace, and a Socialist movement must be both independent of Stalinism and Capitalism.

This must be the slogan: "Against both Power blocs; Socialism for Peace".

Cyril Smith
Vice Chairman Wembley South League of Youth

-oOo-

RITA'S COLUMN

Hello Leaguers! Here's introducing you to our monthly social column. I trust that in the last few minutes you have fully digested some of the works of our great literary friends in the League.

I do not by any means hope to reach their standard of writings, but would like to report on some of the happenings of the Leagues in the past month or two, apart from our political interests. For instance, the coach trip sponsored by the Wembley Labour Party. This was a big affair with thirteen coaches bound for Southend, the two Leagues, North and South, each having a coach of their own. We all had a wonderful time there, with lots of fun enjoyed by all within the famous Kursaal Gardens. The lights were a wonderful sight, stretching it seemed for miles along the front, and reflecting very effectively against the sea on the mile long pier. The coach ride itself was kept going very well in both League coaches. Wembley North's John Cramp & Derek Twine doing the honours in their coach, and Red Sullivan, as usual, exercising his vocal cords to the maximum in Wembley South's, not forgetting Don Malcolm, who as we know from experience is not to be outdone.

Wembley South's A. G. M. loomed up as one of the milestones of the year and it was certainly entered into with a great deal of enthusiasm. The majority of officers were re-elected and subsequently the pace was fast and furious ending with favourable speeches from members of the Adult Party.

The Area Committee very fortunately obtained some tickets for us for a production of a Victorian Melodrama at the Unity Theatre. This was an experience not to be missed. The Theatre is very tiny with an atmosphere wholly Victorian and the Ushers and the programme sellers were clad in the dress of that age, complete with side whiskers and fringes. The play was very good with plenty of laughs and was followed by a Music Hall in the good old style.

Space is limited, but will have more to say next month about our Xmas festivities.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday November 25th Social & Dance - held by Wembley North League of Youth at Fryent School, at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday December 5th Grand League of Youth Area Dance at Wembley Town Hall.

There must be few Leaguers who have not discussed at one time or another the need for a Youth Charter and the acute necessity for the Labour Party to put forward a socialist policy for Youth. Youth are only too easily attracted to the Young Tories by the very nature of the wide social facilities offered by that organisation given sufficient quantities of table tennis and other social activities and a few odd shouts about the so called merits of "free enterprise" they are misled into thinking that the problems of youth will be solved before they are many years older by a wave of the hand from Churchill and his crew.

Youth can only be won for Socialism on the basis of a socialist policy for youth. The first and fundamental problem to be faced is the granting of the vote at eighteen. There have been many arguments put forward by the political wiseacres to why the vote should not be granted. The chief of these is that persons under 21 are minors in the eyes of constitutional lawyers and that the privilege of the vote is only accorded to young people when they reach their majority. This is a mere outward excuse, the practical reasons are only too apparent, working class youth are the most exploited section of the society as many of us have experienced and the granting of the vote has been withheld as long as possible i.e. till young persons reach the age of 21 when they are given this privilege coupled with an increase in the pay packet to keep them quiet. When the legal aspect has been dealt with, the next line of defence by the ruling classes is the "fact" that youth is irresponsible and the stern duty of voting must be one by the responsible section of the community. This is sheer nonsense, there are countless young persons exercising a high degree of responsibility in society and they must be pleasantly surprised to be told that overnight they lose their "irresponsibility" in the eyes of the law. It apparently is perfectly permissible to ride a motor cycle, drive a car or an Army truck or have command over one's fellow men in the field of battle and other such matters of life and death and yet at the same time be thought incapable of marking a ballot paper to decide which form of Government a young person desires.

It is often felt, even by some timid Leaguers that the granting of the vote would cause the mass of not very politically conscious Tory youth to swell the opposition vote. This fear would soon be dispelled if when the vote at eighteen was granted the Labour Party had a policy for Youth.

The fight for the vote at eighteen is no way different to the fight for the vote for women that took place earlier in this century; the same equally hollow arguments were trotted out then as they are now against granting the vote at eighteen - "age equality" is just as vital to a true democracy as "sex equality". The League must be in the vanguard for the fight for the vote at eighteen, which will be an inspiring victory on the long road to Socialism.

Colin Derry
Secretary - Wembley North League of Youth

-oOo-

DON'T FORGET LEAGUERS IT IS YOUR MAGAZINE - SO LET US HAVE YOUR LETTERS AND ARTICLES.

Produced by the combined Wembley Labour Leagues of Youth.....

-oOo-

Published by Miss C. Morris, 53 Ormesby Way, Kenton, Middlesex....

KEEP LEFT

Number 1

NOVEMBER 1950

Price 1d

I find great pleasure and a feeling of honour in writing this first editorial of the League of Youth magazine. In this edition and those following you will be able to read articles by well known leaguers. The Editorial Board does, however, appeal for articles and letters expressing your particular point of view. Do not be afraid of writing because you might make mistakes, it is wrong to waste talent because of a few easily corrected errors. Remember, this is your mouthpiece to the Adult Party so I would repeat the Editorial Board's appeal to you to take advantage of this paper.

We have all been disturbed by recent events - such as the gaoling of the Gas-strikers – Comrade Deakin's denunciation of the Communist Party – and of the proposed re-armament of Western Germany. Comrades, do you too feel strongly on these matters - if so write to us and we will publish it.

For too long Youth has been neglected by the Adult Party, the most blatant example of this being the National Youth Officer – Comrade Len Williams' attitude at the Hoddeson Youth Rally, when he refused point blank to answer questions from the large assembly of leaguers on the dis-affiliation of Wandsworth Central League of Youth, saying that he chooses to whom he speaks and this was from the paid Youth Officer of the Labour Party!

At the Party Conference at Margate the resolution proposing National Status for the League of Youth was referred back to the executive Committee of the Party. Have we gone any further forward than we were at Filey? So long as the leaders of the Party persist in this ridiculous attitude towards the League, it will drive members into the Young Communist League and other nefarious organisations.

We are the Adult Party of tomorrow and refuse to be treated in this way.

Your articles and letters in this magazine will aid weight in Youth's fight for recognition and true Socialism

EDITOR

SOCIALISM AND THE COLD WAR

In the conflict between East and West, each side claims to fight for Peace, Democracy, Freedom, etc., etc., and our first task is to see if these are the real issues or not.

On the side of Western freedom we find gentlemen like Dr. Malan, the upholder of the oppression of Africa by a white minority, and Chang-kai-shek, the butcher of Canton. There is even talk of having the gangster Franco to help to defend democracy!

The Communist Party, on the other hand, will tell us that they and their Muscovite friends stand for democracy and peace. Let us remind them of the German CP's support for the Nazis in 1931, the Stalin-Hitler pact of 1939 and of the communist ministers in the French Government which engaged in the colonial war in Indochina. Nor must we forget the aggressive attitude of the Soviet Union towards Jugoslavia.

No, Comrades, we must not be taken in: as the Korean affair has shown, neither Wall Street nor the Kremlin cares about freedom, national independence or, for that matter socialism.

What, then, is the real reason for the present world struggle?

Capitalism has always been faced with the alternatives: expand or die. The economics of the profit system drive it constantly to find new sources of raw materials, new markets for its surplus, new fields for exploitation. Today, the dominant capitalist power, the USA, sees the exploitable area of the globe being eaten away by the advance of a non-capitalist force: Stalinism.

The other side of the conflict is more complex. In October 1917 began the first attempt to build socialism, but in backward Russia instead of one of the more advanced Countries. The Great Powers, weakened by war and internal struggle against their own workers, failed in their attempt to crush the new state, but capitalism was still too strong to be replaced by Socialism. Out of the poverty, illiteracy and isolation of the country, there arose the force which rules Russia to-day. This regime keeps itself in power by the elimination of democracy and by the suppression of the masses. It is based on a privileged group of officials, which is in opposition to the workers and therefore to Socialism, but its existence is due entirely to the continued rule of Capitalism outside the USSR. Churchill and his kind, by sending armies of intervention to the Soviet Union between 1917-22 assisted the rise of Stalin to power; now, by their hostility, they help to keep him there.

The Stalinist Bureaucracy is only interested in its own position, but it is forced to try to use socialist and other mass movements outside Russia for its own ends. Stalin is afraid of Capitalism, but he is also afraid of the overthrow of Capitalism by Socialism, for it will mean his own downfall. This is the reason for the contradictory nature of C.P. policy and its sharp and sudden changes of line.

Tories (in all parties) tell us to re-arm to stop the advance of what they call 'Communism'. This course can only lead the World into the greatest war of all time. To try and overthrow Stalin by force is like curing chilblains by amputation, for it would result in the destruction of the world as we know it.

The C.P. and its fellow-travellers say that war can be avoided by banning certain weapons and by agreements between the Great Powers. But history shows that such pacts are a fraud and cannot have real effect. Whether or not it is sincere, the 'Peace Campaign' only acts as a Cold War Campaign – on the side of Russia.

To avoid war we must remove its causes, and these lie in the very existence of Capitalism. That is why, in my opinion, the only way to Peace lies in the disappearance of the Capitalist System. A movement which is not Socialist cannot bring peace, and a socialist movement must be independent of Stalinism and Capitalism.

This must be the slogan: 'Against both Power blocs; Socialism for Peace.

Cyril Smith

Vice Chairman, Wembley South League of Youth

RITA'S COLUMN

Hallo Leaguers! Here's introducing you to our monthly social column. I trust that in the last few minutes you have fully digested some of the works of our great literary friends in the League.

I do not by any means hope to reach their standard of writings but would like to report on some of the happenings of the Leagues in the past month or two, apart from our political interests. For instance, the coach trip sponsored by the Wembley Labour Party. This was a big affair with thirteen coaches bound for Southend, the two leagues, North and South, each having a coach of their own. We all had a wonderful time there with lots of fun enjoyed by all within the famous Kursaal Gardens. The lights were a wonderful sight, stretching it seemed for miles along the front, and reflecting very effectively against the sea on the mile long pier. The coach ride itself was kept going very well in both League coaches. Wembley North's John Cramp & Derek Twine doing the honours in their coach and Red Sullivan, as usual, exercising his vocal chords to the maximum in Wembley South's, not forgetting Don Malcolm, who as we know from experience is not to be outdone.

Wembley South's A.G.M. loomed up as one of the milestones of the year and it was certainly entered into with a great deal on enthusiasm. The majority of officers

were re-elected and subsequently the pace was fast and furious ending with favourable speeches from members of the Adult Party. .

The Area Committee very fortunately obtained some tickets for us for a production of a Victorian Melodrama at the Unity Theatre. This was an experience not to be missed. The theatre is very tiny with an atmosphere wholly Victorian and the Ushers and the programme sellers were clad in the dress of that age, complete with side whiskers and fringes. The play was very good with plenty of laughs and was followed by a Music Hall in the good old style.

Space is limited, but will have more to say next month about our Xmas festivities.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday November 25th Social & Dance – held by Wembley North League of Youth at Fryent School, at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday December 5th Grand League of Youth Area Dance at Wembley Town Hall.

YOUTH AND THE VOTE AT 18

There must be few Leaguers who have not discussed at one time or another the need for a Youth Charter and the acute necessity for the Labour Party to put forward a socialist policy for youth. Youth are only too easily attracted to the Young Tories by the very nature of the wide social facilities offered by that organisation. Given sufficient quantities of table tennis and other social activities and a few shouts about the so-called merits of ‘free enterprise’ they are misled into thinking that the problems of youth will be solved before they are many years older by a wave of the hand from Churchill and his crew.

Youth can only be won for Socialism on the basis of a socialist policy for youth. The first and fundamental problem to be faced is the granting of the vote at eighteen. There have been many arguments put forward by the political wiseacres to why the vote should not be granted. The chief of these is that persons under 21 are minors in the eyes of constitutional lawyers and that the privilege of the vote is only accorded to young people when they reach their majority. This is a mere outward excuse, the practical reasons are only too apparent, working class youth are the most exploited section of the society as many of us have experienced and the granting of the vote has been withheld as long as possible, i.e. till young persons reach the age of 21 when they are given this privilege coupled with an

increase in the pay packet to keep them quiet. When the legal aspect has been dealt with, the next line of defence by the ruling classes is the 'fact' that youth is irresponsible and the stern duty of voting must be one by the responsible action of the community. This is sheer nonsense, there are countless young persons exercising a high degree of responsibility in society and they must be pleasantly surprised to be told that overnight they lose their irresponsibility in the eyes of the law. It apparently is perfectly permissible to ride a motor cycle, drive a car or an army truck or have command over one's fellow men in the field of battle and other such matters as life and death and yet at the same time be thought incapable of marking a ballot paper to decide which form of government a young person desires.

It is often felt, even by some timid Leaguers that the granting of the vote would cause the mass of not very politically conscious Tory youth to swell the opposition vote. This fear would soon be dispelled if when the vote at eighteen was granted the Labour Party had a policy for Youth.

The fight for the vote at eighteen is no way different to the fight for the vote for women that took place earlier in this century; the same equally hollow arguments were trotted out then as they are now against granting the vote at eighteen - 'age equality' is just as vital to a true democracy as 'sex equality'. The League must be in the vanguard for the fight for the vote at eighteen which will be an inspiring victory on the long road to socialism.

Colin Derry

Secretary – Wembley North League of Youth

**DON'T FORGET LEAGUERS IT IS YOUR MAGAZINE – SO LET US HAVE
YOUR LETTERS AND ARTICLES**

Produced by the combined Wembley Labour Leagues of Youth

Published by Miss C. Morris, 53 Ormesby Way, Kenton, Middlesex