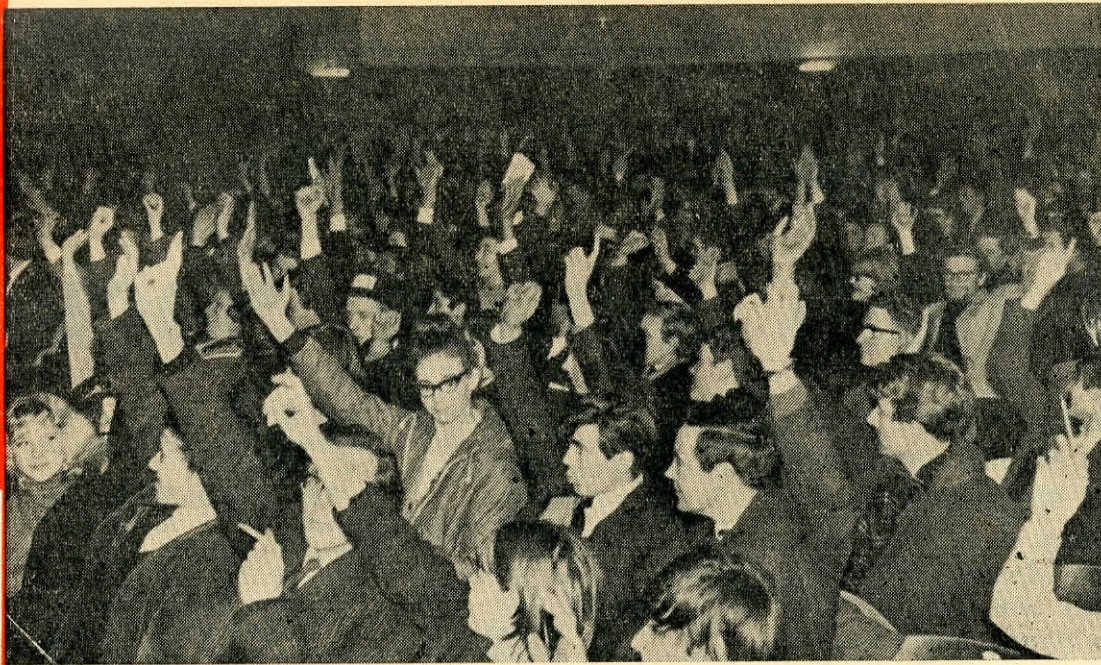


Keep

LEFT

the paper for socialist youth

Vol. 14, No. 1 4d.

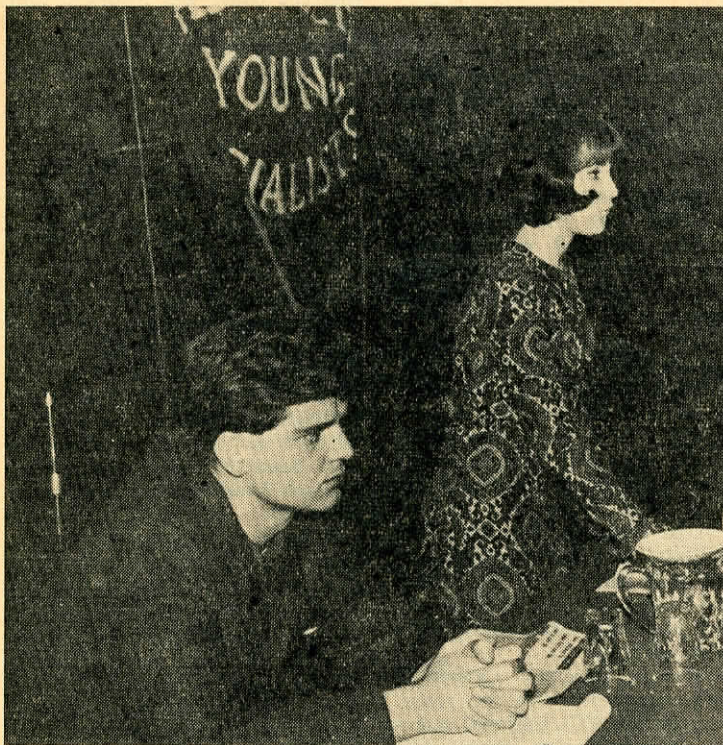


For a full report of our Annual General Meeting see pages 4 & 5

Our Annual Meeting

'MAKE KEEP LEFT THE YS PAPER'

says editor



450 socialist youth (see section of audience above) attended the most successful annual meeting ever held by Keep Left. Young workers, Mods, Rockers, students and apprentices voted (see picture at the top of page) to elect Aileen Jennings editor (seen in picture on extreme left with chairman Dave Longley, the paper's publisher). In the evening young people from areas all over the country attended a swinging dance at Hammersmith Town Hall (see picture immediate left).

Lobby

Parliament for pensions rise

February 4

National Committee Majority statement:

Keep Left supports the call of the National Committee Majority for a lobby to demand the increase in pensions immediately. We urge all our readers to support this lobby.

This winter many old people will die for the simple reason that they do not have enough money to buy food and fuel. It is nothing short of a disgrace that this should happen under a Labour government that has promised increases as a top priority for 13 years. Wilson has said that old people will have to wait until the end of March. By then the cost of living will have gone up as a result of the rise in the Bank Rate and 15 per cent surcharge on imports. Millions of working class people voted the Labour government into power to get something done about high rents, the rising cost of living, the Tory wage freeze and miserly pensions. But Wilson takes his orders from the 'gnomes of Zurich'—the international bankers. Wage increases for workers are being halted. The demands of apprentices for increased wages and improved conditions are turned down. Workers, who are too old to any longer assist the employers

make their profits, are denied an adequate pension, while apprentices are exploited and refused a wage on which they can keep themselves.

The employers' and bankers' only interest in workers, whether they are young or old, is how much profit they can make out of them. Youth are used as cheap labour and old age pensioners starved.

Why should the workers be made to pay for the crisis that the Tories and bosses have created?

MAKE THE TORIES PAY—NOT THE WORKERS!

We call on all Young Socialists, old age pensioners, rank and file members of the Labour Party and trade unions, shop stewards' committees, and workers—young and old—everywhere to join a mass lobby of Parliament on Thursday, February 4. Demand with us:

- Immediate increases for old age pensioners.
- All increases to be backdated to November 1.
- A government for the workers and not the banks.
- The only way to solve the crisis is through socialist policies of nationalization. ♪

Centrists assist right wing to witch hunt Young Socialists

OVER 50 leading members of the Young Socialists have now been expelled in different parts of the country by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party.

These include National Committee Members, Dave Ashby, Chairman, Sheila Torrance, London and Middlesex, Mike Farley, North West, Bob Hamilton, Scottish Region and Wal Hobson, NC member for the North-east coast who has been suspended for six months.

The procedure in each case has been practically the same. Secret investigations, so-called 'evidence' from witnesses who were not produced, and meetings packed by right-wingers.

This is the greatest political purge carried out by the right wing at any period since the end of the Second World War. Its chief aim is to smash the Young Socialist opposition so that the YS as an organisation can then be returned to the same status which it had before 1960.

During the years of 1955-60, the Young Socialists had no organisation. They were simply part of the local Constituency Labour Party. In that period the Labour Party's youth movement almost disappeared

SHAMELESS SILENCE

These experiences cannot be evaded by the centrists and middle of the road fake lefts in the Labour Party. They, in reply, preserve a shameless silence.

In the case of 'Tribune' it believes that the time has come to call for a conference of the Young Socialists—after the greater part of the opposition has been expelled. In other words, 'Tribune' relies entirely on the right wing of the Labour

Party to discipline the Young Socialists.

Mr. S. Mani, of Wandsworth Central Young Socialists, occupies an even worse position. He actively participated in the expulsion of Keep Left supporters.

We here publish an extract from the Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Wandsworth Central Labour Party which Mani wholeheartedly supported as Secretary of the Young Socialists.

E.C. MINUTES

'The Secretary reported that there was a deliberate attempt being made to wreck the Young Socialists Branch in Wandsworth Central. On Monday, November 30th, the Branch had been invaded by a gang of youths whose obvious intent was to cause trouble.'

'It became apparent that these youths had been brought along by certain members of the Branch in an attempt to intimidate the Branch Officers and members. The same members who had brought along these people, who had to be removed eventually with police assistance, had for some months been disrupting the normal working of the

Branch. They had continually sought support for the activities of expelled members of the Young Socialists.

'This they did by fostering resolutions calling for the support of the Branch in protest against their expulsion, seeking to enlist the support of the Branch in the unofficial demonstration held prior to the General Election.

'At this demonstration the leaders of the Party and its policies were openly attacked. Further they sought to enlist the aid of the Branch in an industrial dispute. The leaflet calling for this support was issued by an expelled member of the Young Socialists. These activities have meant that almost all the time of the branch has been taken up with them.

'Further, these same mem-

bers did not work in the General Election campaign in this constituency.

'The Secretary named five members who he thought should be expelled from the Party, if the work of the Branch was to regain normality. A meeting of the Young Socialists was planned for Monday, when the Branch Officers would be recommending some action against some of these members.

'He asked that in the event of this meeting being broken up by rowdies, which he anticipated, that he be empowered to call a special Executive Committee to which the five members concerned be invited along with the Officers of the Young Socialist Branch. This was agreed. If such a meeting is called a separate Report will be issued on it.'

Mani proposed and supported the expulsion at a time when the police were called to provoke those who were being expelled and their supporters.

There can be no possible excuse for Mani. Every Young Socialist in the country should immediately ostracise him.

TRAITOR

He is a classical traitor who has striven at all times to adapt himself to the Labour Party machine. He masquerades as a Trotskyist.

The time has come to separate the movement from him for all time and to brand him what he is, a man who politically lined up against his own comrades in the Young Socialists at a time when the witch-hunt had reached its highest peak.

Bankruptcy of YCL leadership exposed at Congress

DIFFERENCES between the role of the Young Socialists and the youth movement of the Communist Party were clearly underlined at the biennial conference of the Young Communist League, held in December.

In contrast to the Young Socialists, who will for the first time this year be holding a conference completely free from the ties of the Labour Party bureaucrats, the YCL members were dogged by a leadership anxious to avoid discussion.

The YS was also straight-jacketed by its officials and bureaucrats but because of the movement's fight for socialist policies, the witch-hunters have been successfully defeated.

No Conference

It is significant that, even though during 1964 there was an election of the Labour government and British capitalism showed itself to be entering a severe financial crisis, the YCL did not change its rule of having a Congress every two years.

How could they possibly vote on a campaign during the elections or discuss specific activities if they had no conference to formulate any policies?

The conference was only held after strong protests had been made to the National Committee who were proposing that it should be postponed.

There was no draft resolution submitted to the branches; members were merely informed that they could send in resolutions and 'these would be taken as either amendments to the poli-

Keep Left Reporter

tical report or as separate resolutions according to their content'.

Obviously the YCL leadership, which has carried out many expulsions of members during the past year, wanted as little discussion as possible.

Although 211 resolutions were submitted from branches—a large number compared with the last Congress which received 125—only three appeared before the actual conference.

Resolutions from three branches and a district committee were sent in protesting at the actions of the NC in not putting out a draft resolution. One branch said that it was interfering with 'the basic democracy of the YCL'.

Those delegates who refused to withdraw their resolutions had to wait until the end of the conference before they could speak and even then they were only given three minutes.

Delegates were not allowed to move amendments to the report given by the YCL national secretary, Barney Davies, people who were not members of the YCL were not allowed to attend the conference (contrary to previous conferences), no fraternal delegates were invited, and the national press was allowed in, thus inhibiting discussion since YCLers were well aware that if they raised criticisms they would be distorted by the capitalist newspapers.

Although there have been resignations from the National Committee of the YCL and the Executive Committee sub-committee disappeared, no adequate explanation was given to the conference.

Editor of 'Challenge', 34-year-

old Alex MacDonald, implied that the paper was insolvent and had borrowed £175 which had not been repaid.

Throughout the conference the leadership of the YCL were obviously covering up for their complete failure to take a leading role in building a youth movement amongst young working-class people.

Apprentices

They were anxious to avoid discussion around the vital problem of the apprentices' strike—led by Communist Party members and supporters in conjunction with the Pabloites into a completely adventurous struggle which could not possibly bring the young workers involved in the stoppage a victory.

Against a background of falsehood and covering up, this YCL Congress achieved nothing in the building of a youth movement.

The opposition of the leadership to all those policies which the Young Socialists stand by so firmly was obvious from start to finish.

Those Young Communists who are intent on fighting for socialism realise that it is the Young Socialists and only the Young Socialists who are putting forward and fighting for socialist policies around those decisions passed at the Brighton conference in 1964.

The leadership of the YCL is politically dead and as has been shown in the struggles of the unemployed and the apprentices is completely unable to lead anything.

Members of the YCL should attend the YS conference in Morecambe on February 27 and 28 and see how this movement is really fighting to put forward socialist policies.

the reasons they gave:

Below we print the various excuses given by the right wing for expelling and witch-hunting Young Socialists up and down the country, whose only crime was that they wanted to build a socialist youth movement.

'... organising an anti-Tory rally ...'

(in a local area of Yorkshire just before the election)

'... for attending the September 27 anti-Tory demonstration ...'

(a demonstration called by the National Committee (Majority) of the YS prior to the election, attended by thousands of youth from all over the country)

'... circularising branches with "Forward With the Young Socialists" ...'

"Forward With the Young Socialists" is the Manifesto which explained the policies of the YS to large numbers of youth who had previously never been in contact with politics)

'... taking part in a lobby of Transport House on June 30 ...'

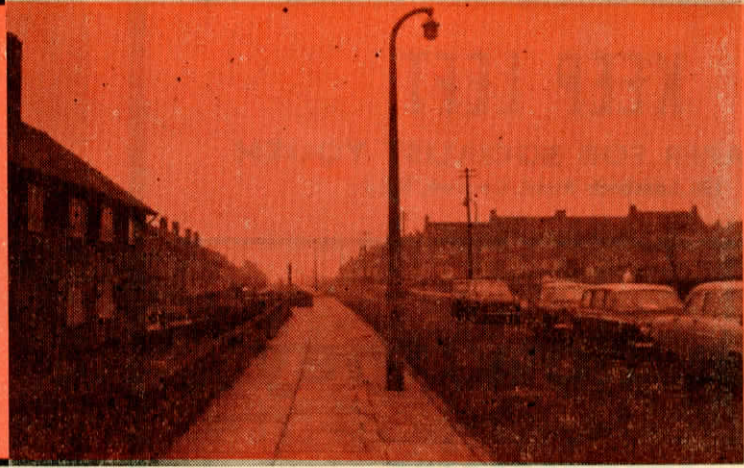
(The lobby was to protest against the expulsion of five Streatham Young Socialists and John Robertson, ex-chairman of the the National Committee of the YS)

'... giving out leaflets calling on Mods and Rockers to join the Young Socialists and for campaigning against the suspension of a YS branch ...'

(The leaflet called on youth to join together to fight for socialism and when the local party suspended the YS branch the YS members continued to hold meetings and campaigns)

Kimberworth Park estate

Kimberworth Park estate, like many other housing estates throughout Britain, holds no interest for the youth. With only a church and a small shopping centre young people are left to stand on the street corners at night. Sheffield Young Socialists, in spite of a fierce witch-hunt by the local Labour Party, have taken up the demands of these youth for higher wages and better facilities on housing estates, and built a successful branch.



KIMBERWORTH Park is a new housing estate in Rotherham, Yorkshire, where most of the population is made up of steel workers.

To look at it is quite pleasant, with its brand new shops, new church and well-kept gardens. It stands on high ground, bordered on one side by open countryside, and on the other by slums—dark cramped 'cottages' in which thousands of Rotherham workers still live.

But in spite of its pleasant appearance, Kimberworth Park has drawbacks. The council were 'close-fisted' when they built it. With no trees planted to break the wind, it is exposed to bitter cold in the winter time.

On the estate there is nothing for the teenagers—about 1,500 of them—to do. There are no clubs or regular dances, not even a coffee or milk bar, only a group of shops where the youth gather round and just sit on the walls and talk.

Sometimes the police clear everyone away. For most of the winter it is too cold for young people to hang around outside so the alternative is to sit indoors and watch the television.

Meetings

Last September two Sheffield Young Socialists went to the estate and started a Young Socialists (Left) branch. They rented a small hall called the Garden Hut, and started regular weekly meetings.

The branch quickly grew, and soon had over 50 members. It was active between meetings as well. A coachload went down to London to the anti-Tory rally on September 27.

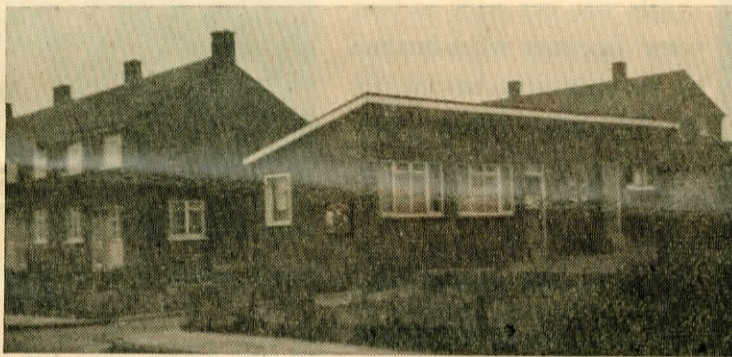
Over 100 Young Socialists 'Manifestos' were sold on the estate. On election night, over 30 members helped to get people out to vote Labour. The local Labour Party welcomed and used this help.

But at the same time, certain members of the Labour Party on the estate disliked the YS because they saw that these young people really wanted something done—facilities on the estate, and real action to be taken against low wages and dead-end jobs.

+ DATELINE + DATELINE + DATELINE + DATELINE + DATELINE +

Young Socialists fight to build a branch

By a Yorkshire correspondent



Regular weekly meetings were held in this 'Garden hut'.

When the youth started to point out that there was nothing for them on the estate it showed how little these local councillors, who are always talking on about 'how much they care', had really done.

A Labour Party member is alleged to have gone to see the caretaker of the Garden Hut, and asked him to stop the YS from using it.

The YS held an open-air meeting in the rain outside the Garden Hut and decided to see one of the councillors and ask him about reports on the YS which had appeared in the local press.

Orderly

Fifty youth walked over to his home, quietly and in an orderly manner and whilst three people knocked at his door, the rest waited outside the garden.

The councillor was asked several questions, and everyone listened to what he had to say. He gave no proper answers to any questions, and the YS members saw that he wasn't going to give any help whatsoever to youth on the estate.

When asked what he thought of the youth on the estate he said: 'A set of more fine and upstanding people I couldn't hope to meet.'

In spite of saying this, he was quoted in the following night's evening paper as saying that crowds of screaming teenagers had created a disturbance outside his house.

Petition

The Young Socialists decided to take a petition round to the adults on the estate, demanding that the YS should be allowed to use the Garden Hut. They got 720 signatures! Even both the councillor's neighbours signed, which they certainly wouldn't have done if the youth had really been screaming and creating a disturbance outside his house.

In the Labour Party meeting the councillor called this 'molesting householders'. He also said that the YS were terrorising his wife and daughter.

How does he explain that his daughter signed the petition too?

As soon as the youth showed that they weren't going to be put off by the attacks from Labour councillors or the press, the police were brought in to intimidate the members on the night of the YS meeting.

On the following night the chairman of the YS was stopped

on the main road of the estate and asked what he was doing. His name and address were taken.

The petition was taken along to a meeting of the committee which controls the Garden Hut. Although it had 720 signatures, the chairman refused to even look at it and later a policeman appeared and asked the Garden Society chairman if he wanted the youth removed.

Growing

In spite of these difficulties the YS was still growing fast. It ran a highly successful dance in the Church Hall. The dance was one of the very few held in that church hall where no damage at all was done.

The YS were going to hold another dance, but after rumours that the police had been called into the previous dance they were later told the hall was booked for a wedding. In fact, on that particular night there did not appear to be anything going on in the hall. It was empty.

After that the YS could not get premises anywhere, but it still continued—holding meetings in a village two miles' walk away. (It just showed how keen the youth are to come to the YS.)

A 'Make the Tories Pay' demonstration was organised in Rotherham town centre of 300 Young Socialists in the area. Over 100 youth from Rotherham carried plenty of banners showing how they were against the treatment they had got from councillors, police and local press.

Dance

Following the demonstration, during a very successful dance, many Rotherham youth came and asked to join the YS. So some members from the Kimberworth Park branch have since started a branch the other side of town, at Far Lane.

After the dance, the South Yorkshire Federation of Young Socialists got a large bill from the Rotherham Corporation, and a letter saying that the floor of the hall had been damaged.

The Federation got an architect to look at the floor and he reported that all that was wrong

was that the floor was due for re-waxing.

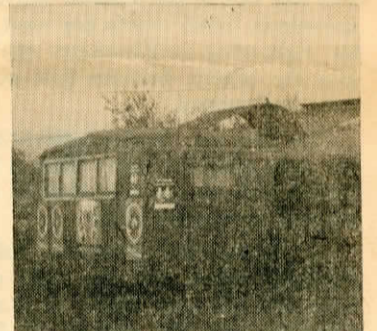
The council banned anyone connected with the Federation from using corporation property for six months.

Had to leave

This included the Kimberworth Park Young Socialists who have had to leave their premises in the village, and will not be able to have the school room they had applied for on the estate.

But the YS members had to get on with the job of fighting to build a youth movement. So they got together in a pub room, a long way from the estate, and planned their part in the YS campaign to raise the old age pension.

Money was raised, and two old age pensioners from the estate went down to Brighton to lobby outside the Labour Party conference.



The caravan where the YS now hold committee meetings.

Members from the Kimberworth Park and Far Lane branches went down to Brighton for the YS demonstration on pensions on Sunday, December 13.

During this campaign, a lot of adult workers began to see through some of the lies put around about the YS.

One old couple, who have a caravan, have allowed the YS to use it for their committee meetings. A Labour Party member immediately went to see them, and tried to stop the YS meeting there. He even said that the YS had been threatening to break windows.

But this couple realised that it was another piece of invention and as they know how the YS can fight for old and young workers, they wanted them back on the estate.

From meetings in the caravan, a real go-ahead social programme has been planned. As well as that the YS is planning to rent permanent premises near the estate.

Kimberworth YS will grow bigger than ever.

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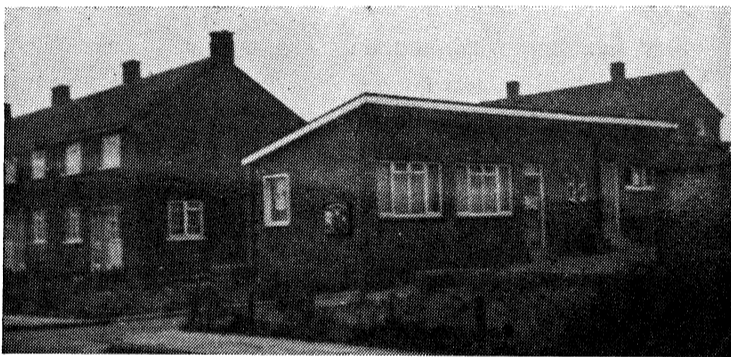
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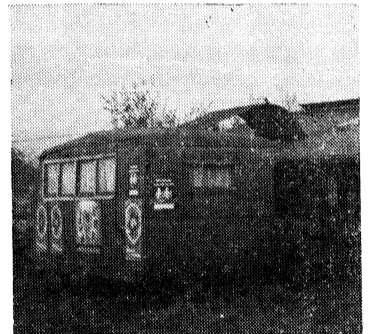
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KEEP LEFT

THE PAPER FOR SOCIALIST YOUTH
156 Lambeth Road, London, S.E.1

See how they wriggle

THE entire Young Socialists movement condemns with contempt the action of S. Mani, a member of the Editorial Board of a paper, called 'The Militant' (for what reason we do not know), who voted with the right wing for the expulsion of Keep Left supporters.

No matter how he and his supporters wriggle, they have really no way out. The plain fact is that he proposed and voted for expulsions together with the right wing.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish the text of the relevant Minute of the Executive Committee of the Wandsworth Central Labour Party which makes it clear that the expulsions were politically directed by the right wing against the left. This same Mani now denounces the young people who came to join the Wandsworth Young Socialists as 'hooligans'. The language is familiar. Practically every issue of the Tory press says the same thing about all young people in struggle.

Middle class snobs, who peddle this line, do nothing more than repeat a vicious slander against young people.

We had the same type of lying accusations emanating from Transport House after the lobby of June 21. The use of the word 'hooligan' is deliberately designed to curry favour with the police and capitalist propaganda. There was no incident of any kind in the Wandsworth affair, until the police, who were called by Mani's right-wing allies, poked their noses in.

There are thousands of political meetings taking place day in and day out in the Labour movement where heated argument and sometimes harsh words are used. The real truth is that Mani and his right-wing collaborators did not want any new members to join the branch because that would have meant that they would have lost control.

So, like the political cowards they are, they, in fact, ran to the right wing for help. This is clearly established by the Minuted record and we are sure that in the next few weeks the facts will become even more clear.

S. Mani, the Pabloite, Editorial Board member of 'The Militant', voted with the right wing for expulsions. That is the issue and the only issue. It is not a question of agreeing or not agreeing with the policies of Keep Left. It is a matter of a common struggle against a common enemy—the right wing. Mani lined up with the right wing in that struggle.

The same issue of 'The Militant' which issues a duplicated statement justifying Mani, also repeats the Stalinist lies over the apprentices' strike. Here again the issue is clear. Is it correct to lead young workers out on strike knowing they are going to be defeated?

That is what the Young Communist League leadership did. On the day before the strike they said it would be defeated but that they were going through with it.

The Pabloites, who are anxious to line up with anyone against Keep Left, gave them complete support. In Wandsworth they join up with the right wing supporting expulsions, and in Manchester they link up with the Stalinists in an adventure.

There is one thing that Keep Left will never do. We will not call upon young workers to strike in a situation where they are going to suffer certain defeat. That is what the Pabloites and Stalinists did, and that is the real reason for all the slander and wriggling.

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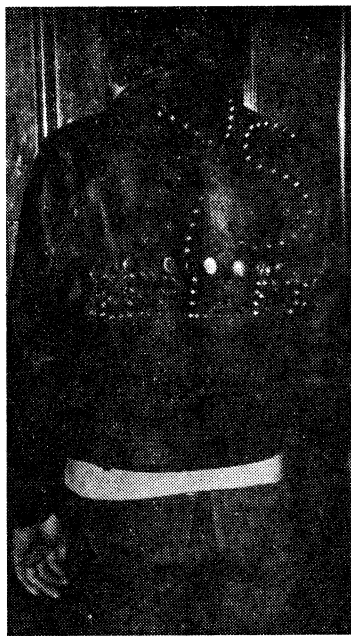
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Enthusiastic young worker wears 'YS' and 'Keep Left' on his jacket.

JANUARY 2. What a great day for Keep Left. As we entered our 14th year of publication, our editor was unanimously and democratically elected at an open annual meeting by over 450 Young Socialists.

This was our reply to four years' incessant witch-hunting by the right-wing bureaucrats of Transport House, who have been ably abetted by their pen-friends in Fleet Street.

It was the first annual meeting able to be held by us since we were proscribed by the Labour Party in 1962.

Aileen Jennings was elected our editor by Mods, Rockers, unemployed and young workers, apprentices and students, representing our vast readership, who filled the Conway Hall.



Dave Ashby: 'We will be there at every encounter.'

An editorial board of London Young Socialists, with national alternates, was also elected by the enthusiastic audience.

The necessity for a paper like Keep Left was crystal clear to those present who donated over £87 in a short collection by Yorkshire YS member, Terry Wade.

This highly successful meeting was the result of our campaign for socialist policies during the 14 years we have appeared, and, more particularly during the last four years, when we have struggled alongside those poli-

Keep Left Annual G 450 readers editorial

by Keep Left

tical youth in the Young Socialists who have fought for policies finally laid down at their conference in Easter 1964.

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the only elected editor and one of the youngest editors in Britain, said that this fight for socialist policies, for the democratic rights of young people and against bans, proscriptions and witch-hunts was the reason for Keep Left's success in building up a circulation of 10,000 copies a month.

'Even though Transport House and the right wing of the Labour Party tried to destroy this paper, they were completely unsuccessful. This meeting today shows that. We have four times as many people here today as we did in 1962,' she said.

She added that Keep Left fully supported the conference called by the National Committee Majority of the Young Socialists to be held in Morecambe on February 27 and 28.



Mike Farley: 'Make Morecambe a real success.'

At that conference, she said: 'We shall have a very important request to make to the Young Socialists. We shall ask you to



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Keep Left Annual General Meeting 450 readers elect editorial board

by Keep Left Reporters



Chairman of the National Committee Majority, Mike Farley.

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old people and young workers—both would be hit hard by the rapidly rising cost of living.

'On the one hand capitalism uses old age pensioners for 50 years to make profit and then throws them on the scrap heap, and on the other it uses youth as cheap labour to do the work of adults.'

Giving Keep Left's support for the policies of the Manchester Direct Action Committee of apprentices, Aileen Jennings said that to win their demands for higher wages and better conditions, apprentices had to get the support of older workers with the help of the Young Socialists.

Discipline

Keep Left, she said, had always opposed the attacks by police, who were used by capitalism to prevent youth from organising

'We shall teach youth not to fall for provocations from the police and the right wing and show them how to become disciplined socialists,' she said.

She stated that S. Mani, secretary of the Wandsworth, London, Young Socialists branch



Linda Davis: Organised youth in 'sweat shop'.

workers write an article for Keep Left, which was later sold at the factory and gained support of young and old workers.

An ex-Young Communist League member said that, although the YCL had passed a resolution supporting YS campaigns in 1962, during 1964 the Communist Party had expelled or suspended 70 of its members for giving this support.

National Committee member for the North-west, Mike Farley, said that YS branches which knew about the Morecambe conference had to involve other branches in outlying areas to make the Morecambe conference a real success.

An apprentice from West London said many young workers



The Cardinals swing into a popular blues number at the dance.

should be ostracised by the YS movement. He made no attempt to stop police and right-wing agents attack youths who had attempted to attend a YS meeting.

Answering the critics of Keep Left and the Young Socialists, she said: 'The labour movement needs a new leadership, one that will fight for socialist policies. We are the future generation and we have every right to fight to make sure that our future is a socialist one.'

'We are on the threshold of a really big socialist youth movement, the biggest this country has ever seen, and I am sure that with Keep Left and the Young Socialists together, we can build it.'

Unite

Future plans for improving Keep Left and pushing up our circulation to 20,000 were warmly welcomed by the 450 present.

Finally, Aileen Jennings said that the paper must unite all sections of young people—Mods, Rockers, apprentices and young workers, students and factory and office workers.

Linda Davis of Leeds told how Keep Left had been used to organise youth in a 'sweat shop'. Young Socialists had helped the

were demanding better wages and conditions. He said that only Keep Left and the Young Socialists were supporting the struggle. He asked all apprentices to join the YS.

Dave Ashby, chairman of the National Committee Majority, said that the fake-left people around 'Tribune' were attempting to create the idea of a non-labour movement youth group.

'But that is wishful thinking,' he said. 'They want us out of the way. But we will be there at every encounter.'

Response

'Tribune' had appealed to Transport House to call an 'official' conference in early February—to counter the Morecambe conference—and for a change in the structure of the YS.

But, Ashby said, he had had a tremendous response from branches all over the country for delegates' and visitors' cards to the Morecambe conference; despite the closures, witch-hunts, expulsions and proscriptions.

Both the right wing and those people around 'Tribune' knew that Keep Left and its supporters in the Young Socialists had taken the initiative in the struggle for socialist policies against all



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4 lobby of Parliament, on the question of immediately raising and backdating the old age pensions.

Aileen Jennings said there was a parallel between the plight of



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Terry Wade: Tremendous response to his financial appeal.

attacks and, therefore, the article in 'Tribune' pleading with Transport House to act was an open attack on the Morecambe conference.

'Tribune's plea said Ashby revealed its supporters' hopelessness and bankruptcy.

But Young Socialists had learned a lesson from these people that the right wing in the Labour Party cannot be defeated merely by appeals and argument, but by building a really strong movement.

And, Ashby stated: 'Already we are 1,000 times stronger than Foot, Mikardo and company.'

After this stirring, enthusiastic meeting, the youth moved on to our successful dance at the Hammersmith Town Hall, where they were joined by several hundred others.

Thank you

On behalf of the Keep Left editorial board, I should like to thank all those many YS branches and Federations for resolutions and messages of support for the Annual Meeting and the paper in 1965.

Aileen Jennings

Editor, KEEP LEFT



presented a Beatle LP record to 14-year-old Joanne Sea, one of the prize-winners at the Keep Left dance.



One of the many dancing styles seen at the Hammersmith Town Hall.

Show spot ● by Bob Dickens**Ruthless reality of 1914 in****'King and Country'**

Directed by Joseph Losey for B.H.E. Productions

BEFORE 1914 when the most destructive war in history broke out, the British working class had lived through over 30 years of peace. Consequently, instead of seeing it as a bosses' war in which the workers could only be cannon fodder, some of them were swept away by extremely patriotic phrases such as **King and Country**, and, rather than carry on with their badly paid monotonous jobs, they volunteered to fight.

This film is about such a soldier, Private Hamp (Tom Courtenay) who was a cobbler by trade and volunteered because his mother and wife dared him.

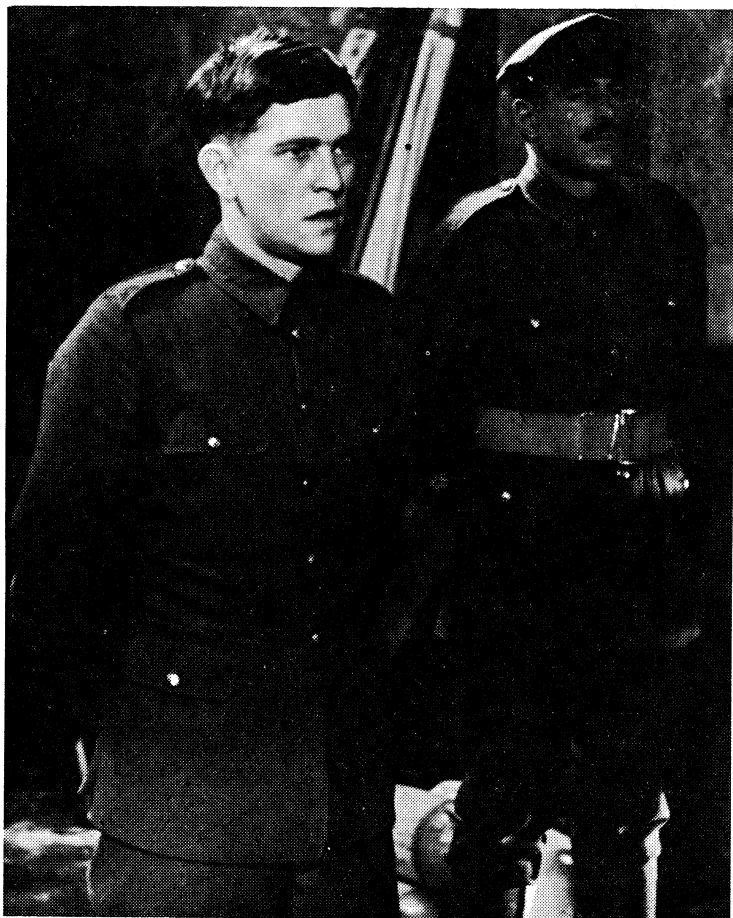
Survive

It was completely different to what he had expected though. Of the original platoon he is sent out with, he is the only one to survive.

Having struggled in the mud-filled trenches for three years and seen his mates blasted to pieces one by one, he reaches breaking point and wanders away, dazed and unthinking, just so that he can get away from the guns.

In fact, he is no coward. He just cannot carry on fighting in such an utterly stupid and senseless war.

Seized by the military police, he is dragged back to the front and charge with desertion, and eventually executed because High Command wants yet another stupid and senseless assault on



Private Hamp, closely guarded during his court martial, is played by Tom Courtenay

the enemy positions. Hamp must be shot to restore morale.

The film's major weakness is that it tries to soften the class distinctions and so take away some of the real meaning of it.

Whilst Hamp's mates are

pictured as a cynical, happy-go-lucky flock of sheep, most of the officers seem to be falling over backwards to help the condemned man.

In fact, only the attitude of the Medical Officer, although an

exception in the film, was true to real life.

But generally the film is correct in that it shows the ruthless reality of capitalist wars. For big and small wars are 'normal' under capitalism as the bosses are continually fighting each other—or those whom they exploit—in order to protect their property.

To get the workers to fight for them, they either romanticise war and picture it as a glorified game of cowboys and Indians, or use brute force.

'Action'

The army today is plastering posters up everywhere about 'Today's Men of Action' as they need workers to go out and fight to defend big business's interests in the Yemen (oil), Malaysia (tin and rubber) or perhaps even in Vietnam (minerals).

In the 1914-18 war the capitalist bosses came unstuck as they deceived and forced so many workers into fighting for them that there was a mass revolt which culminated in the successful Russian Revolution in 1917.

But to reach that point, millions were shot and blasted to death all over Europe. Now is the time to learn from this and fight against the re-introduction of conscription, to build the Young Socialists to win socialism and thus abolish all wars so that no more workers die at the front, or before a firing squad like Private Hamp, for this 'King and Country' nonsense.

EARLS COURT

motor - cycle

show

By our

Motor Cycle Correspondent

THE 1964 Motor Cycle Show which opened at Earls Court on November 14 showed the intense competition which exists in the business.

Private firms from all over the world displayed their latest and best machines.

Honda, for example, set an ordinary 250 c.c. machine beside a 250 c.c. racing machine and claimed that exactly the same workmanship is put into both.

This is not strictly true. In the time that it takes a Honda works' team mechanic to fit sparking plugs to a four-cylinder racing machine, half a dozen standard 250 c.c. machines can be completely assembled on the production line.

TYPICAL

This is typical of the sales propaganda used by the manufacturers. Honda never mention that, whereas the tyres on their racing machines are the best in the world, the tyres on their ordinary machines are a cheaper Japanese make.

Immense profits are made by companies who specialise in motor cycle parts such as carburettors, lights, mudguards, petrol tanks and tyres. Typical of these is Champion, who make sparking plugs. It costs approximately 6d. to manufacture a plug which sells at 5s.

The competition in the motor cycle business has meant a large degree of standardisation. When one sees a bike at a big show and it states a name like Greaves, Cotton, or Excelsior, it does not state that it has a Villiers engine, Amal Carburettors, Champion plug, Lucas lights and Dunlop or Avon tyres.

BEST BIKES

In my opinion the best bikes at Earls Court were the Velo-cette, 'Venom Thruxton' and the Honda 'Sports 90'. The 'Thruxton' is a 500 c.c. single cylinder bike capable of 125 miles per hour. It is a development from the Venom 12 24-hour world record holder, and the Venom 'Clubman Veeline'.

The Honda C90 has proved to be an outstanding machine. On a production model, leading sprint rider Allan Robinson has established four records in the 100 c.c. class.

They are the standing and flying-start kilos at 49.739 and 60.695 miles per hour and the standing and flying-start quarters at 40.435 and 61.366 miles per hour.

bill reynolds' sporting corner Round-up of 1964

THE most outstanding feature of most sporting events in 1964 was the fact that sport is run, not for the enjoyment of young and adult workers and their families, but for profit.

In every major town and city, there are very few facilities, such as those at Crystal Palace (which are not, as yet, used for the benefit of the general public), where people can, for their enjoyment or for the purpose of serious training, watch and take part in all forms of sporting activities.

By fighting through their socialist policies against the bosses and their way of life for a better standard of living, the Young Socialists are also fighting for better sporting facilities.

The most prominent sporting event of the year was, of course, the Olympic Games in Tokyo. From the preparation to the actual events, the Games headlined the sports pages of the world's press.

Politics entered these games a number of times. South Africa was barred because of its apartheid policy. Indonesia was barred for holding their own Asian Games and inviting a Chinese Communist team.

Britain performed better than expected at the Games, winning four gold medals—and this despite a slanging match between the England team captain and the team manager a few days before departing for Tokyo.

Rugby Union, the exclusive sport of the public schools, had its troubles. New laws, which did nothing to brighten the game, were introduced, and, in Wales, the brightest prospect the Welsh Rugby Union had had for some time, turned professional and joined a Rugby League club.

The young lad in question was being hailed as a future star. He was made vice-captain of the Welsh national side, but one thing was forgotten: he couldn't live on Rugby Union alone.

He had not been able to find a job for months, so, despairingly, he joined a Rugby League club and received a £5,000 signing-on fee. So much for money in sport.

But money didn't solve the

football crisis. Falling gates, rumours of doping and rigging of matches, and now the latest outburst of 'dirty' play and arguing with the referee have dogged the game. Consequently the Football League has got tough with the players.

The recent decision not to 'open' Wimbledon means that tennis is to be deprived of seeing the greatest players in the world in action here. We will still only be able to watch 'amateurs' at Wimbledon and have to go to Wembley, which is an indoor tournament, to see the professionals.

In cycling we seem to have one of the greatest riders in the world today. Tommy Simpson's aim is to win the Tour de France.

But, to do this he needs a British team, because at present he is forced to ride with a Continental team and one of their riders is picked to win.

But to get a British team in the Tour, he needs money, lots of it, and no one is willing to sponsor such a British team.

Horse racing survives solely on the money collected from the Horseracing Betting Levy Board. Even with this it is still a few

million pounds short to do all it wants to do to improve facilities at racecourses.

It seems a lot of off-course bookmakers—the real profiteers of this popular working-class past-time—are not paying their dues.

After the fiasco of the heavy-weight championship of the world boxing seems to be in a worse state than it has ever been. A Senate investigation into this fight revealed a lot, but did nothing.

In Britain, promoters were claiming that a big London promoter was attempting to put all the others out of business and have a dictatorship. This was denied, of course, but the battle continues into 1965.

Boxing is really big money business, making the case for banning professional boxing, which is no good for the fee fighters at all, but makes the promoters and backers rich men.

On the cricket scene, Australia took the 'ashes' in a dull series, England seemed to be at rock bottom. But since then they have boosted their reputation in South Africa—where they can only play against white men, of course.

Pensioner

THE delegates to the Brighton Labour Party Conference were lobbied by us and members of the Young Socialists for an immediate increase in old age pensions before winter sets in.

We thank the Young Socialists for the interest they have shown in the plight of the old aged workers and their wives. We do not think that pensioners should be made to pay for the economic problems.

The Labour Party must stick by its election pledge that the old people would be looked after as soon as it won the General Election.

The Young Socialists are the only people putting up a real fight on this issue. It disturbs us to hear that many Young Socialists have been attacked by Labour Party officials for work they have done in the interests of the workers—demanding that socialist policies should be implemented by Labour against big business and the banks.

We sincerely thank those Young Socialists who organised this visit to Brighton and looked after us.

O. F. Johnson, Mrs. F. Hudson, J. W. Malhan, Margaret Johnson
(Four old age pensioners)

Young Socialists (1)

AS you already know Farnworth Young Socialists have been disbanded by the right-wing Labour Party officials.

Well, the Young Socialists refuse to be disbanded; we are still meeting in a small pub room which we do not have to pay for. At these meetings we get about 25 young people.

We have shown the Labour Party what we can do and shown them we still have the youth of Farnworth with us.

We held a Beat Contest in Walkden Town Hall and six local groups entered; there were five judges who were members of the Farnworth Young Socialists.

There were over 250 people in the dance hall; we collected £40 on the door and gave £30 in prizes and made £10 for the YS.
A Farnworth Young Socialist.

Young Socialists (2)

HERE in Horbury we have just started a Young Socialists branch. We have been kicked out of two rooms. At one room we were kicked out for breaking 4 salt pots, value 2s.

At the other room the caretaker kicked us out as he didn't want any youth in this room, where there is a youth club being run every week.

We have been moved out by the police, but in spite of opposition we had 36 people at the last meeting and we are determined to get more at the next one. **3 members of Horbury YS.**

Farm workers

YOUNG workers on farms are exploited. They work long hours for little wages doing a man's job such as shifting sacks of potatoes which weigh one hundredweight.

They get up at 3 o'clock in the morning to get to work by 4 o'clock when they have to go to market.

These young workers finish at

seven, eight or nine o'clock at night three times a week and for this they get five to six pounds in wages.

Most farmworkers cannot join unions on the small farms and on some large farms if they do, they very often get the sack.

Some are laid off in winter and re-employed in the summer.

M.H.

South London Young Socialists.

Walk-out

I WORK at a branch of a well known chemist in Leeds. A few weeks ago one morning the temperature in the shop was 45 degrees which is 20 degrees below the minimum.

All the girls on the ground floor started grumbling. We couldn't work, our hands were blue with cold, and this had been going on for weeks.

One of the girls saw the manager and he asked her to give him an hour to put it right. But we had already given him a fortnight and weren't prepared to give him another minute.

One girl on a counter said she was going and we all agreed—so 15 girls walked out of the shop. We were followed by all the girls from the chemist, household and surgical departments.

In the afternoon the manager had small electric fires on every counter for the people who



stayed at work! And the following day there was plenty of heat.

We learnt from this that if you want to improve conditions at work you have to act together and stick together against the boss.
J.W. and D.G.

Shop workers

IT is not only factory workers who have bad working conditions; but also shop assistants.

We are thought to stand behind a counter all day doing no hard work at all; but I can assure people that the majority of shop assistants work much harder than this. We are on our feet all day long; five and a half days a week apart from the 20-minute tea break each day.

The last shop I worked in I was doing the work of a qualified chemist for the meagre wage of £3 8s. 8d. a week, working from 9 o'clock until 8 o'clock two days a week and being paid no overtime at all.

My refusal to work overtime once in two years resulted in my being sacked. I think this only goes to show that kindness to the big bosses does not pay.

P.B., East Leeds YS.

Peterlee

IN a recent 'Times' supplement on the North-East region, Peterlee, one of the five new towns in this area was cited as an example of 'the changing face of the North East'.

In the case of just one couple who have been living in Peterlee for nearly a year I was told the following story of a case which

is certainly not untypical.

The lad, a 19-year-old bus conductor said that he came to Peterlee with his wife and child because he was told that there was no waiting list for houses and that jobs were available in the area.

At that time he was out of work. When he came he was offered a job in a furniture shop as a salesman at £4 a week which he refused as he was already drawing £6 a week dole and £1 a week national assistance.

He also wrote for a job on the local trading estate but got no reply. There were more people looking for jobs than jobs available.

When he moved into a house (14 years old), after waiting two months, he found the place in a very bad state of repair.

The whole house was in a dirty state. Although he pressed the corporation continually, the repairs were not completed until four weeks after moving in.

The young people of Peterlee, especially those who are married, are feeling the hardship which is sharpening as the economic crisis worsens. **J.W.**

Pills

IN the spring of this year young people on my estate starting taking pills They

started off by being given away. Lots of my mates started taking them, just a few over the week-ends. They carried on taking them to recapture the feeling that they first had. But they never quite felt the same, so they took more.

This caused pains in the stomach, so even more were needed to get rid of the pains. The price went up to 6d. then to 1s., and many more were taking between 20 to 40 a week at this stage.

In less than six months several blokes were on the needle, cocaine. They were quickly turning into bums, and soon no one would want to know them.

These are the ones who used to say that you could not get addicted to pills! You could give them up any time.

We used to have a lot of trouble with the police, but they don't come round much now. They have no need to, because the pills are doing their job.

Only the Young Socialists are properly fighting against this racket. We have managed to stop several of our own members taking pills, and by building up a big branch that has lots of social activities we will be able to pull many more away from the pills and recruit them to fight against the dead-end life that drove them to pills in the first place.

London YS member.

Banks

I LEFT school at 16 years with ten good passes at G.C.E. 'O' level. I got a job in a large bank in Sunderland as a clerk and worked there for about

2 years.

At 18 years I was getting £400 per year before deductions. I couldn't live on this wage. I was married and paying £3 a week rent.

In April 1963 we put in for a rise of 25 per cent. We got a 2 per cent increase. But then the banks don't recognise the union which is useless anyway.

The main problem was clothing. You had to be perfectly dressed of course but carrying cash bags and leaning on desks makes your clothes scruffy in no time.

Only once when I was put on permanent cash carrying for about a month did they pay me a £10 allowance for clothes.

The wages of bank clerks are atrocious. At 24 years the wage is only about £11 per week. It is no wonder then there is a large turnover.

I hadn't been married long when they told me that my wife was not a fit person for an employee to marry. This was the last straw as far as I was concerned. I was fed up with being pushed around and with the low wage.

I resigned and was put on one month's suspension. (All bank clerks whether they resign of their own free will or are forced to resign (sacked) are automatically put on a month's

suspension. This means that you get no pay, no dole and can apply for no job for one month after resignation.)

As I was short of money I demanded a month's wages. I hounded the manager continually and finally with the help of the National Assistance Board, they paid up.

I was out of a job for 9 months. Every time I applied for a job, the bank refused me a reference saying it was not their policy to give references.

It was tough living off the dole. A baby came and it wasn't long before the three of us were suffering from lack of food. My wife and I lost weight in the period from getting married to finding my new job—on the buses.

With the rising cost of living things will get much worse. Young workers and old age pensioners can and must unite now to demand the nationalization of the basic industries, including the banks.

Make the Tories and the banks pay!

M. Smith, Peterlee.

Football

I WAS very surprised to read in Bill Reynolds' Sporting Corner that the players are the main culprits for the present state of English football.

Bill seems obsessed by the need to take the side of the spectators against the players.

He makes a real mouthful out of his explanation as to why missiles are thrown at players, and why we should see nothing wrong with this.

Surely the cause of this

violent behaviour on the field is the fact that big football is Big Business? Bill should ask himself first of all what the position of the professional is in Britain.

He is a skilled entertainer who provides huge profits for the owners of the big clubs such as Spurs and Manchester United and even bigger rake-offs for the pools companies, who give nothing back to either the game or the players who make their takings possible.

All the huge wealth that is created by the game comes from the skill and dedication and courage of the player on the field, who, if he is lucky, and avoids serious injury can hope to last in the top class for about eight to ten years.

These men give everything they have to the game and not only provide big money for the shareholders, but give thousands of fans something to look forward to through a dreary week of work.

Therefore we must take the side of the players (who after all have a trade union which won its right to get as much out of the boss as possible) against both the managers and directors, who drive them into dirty play through their drive for bigger rake-offs.

Bill Reynolds' hostility to the big-time professional footballer contrasts with the support always given by Keep Left to workers whatever their trade, who are exploited by the profit system.

In closing I would like to ask him one question. How would he expect a navy to react if a passer-by, dissatisfied with the navy's shovelling style, hurled a handy clod of earth at the offending workman?

R.B., Edmonton Young Socialists
(Left).

Bowling alley

WE speak for hundreds of lads in Sunderland when we protest at the conditions imposed by the local bowling alley.

We are refused admission if we wear high-heeled or Cuban heel boots, jeans or leather jackets, long hair or velvet collars. We are told we have to wear a 'decent suit'—no 'Teddy Boy' suits.

After we have paid for and played a game, we are not allowed to walk around. If we sit down, without a drink or anything to eat we are moved out. Prices in the cafe are high. Recently, a two shilling admission charge was put on— which is deducted from the charge for a game.

All that the company, which owns the bowling alley, sees in us is money in the till. The dress they have forbidden is generally worn by lads with less money. We are against them pressing us down to wear what they like.

They don't want anybody to stay there because it is warm and cosy, they want them to stay there because they have money. We aren't human beings to them, we are just bodies attached to money.

O.W.H., P.J.I., R.M., C.T., K.H., A.H., R.W., H.L., K.J.

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The Young Socialists are the only people putting up a real fight on this issue. It disturbs us to hear that many Young Socialists have been attacked by Labour Party officials for work they have done in the interests of the workers—demanding that socialist policies should be implemented by Labour against big business and the banks.

We sincerely thank those Young Socialists who organised this visit to Brighton and looked after us.

O. F. Johnson, Mrs. F. Hudson, J. W. Malhan, Margaret Johnson
(Four old age pensioners)

Young Socialists (1)

AS you already know Farnworth Young Socialists have been disbanded by the right-wing Labour Party officials.

Well, the Young Socialists refuse to be disbanded; we are still meeting in a small pub room which we do not have to pay for. At these meetings we get about 25 young people.

We have shown the Labour Party what we can do and shown them we still have the youth of Farnworth with us.

We held a Beat Contest in Walkden Town Hall and six local groups entered; there were five judges who were members of the Farnworth Young Socialists.

There were over 250 people in the dance hall; we collected £40 on the door and gave £30 in prizes and made £10 for the YS

A Farnworth Young Socialist.

Young Socialists (2)

HERE in Horbury we have just started a Young Socialists branch. We have been kicked out of two rooms. At one room we were kicked out for breaking 4 salt pots, value 2s.

At the other room the caretaker kicked us out as he didn't want any youth in this room, where there is a youth club being run every week.

We have been moved out by the police, but in spite of opposition we had 36 people at the last meeting and we are determined to get more at the next one. **3 members of Horbury YS.**

Farm workers

YOUNG workers on farms are exploited. They work long hours for little wages doing a man's job such as shifting sacks of potatoes which weigh one hundredweight.

They get up at 3 o'clock in the morning to get to work by 4 o'clock when they have to go to market.

These young workers finish at

seven, eight or nine o'clock at night three times a week and for this they get five to six pounds in wages.

Most farmworkers cannot join unions on the small farms and on some large farms if they do, they very often get the sack.

Some are laid off in winter and re-employed in the summer.

M.H.

South London Young Socialists.

Walk-out

I WORK at a branch of a well known chemist in Leeds. A few weeks ago one morning the temperature in the shop was 45 degrees which is 20 degrees below the minimum.

All the girls on the ground floor started grumbling. We couldn't work, our hands were blue with cold, and this had been going on for weeks.

One of the girls saw the manager and he asked her to give him an hour to put it right. But we had already given him a fortnight and weren't prepared to give him another minute.

One girl on a counter said she was going and we all agreed—so 15 girls walked out of the shop. We were followed by all the girls from the chemist, household and surgical departments.

In the afternoon the manager had small electric fires on every counter for the people who



stayed at work! And the following day there was plenty of heat.

We learnt from this that if you want to improve conditions at work you have to act together and stick together against the boss.

J.W. and D.G.

Shop workers

IT is not only factory workers who have bad working conditions; but also shop assistants.

We are thought to stand behind a counter all day doing no hard work at all; but I can assure people that the majority of shop assistants work much harder than this. We are on our feet all day long; five and a half days a week apart from the 20-minute tea break each day.

The last shop I worked in I was doing the work of a qualified chemist for the meagre wage of £3 8s. 8d. a week, working from 9 o'clock until 8 o'clock two days a week and being paid no overtime at all.

My refusal to work overtime once in two years resulted in my being sacked. I think this only goes to show that kindness to the big bosses does not pay.

P.B., East Leeds YS.

Peterlee

IN a recent 'Times' supplement on the North-East region, Peterlee, one of the five new towns in this area was cited as an example of 'the changing face of the North East'.

In the case of just one couple who have been living in Peterlee for nearly a year I was told the following story of a case which

is certainly not untypical.

The lad, a 19-year-old bus conductor said that he came to Peterlee with his wife and child because he was told that there was no waiting list for houses and that jobs were available in the area.

At that time he was out of work. When he came he was offered a job in a furniture shop as a salesman at £4 a week which he refused as he was already drawing £6 a week dole and £1 a week national assistance.

He also wrote for a job on the local trading estate but got no reply. There were more people looking for jobs than jobs available.

When he moved into a house (14 years old), after waiting two months, he found the place in a very bad state of repair.

The whole house was in a dirty state. Although he pressed the corporation continually, the repairs were not completed until four weeks after moving in.

The young people of Peterlee, especially those who are married, are feeling the hardship which is sharpening as the economic crisis worsens. **J.W.**

Pills

IN the spring of this year young people on my estate starting taking pills They

started off by being given away. Lots of my mates started taking them, just a few over the week-ends. They carried on taking them to recapture the feeling that they first had. But they never quite felt the same, so they took more.

This caused pains in the stomach, so even more were needed to get rid of the pains. The price went up to 6d. then to 1s., and many more were taking between 20 to 40 a week at this stage.

In less than six months several blokes were on the needle, cocaine. They were quickly turning into bums, and soon no one would want to know them.

These are the ones who used to say that you could not get addicted to pills! You could give them up any time.

We used to have a lot of trouble with the police, but they don't come round much now. They have no need to, because the pills are doing their job.

Only the Young Socialists are properly fighting against this racket. We have managed to stop several of our own members taking pills, and by building up a big branch that has lots of social activities we will be able to pull many more away from the pills and recruit them to fight against the dead-end life that drove them to pills in the first place.

London YS member.

Banks

I LEFT school at 16 years with ten good passes at G.C.E. 'O' level. I got a job in a large bank in Sunderland as a clerk and worked there for about

2 years.

At 18 years I was getting £400 per year before deductions. I couldn't live on this wage. I was married and paying £3 a week rent.

In April 1963 we put in for a rise of 25 per cent. We got a 2 per cent increase. But then the banks don't recognise the union which is useless anyway.

The main problem was clothing. You had to be perfectly dressed of course but carrying cash bags and leaning on desks makes your clothes scruffy in no time.

Only once when I was put on permanent cash carrying for about a month did they pay me a £10 allowance for clothes.

The wages of bank clerks are atrocious. At 24 years the wage is only about £11 per week. It is no wonder then there is a large turnover.

I hadn't been married long when they told me that my wife was not a fit person for an employee to marry. This was the last straw as far as I was concerned. I was fed up with being pushed around and with the low wage.

I resigned and was put on one month's suspension. (All bank clerks whether they resign of their own free will or are forced to resign (sacked) are automatically put on a month's

suspension. This means that you get no pay, no dole and can apply for no job for one month after resignation.)

As I was short of money I demanded a month's wages. I hounded the manager continually and finally with the help of the National Assistance Board, they paid up.

I was out of a job for 9 months. Every time I applied for a job, the bank refused me a reference saying it was not their policy to give references.

It was tough living off the dole. A baby came and it wasn't long before the three of us were suffering from lack of food. My wife and I lost weight in the period from getting married to finding my new job—on the buses.

With the rising cost of living things will get much worse. Young workers and old age pensioners can and must unite now to demand the nationalization of the basic industries, including the banks.

Make the Tories and the banks pay!

M. Smith, Peterlee.

Football

I WAS very surprised to read in Bill Reynolds' Sporting Corner that the players are the main culprits for the present state of English football.

Bill seems obsessed by the need to take the side of the spectators against the players.

He makes a real mouthful out of his explanation as to why missiles are thrown at players, and why we should see nothing wrong with this.

Surely the cause of this

violent behaviour on the field is the fact that big football is Big Business? Bill should ask himself first of all what the position of the professional is in Britain.

He is a skilled entertainer who provides huge profits for the owners of the big clubs such as Spurs and Manchester United and even bigger rake-offs for the pools companies, who give nothing back to either the game or the players who make their takings possible.

All the huge wealth that is created by the game comes from the skill and dedication and courage of the player on the field, who, if he is lucky, and avoids serious injury can hope to last in the top class for about eight to ten years.

These men give everything they have to the game and not only provide big money for the shareholders, but give thousands of fans something to look forward to through a dreary week of work.

Therefore we must take the side of the players (who after all have a trade union which won its right to get as much out of the boss as possible) against both the managers and directors, who drive them into dirty play through their drive for bigger rake-offs.

Bill Reynolds' hostility to the big-time professional footballer contrasts with the support always given by Keep Left to workers whatever their trade, who are exploited by the profit system.

In closing I would like to ask him one question. How would he expect a navy to react if a passer-by, dissatisfied with the navy's shovelling style, hurled a handy clod of earth at the offending workman?

R.B., Edmonton Young Socialists
(Left).

Bowling alley

WE speak for hundreds of lads in Sunderland when we protest at the conditions imposed by the local bowling alley.

We are refused admission if we wear high-heeled or Cuban heel boots, jeans or leather jackets, long hair or velvet collars. We are told we have to wear a 'decent suit'—no 'Teddy Boy' suits.

After we have paid for and played a game, we are not allowed to walk around. If we sit down, without a drink or anything to eat we are moved out. Prices in the cafe are high. Recently, a two shilling admission charge was put on—which is deducted from the charge for a game.

All that the company, which owns the bowling alley, sees in us is money in the till. The dress they have forbidden is generally worn by lads with less money. We are against them pressing us down to wear what they like.

They don't want anybody to stay there because it is warm and cosy, they want them to stay there because they have money. We aren't human beings to them, we are just bodies attached to money.

O.W.H., P.J.I., R.M., C.T., K.H., A.H., R.W., H.L., K.J.

Coventry's 'left' Labour Party expels YS federation secretary

Keep Left Reporter

SECRETARY of the Coventry Federation of Young Socialists, 23-year-old Maureen Healey, and the local Labour Party's youth officer, Mrs. Mair Davies, were expelled from the Party, early this month, following a three-week investigation by officials into YS activities.

Coventry Labour Party members have had a reputation of being 'on the left', and prided themselves on their refusal to accept Gaitskill as leader of the party; they refused to invite him to the city at one time.

But the Coventry 'lefts' have fallen for the Wilson swindle and are now the obedient servants of Transport House and its anti-working-class policies.

The 'lefts' have put up the rents of Coventry's council houses, and insulted the local bus workers by breaking a promise to negotiate for a £3 a week rise.

Press attack

After the General Election, the local weekly 'Coventry Express', owned by Woodrow Wyatt, a Labour MP said to eat off silver plates, printed an attack on the youth of Bell Green. This is a typical housing estate, with one cafe, a small youth club and two police stations. Even the cafe is run by an ex-cop.

The article, headed 'The Vandals', slandered the youth of the estate for damage to a new precinct of shops, and demanded police action against them.

The Young Socialists branch on the estate took the leadership in fighting against the attack.

Members held a protest meeting in the city centre, and then marched off to the offices of the 'Coventry Express'. There they forced the paper to print a sympathetic account of the views of the youth about the conditions on the estate and the

violence of the police against them.

On the same page, the city party secretary, R. Hughes, was quoted as saying that these activities of the YS would have to be 'investigated'.

The YS picketed the meeting next night and an attempted attack fizzled out.

In desperation, the Labour Party's youth policeman for the area, Chamberlain, was brought in. This experienced witch-hunter attended the meeting the following night, where the executive committee of the city Labour Party decided, against the 'constitution' of the party, to 'suspend' the YS.

The party has turned to the police in its frantic attempts to silence the YS and its anti-capitalist policies. At a previous meeting, YS delegates were manhandled and police called to throw them out.

At the meeting where the decision to 'suspend' the YS was to be discussed by the full city party, the right wing put their own police at the door. YS delegates, and an Electrical Trades Union delegate who has always supported the YS, were refused admittance. 'Your



Bell Green Young Socialists demonstrate outside the 'Coventry Express' buildings.

names are not on the list,' was the pathetic excuse.

Unperturbed, the YS who were picketing the meeting with banners and leaflets, shouted out their policies to the meeting above: 'Pay the pensioners now,' 'Nationalize the industries'.

Hysterical headline

After this fight by the working-class youth in the YS for their organisation and their policies, the 'Coventry Express' came out with a near-hysterical banner headline, which went right across the front page, and round onto the back as well, against the YS.

'It is quite clear,' they said, 'that the YS has been infiltrated by spurious groups of toughs' who disrupted activities.

The 'Express' does not tell

the workers of Coventry who will read this rubbish what YS branch consists of 'toughs', what disruption the YS has done, what evidence there is for these slanders, for there is none.

The YS is not affected by these attacks. A general meeting of the Coventry Federation declared its full support for the Federation activities and policies.

The youth of Coventry took part in the pensions lobby of the Labour Party conference: they successfully raised money for this: they supported the Keep Left meeting, and have plans laid for putting the YS at the head of the working-class in Coventry.

This is the way they will defy the attacks of right-wing Labour, the press and the police, the common enemies of young and old workers alike.

**Acton YS
vote
to
continue**

A DAY before the Acton, London, Young Socialists branch was closed and three members, Ray O'Brien, David Kettle and Peter Thanish, expelled, members met and decided not to suspend their activities.

Before the General Election, when meetings of 40 or so youth were held, two Labour Party agents threatened that they could be fined £500 each for continuing meetings. At the meeting a motion to suspend the branch was defeated—only one person voted for it.

The Young Socialists issued a statement to the local press in defence of their actions and condemned the failure of the Labour government to carry out any of its election promises.

The great hero of the 'unilateral left' Ben Sawbridge, slandered the expelled members as being 'enemies of the Labour Party advocating class war and revolution'.

But who are the real enemies of the Labour Party? The answer is the employers, police and the Tories. It is people like Sawbridge and the right wing who collaborate with these same enemies, because they have no policies to deal with the capitalist ruling class.

DESTRUCTION

These people who refuse to fight and force the banks to give the old age pensioners their increase and send Buccaneer aircraft to Verwoerd's South African government, are destroying themselves and the labour movement by backing Wilson's betrayal.

Young Socialist leaflets exposing the police-bosses-Tory united front against the youth by forcing them to accept call-up, wage freeze and bad working conditions were passed by right-wing agents on to the police.

One Saturday, the YS gathered to start leafletting when two plain clothes policemen accused them of loitering and demanded their names and addresses.

The only people who have supported the YS against expulsions and suspensions have been the Amalgamated Engineering Union and Draughtsmen and Allied Technicians' Association. This is because the YS is fighting for socialist policies while Gunter and Wilson attempt to force a 'declaration of intent' to introduce a wage freeze on the unions.

These actions can be defeated by joining the Young Socialists in a fight for the socialist policies of the National Committee Majority and Keep Left and for a successful struggle by apprentices.

Apprentice News

Package deal a sell-out for engineering workers

ON Tuesday, December 22, 1964, a 'package deal', carrying out the wages policy of the Wilson government, was signed by the engineering unions and employers.

This deal which grants wage increases and contains a clause to do away with 'outdated practices' in the engineering industry will affect the wages and conditions of 3,000,000 engineering workers and apprentices over the three years.

The increases amount to 36s. a week for skilled men, 33s. for semi-skilled men, 30s. for labourers, 42s. for women workers and an increase for apprentices of 22½ per cent to 30 per cent at 15, and 62½ per cent to 80 per cent at 20.

This agreement is a very real victory for the employers and a sell-out by the Labour government and trade union leaders.

The increases will be paid over three years in six half-yearly instalments in exchange for what the employers term 'increased

efficiency' and improving methods of work. This can only mean a preparation for speed-up in the engineering industry.

By January 1968 basic wages will be £12 17s. 8d. for skilled men, £10 17s. 4d. for labourers and £9 18s. 6d. for women workers.

It is clear that the wages and conditions of engineering workers and apprentices are going to worsen considerably over the next three years if there is not a struggle to defeat the employers and change the policies of the Labour Party and the trade unions.

Since the election of the Labour government, prices have increased at a great rate cutting sharply into the value of wages and pensions.

Prices show every sign of continuing to increase. Six-monthly

5s. increases will bring no relief: £12 17s. 8d., £10 17s. 4d. and £9 18s. 6d. will have much less value in 1968 than the present basic wages have today.

Thirty per cent at 15 and 80 per cent at 20 for apprentices in 1968 will mean nothing more than a wage cut and not an increase.

We are campaigning for 60 per cent at 15 and 90 per cent at 20 NOW, not in 1968.

This agreement means that the apprentices must continue to organise and prepare for strike action.

The gap in the leadership that the labour leaders have left must be filled by the apprentices and young workers.

They must fight for the support of all adult workers and to encourage them to fight as well.

They should join the struggle of the Young Socialists for socialist policies of nationalization of industry, and a socialist leadership in the labour movement.