

Make May Day

a day for socialist policies

Keep

LEFT

Official paper of the Young Socialists

Vol. 14, No. 4 4d.



Over 300 Young Socialists, fulfilling the promise made at their conference, supported the demonstration by Indian workers on March 28 (reported on page 8). Young Socialists will again show their solidarity with the international working class on May Day in massive demonstrations up and down the country.



The new National Committee for 1965. Left to right, back row: Paddy O'Regan (London), Joe Kearney (Southern Region), Dave Ashby (North Yorkshire), Jim Beachill (South Yorkshire), Jackie Vance (Northern Ireland). Front row: Sheila Torrance (Middlesex and Essex), Jack Williamson (North-east), Barry Evans (East Midlands), Mike Farley (North-west), Maureen Healy (West Midlands), Bob Hamilton (Scotland), Tony Gard (Wales and West). The following officers were elected at the first meeting: Mike Farley (chairman), Dave Ashby (secretary), Sheila Torrance (treasurer).

NC makes plans for 1965

THE Morecambe Conference gave a tremendous lead to workers in Britain by calling for an emergency Labour Party Conference to change the present policies and leadership of the Labour Party.

We were not a moment too soon in making this call.

The Labour Government's plan for a policy of wage restraint, for increasing taxation in the Budget, refusing to backdate the pension increases and its shameful support for the American war in Vietnam are provoking widespread opposition from millions of workers in Britain.

We must now spell out in detail how the Young Socialists can be built into a mass movement in this situation.

This was the main question that faced the first meeting of the Young Socialists National Committee held in Birmingham on Sunday, March 14.

The systematic recruitment of large numbers of young people into the local branches must begin immediately. Canvasses for new

members and recruitment campaigns should take place in every area at least once a week. At the same time we must constantly go into new areas to establish branches of the Young Socialists.

To assist with this work the National Committee is bringing out a special recruitment leaflet which will be printed in two colours. We are also going to produce a short pamphlet containing a brief history of the Young Socialists together with the Constitution adopted at the Morecambe Conference. This will be invaluable as an introduction to the Young Socialists for new members.

For this work to be successful we must have functioning committees in each Young Socialist branch, to plan regular meetings and activities. We shall be providing each branch secretary with a membership book to be used in conjunction with membership cards which are now ready.

Reports of branch discussions should be sent in to the Editor of Keep Left for publication. They should also be sent to the National Committee in the form of resolutions. It will greatly assist the

National Committee in giving real leadership if it is constantly confronted with new ideas and suggestions from the branches.

Just as no member should be denied the opportunity of receiving basic training in running branch activities, so no member should be denied the chance to enlarge his understanding of socialism by reading the books of the great socialists of the past.

The works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky should always be ready at hand in the branches. In connection with this the National Committee will be organising a number of area and national schools which will play a very important part in building the YS.

In the meantime we must continue to step up the campaigns to win support for our policies by taking up all the problems that face both young and older workers. Rents, wages, jobs, old age pensions, the policies of the Labour government: all these affect British workers in a thousand and one ways.

The National Committee is

Continued page 4; col. 1 →

By The Editor

MAY DAY this year will see some big changes.

In the past the Labour Party leadership and their area officials have made every attempt to keep May Day from expressing its real purpose—the solidarity of all workers throughout the world.

The enthusiastic Young Socialist contingents were, very often, the only sections of the march to shout socialist slogans in spite of attempts by local Labour Party organisers to push them to the end of the procession and shut them up altogether.

Mobilise

This year, however, following on from the resounding success of the Morecambe Conference, Young Socialist branches from all over the country are aiming to mobilise hundreds of young people in each area to join the march.

Plans are going ahead now to decorate lorries, paint slogans and make banners for what will be the most colourful and expressive section of any May Day demonstration.

Workers, old and young, certainly have plenty to demonstrate about on May Day.

Labour's failures

From the failure to increase the pensions before Christmas 1964 and backdate them to November 1 to Callaghan's ignominious Budget to the backing of the war in Vietnam the Labour government has shown that far from acting in the interests of workers who voted it into power, it stands with the employers and the ruling class.

In the Midlands engineering

workers wage war on the package deal signed by the leadership of the Amalgamated Engineering Union with the employers, busmen express their absolute disgust with the way in which negotiations for their pay rise have just dragged on and on, and young apprentices, amongst the most exploited section of the working class in this country declare that if their demands for higher wages, better working conditions and trade union negotiating rights are not met they will go on strike.

YS lead

Workers throughout the country have shown that they will not allow this present Labour government, with its Tory policies, to ride rough-shod over their living standards.

In this struggle against the leadership of the Labour Party and its disastrous policies, it has been the Young Socialists who have given a lead.

March with us

Because labour youth fought for four years inside the Labour Party for socialist policies and finally defeated Harold Wilson and his crew, it will be the Young Socialists who will again give a lead to young workers, students, apprentices and school-leavers on May Day 1965.

Keep Left calls on all Young Socialist branches, whether they went to Morecambe or not, to join behind the National Committee banner on May Day and march for socialist policies.

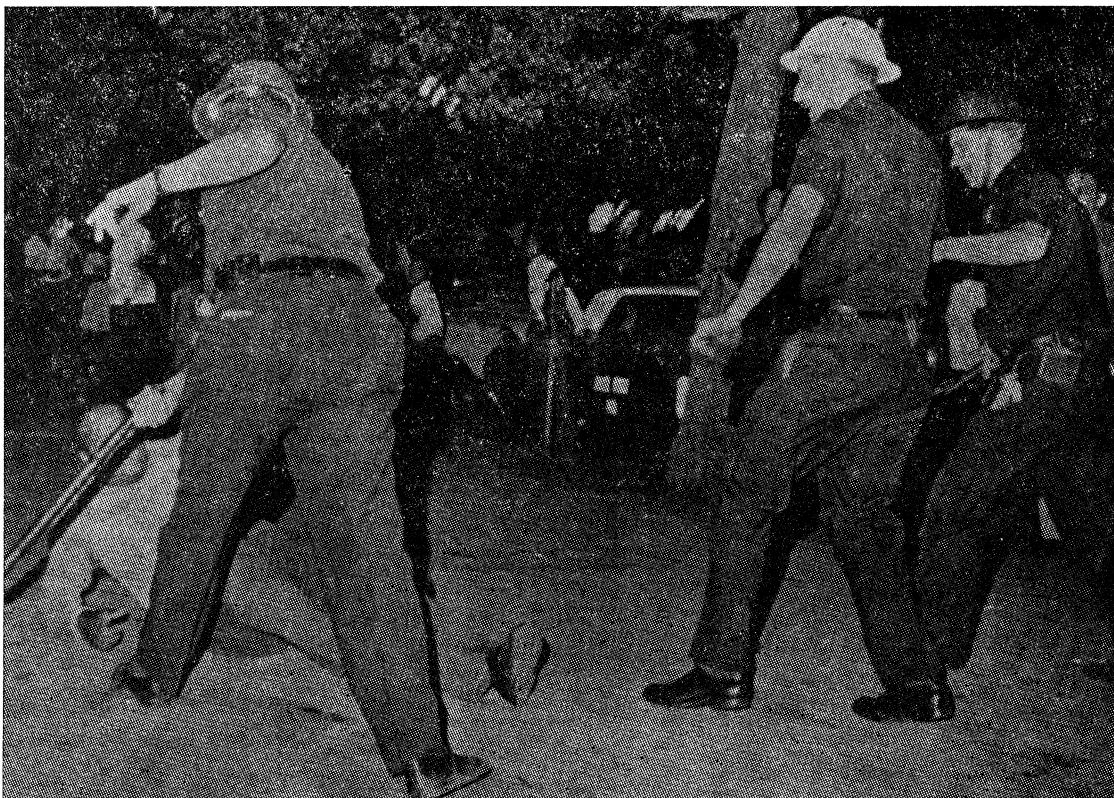
We urge all our readers and their friends—Come out on May Day. Make it a day for socialist policies.

A CALL TO AMERICAN YOUTH

Answer the Bible-thumpers

and millionaire president

Build a socialist movement now



The growing class struggle was reflected in attacks by the police on militant Negroes in the New York ghettos

A 38-year-old woman Civil Rights worker was murdered after the Selma-Montgomery voting rights march. Only three weeks before, Clergyman James Reeb was bludgeoned to death in Selma.

These are just the latest events in a long series. They prove clearly that the non-violent campaigns of god-botherers like Martin Luther King, who mislead Negro struggles, lay all coloured workers open to attack and prevent them from fighting back against the bosses.

On March 9, King showed his colours when he led marchers back to a church in Selma after meeting a hundred-strong cordon of police on the outskirts. Along with other middle-class leaders like Wilkins and Farmer, King urges Negroes to support Johnson and the Democratic Party.

Betrayal

This is a policy of betrayal. Both major parties in America are capitalist to the core. When the American employers are forced to launch brutal attacks on workers and peasants in Vietnam and the Congo to protect shrinking profits, they must also attack the working class at home.

Johnson offers a pretence of Civil Rights to hold back the Negro workers from revolutionary action. Negroes and Puerto Ricans are the worse off sections of workers and it suits the bosses to weaken the working class by splitting them off from the white workers.

Malcolm X saw that King was holding back the Negro workers and that they must use organised violence to secure equality. Yet his nationalism misled thousands of workers. Black nationalism divides workers and serves the bosses.

In all the growing class struggles, in the United States, the so-called Socialist Workers Party has retreated rapidly. They are nowhere to be seen in the class struggle of Rochester and Harlem.

The paper, 'The Militant', gave uncritical support to Malcolm X and was content to let this man struggle for them.

Clifton de Berry, their presidential candidate had this to say about black nationalism a year ago: 'It should also be recognised that black nationalism is

definitely a progressive thing.'

The murder of Malcolm X, probably by Black Muslims, shows how bankrupt this policy is.

Negotiations

In the February 22 issue of 'The Militant' there was a report of a meeting addressed by Malcolm X shortly before his death, where he told of negotiations between the Black Muslims (of which he was a member) and the Ku Klux Klan in December 1960 at which, he claimed, it was agreed to give the Muslims a large piece of land to be used as an example of their nationalist ideology of a separate nation.

Malcolm claimed there was collaboration also between the

Muslims and Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi movement. 'Muhammad Speaks', the newspaper of the Muslims did, in fact, refrain from attacking either the KKK or the Nazis.

Malcolm had broken from the Muslims, but not from the idea of black nationalism. He was beginning to show up the do-gooding clerics like King by his demands for more militant action.

The Socialist Workers Party never, at any time, criticised Malcolm for his 'nationalist ideals'—they merely reported his speeches in their paper and further reflected their bankrupt policies.

That is why the Socialist

Workers Party vote fell at the presidential election. Black nationalist organisations help nobody but the employers by dividing workers against one another.

One organisation which has begun to offer real socialist solutions for the oppressed Negro workers is the Progressive Labour Movement. Last summer the Progressive Labour Movement, led by Bill Epton, waged a determined struggle against police violence and slum housing through demonstrations and rent strikes.

Only this organisation refused to be cowed by the ban on demonstrations and meetings issued by Mayor Wagner of New York last autumn.

Epton was witch-hunted by the authorities and the 'do-good' leaders and put in jail. But the Progressive Labour Movement continued to fight.

Clear

Its members are sympathetic towards the Chinese Communists. If the hesitation of the Chinese leaders about supporting the people of Vietnam is anything to go by, support for a 'Chinese line' is likely to lead to retreat in the United States.

What is needed has become clear.

The masses of Negro youth, many of them unemployed, who have already shown their willingness to fight in many struggles, must unite with young white workers around working class campaigns such as rent strikes.

Only by building a socialist movement, going deep into the trade unions and all sections of the working class, can the bosses' attempt to increase exploitation and divide workers on racialist lines be defeated.

This is the answer to the prayers of the Bible-thumpers and the crocodile tears of the millionaire president.

VIETNAM Left phoneyes refuse to fight

By a member of the Keep Left Editorial Board

GAS warfare has now been added to the long list of brutalities committed by the American invaders in their attempt to crush the Vietnamese revolution, while General Maxwell Taylor, U.S. ambassador in Saigon boasts that there will be 'no limit to the military action' he will use.

Once again it is clear that capitalism will not hesitate to spread death and destruction to maintain its profits.

The weak cries of 'horror' from Labour MPs of the fake left variety against the use of gas will fool no one. These phoneyes have remained silent while French and later U.S. forces tortured, killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of men, women and children for 20 long years.

They refused to fight against Wilson's backing for the air raids on North Vietnam, and they did not object to the use of huge

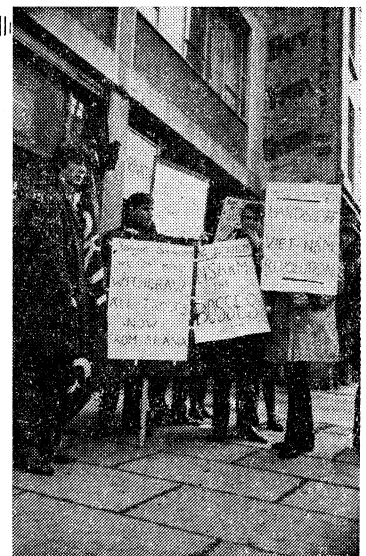
British forces against the peoples of Aden and Malaysia.

They cover up for Wilson and the bosses' interests abroad, just as they cover up for the sell-out of the old age pensioners and the attacks on the workers' living standards at home.

They are the same 'lefts' who have joined the right-wing in its vicious attacks on the Young Socialist movement.

The fake lefts in Parliament know that great unrest exists among the workers and peasants of South-east Asia. They fear that the Vietnamese revolution will boost this unrest into a powerful movement that will break the hold of the world monopolies on this area. It is this fear which is behind their hypocritical calls for a 'peaceful settlement' in Vietnam.

The Morecambe conference called for the immediate withdrawal of all imperialist forces from South-east Asia and an end to the bombing of North Viet-



Belfast Young Socialists demonstrate outside American embassy against the war in South Vietnam.

nam, and pledged full support to the Vietnamese revolution. This call must be taken up inside trade union branches and working class organisations, as the only real way to assist the Vietnamese people in their heroic struggle.

Apprentice Special

National conference call to action:

- Organise a massive lobby of engineering conference on April 27
- All out on May 10 strike for increased wages and trade union rights

Keep Left Reporter

THROUGHOUT the engineering industry there is a tremendous hostility towards the infamous three-year package deal on the part of the workers.

Last month saw two big strikes staged by engineers in the Midlands car industry, who are determined to fight against any attack on their living standards by the leadership of the trade unions and the employers.

The Labour government has fallen in quite readily with the plans for a virtual wage freeze, speed-up and mobility of labour.

However, like the Young Socialists, who fought the right-wing policies of the Labour leadership in the past four years, apprentices in the engineering industry are taking a firm lead in the struggle against the package deal and the trade union leadership.

Preparation

Direct Action Committees all over the country were launched after a conference in Manchester last year in October in preparation for a national strike.

On March 13 this year at a conference attended by over 150 delegates from factories throughout Britain, apprentices voted to fight for their demands of wage increases, trade union rights and four weeks' annual holiday.

Their resolution was based on the following very important points:

1. Apprentices would lobby the annual youth conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union which met that week.
2. A mass national lobby of the AEU National Committee which is to meet from April 27 to May 7 in Blackpool to win support for their demands from the adult workers, who would by then be drawn into big struggles against the employers and the package deal.

3. A national strike on May 10 of apprentices if no progress had been made on their demands by that date.

The eyes of every engineering worker will be on the struggles of these apprentices in the near future.

They will be watching to see how these young workers fight against the right-wing trade union leadership and the employers. From these struggles many workers will learn some very important lessons.

However, there is one quarter which certainly cannot be expected to give a firm leadership, and that is the Communist Party.

Despicable

The whole role of the Communist Party in the apprentices' struggle has been despicable. Last year its members in the apprentice movement walked out of the first conference of the Direct Action Committee and led young workers into an adventurous strike on November 2, without preparation and with no prospect of victory.

In some areas they have spread lies and distortions about the Direct Action Committees.

They walked out again at the conference on March 13 before a vote was taken on the question of the date of the strike which had originally been planned for March 29.

These same people could not put up a fight at the Junior

Workers' Conference against Sir William Carron, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who has threatened expulsion from the union for anyone taking 'unofficial' strike action.

Mike Hughes, chairman of the National Committee of the Apprentices' Direct Action Committee, made a statement at the March 13 conference, calling for a postponement of the strike so that proper preparations could be made.

Walked out

The Stalinists attempted to split the conference and, finding that they were not successful, walked out before a vote was taken on the proposal.

Clearly such people have no intention whatsoever of taking part in a serious struggle for the apprentices' demands and giving a lead to older workers.

The main task of all young workers in the next few weeks is the fight to make the lobby of the National Committee of the AEU at Blackpool a success.

Those members of the Communist Party who do want to join with the fight of the Direct Action Committee should break with the cowardly actions of their party leadership.

Only by exposing the role of the right-wing leadership of the trade unions, and all those who refuse to fight them, can young engineers organise and defeat the employers.

Harland & Wolff apprentices win support for claim

BECAUSE apprentice draughtsmen in the Belfast shipbuilding firm of Harland and Wolff involved themselves in the Young Socialist campaign to have the old age pensions increase backdated, an official claim for better pay and conditions has been lodged with the firm by the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association.

The claim is for a 35-hour week;

four weeks' annual paid holiday;

60 per cent of the skilled rate at 15 rising to 90 per cent at 20;

a permanent committee of apprentices in training able to report direct to a person appointed by the management;

four year apprenticeships for boys who have been at school one full year over school-leaving age;

tool money similar to that paid in the shipyards.

SUSPENDED

After coming out on a half-day token strike in support of a lobby of the Northern Ireland Parliament called by the Young Socialists, they were suspended by the firm until they apologised and promised not to do it again.

The apprentices immediately demanded the union defend them. As a result an official claim was lodged for the demands by the divisional organiser.

However, in talks with the apprentices' representatives the management are reported to have made it clear that they had no intention of treating the claim seriously.

So, when all the draughtsmen came out on strike on March 26 over the alleged victimisation of the Joint Office Committee secretary, the apprentices also came out on strike in support and in protest against the management's attitude to their own demands.

This account of what can happen when apprentices really fight contrasts with the actions of the Apprentices Committee in the nearby aircraft factory of Short Brothers and Harland.

CONTRAST

Following their attempted disruption of the March 13 conference of apprentices in Manchester when they walked out before a vote was taken, they are continuing their attempts to stop the building of a movement which can win the apprentices' demands.

Led by members of the Socialist Youth League, the youth section of the Northern Ireland Communist Party, they have issued a leaflet about the conference and are advising apprentices in the factory against the May 10 strike call.

In order to justify their action these self-styled militants and socialists claim that they were 'promised' that 600 delegates would be at the March 13 conference and of the 150 who were there, 70 per cent were not apprentices' representatives.

NOT PREPARED

It is plain that the people behind the leaflet, like the leadership of the Young Communist League in England, are not prepared to engage in a real fight to build and organise. Their role at the moment is to attempt to confuse and split the apprentices because they are not in the leadership.

Young Edinburgh engineers form DAC

ALMOST 70 apprentices and other young workers attended a meeting on Wednesday, March 24 in Leith (Edinburgh) to form a local Direct Action Committee.

The main engineering factories, Robb shipyard, Meyiers, Ferranti, Slimons, Bertrams and some small factories were all represented.

A report was given of the national apprentices conference held in Manchester on March

13 and the meeting decided to organise a strong delegation to lobby the Amalgamated Engineering Union National Committee in Blackpool on April 27.

A Direct Action Committee was elected and it was decided to begin a campaign amongst older workers for support for apprentices' demands.

The meeting discussed con-

tacting apprentices in Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen to arrange a Scottish regional conference of all young workers.

In most of the large engineering works in the Edinburgh area, young workers have formed action committees, but in many smaller factories most youth are not even in unions.

The committee agreed to discuss at its next meeting ways and means of assisting the youth in these factories to join the unions and form action committees.

An inclusion on the committee of young workers who are not apprentices is important since their struggle against the employers is not a separate issue and by linking apprentice and non-apprentice youth together the direct action committees can be greatly strengthened in their campaigns.

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Official paper of the
Young Socialists

156 Lambeth Road, London SE1

Callaghan's budget

Robbing the poor
to pay the
rich

CALLAGHAN'S Budget was an act of contemptuous desertion of Labour supporters. In five years it will take only £20 million from the Tory capitalists and their monopolies.

During the same period it will take hundreds of millions of pounds away from the working class, the people who vote Labour. The cost of living will go up immediately, and with that every wage packet in the country will be reduced.

The Budget will in particular hit the wages of young people everywhere.

In return for their kindness towards capitalism, Labour will inevitably lose more and more support amongst its supporters. The upshot of this will be to pave the way for a Tory government.

The Budget demonstrates once again the impossibility of reforming capitalism. It strikes right at the heart of right-wing Labour policy. They would like us to believe that gradually they can alter capitalism, but the plain truth is that they carry out its policies in relation to the interests of the capitalist class.

The experience of Wilson's government proves once more the absolute bankruptcy of reformism. The right-wing leaders of the Labour Party are, in fact, a gang of traitors who hang on to the offices provided for them by the ruling class in order to confuse and betray those who voted them into Parliament.

No socialist government can tackle the crisis of capitalism today if it is not prepared to face up to the question of ownership. How can socialist planning take place without socialist ownership?

So long as the Tory capitalists hang on to their ownership of the means of production, then they reserve for themselves the right to do what they will with what is produced.

If taxes are increased, they simply pass the increase on to the consumer. Inevitably this hits the poorer sections of the working class and in particular the old age pensioners.

The Morecambe Conference of the Young Socialists demanded nationalization of the basic industries, but this demand by itself is not enough. No party is going to nationalize the industries in Britain today without a struggle with the capitalist class. The right-wing Labour leadership is not prepared for such a struggle and does not want it.

Young Socialists must be on guard against the tendency to allow their conference decisions to remain paper decisions. We cannot take the property away from the present monopoly owners without a struggle.

Conference resolutions are all very good but they do not change a single bit the relationship of forces unless those who voted for them are prepared to fight for them.

The decisions of Morecambe will remain on paper unless a fight is now embarked on to implement them. The main question is—who is to lead the fight?

The National Committee was elected to lead the fight, but it won't be able to do any leading unless it has the support of Young Socialist branches all over the country and unless these branches are fighting to build the Young Socialists into a mass youth organisation capable of defeating the capitalist class by winning the support of the adult Labour movement.

In short, the Budget proposals are a challenge to the Morecambe Conference decisions.

We appeal to all Young Socialists—do not sit back in your armchairs and make formal protests. Go into action immediately. Recruit thousands of young people into the branches. Make sure that every Young Socialist is an active member of his or her trade union.

Fight now to take the policies of the Morecambe Conference into the labour movement and we shall without fail defeat the right wing and show up Callaghan and Wilson for what they are, agents of the Tory Party within the Labour Party.

● NC PLANS—from page 1

firmly convinced that we must prepare immediately for an international conference of socialist youth to take place early in 1966.

Throughout the world, in Spain, in the Congo, in Vietnam, in America, in the Soviet Union, it is the youth who are in the front line of the struggle against imperialist wars and aggression, against the effects of automation under capitalism and in the fight for socialist policies.

An international conference called by Young Socialists in

Britain will be a pole of attraction for socialist youth throughout the world.

Organisation, recruitment, training and education must be the slogans of the day. Collect in the weekly dues, compile the membership lists, establish permanent premises in every area and fight for socialist policies in every section of the workers' movement. This is the task of the hour.

This is the surest way to prepare for an international conference of socialist youth in the early part of 1966.

A FEW weeks ago the Milner Holland Report on Housing was published. The gentlemen of the Tory Press gave it very full coverage as though it were a new and startling discovery made by the Milner Holland Committee that many hundreds of thousands of families live in the most appalling slums.

These revelations came as no surprise to Young Socialists or to workers in London who live in these slums which, although they were condemned years ago as 'unfit for human habitation', still continue to be lived in.

In Wornington Road, North Kensington, Mrs. Turnbull told us: 'The conditions are the worst we have ever lived in. There is no bath. The toilet is three flights down and shared by other families. Soon the rent will be going up from £2 to £4 10s.'

Tenants threatened

An old age pensioner next door was waiting eagerly for the 12s. 6d. pension increase so that she could pay the rent, which has just gone up . . . by 12s. 6d.

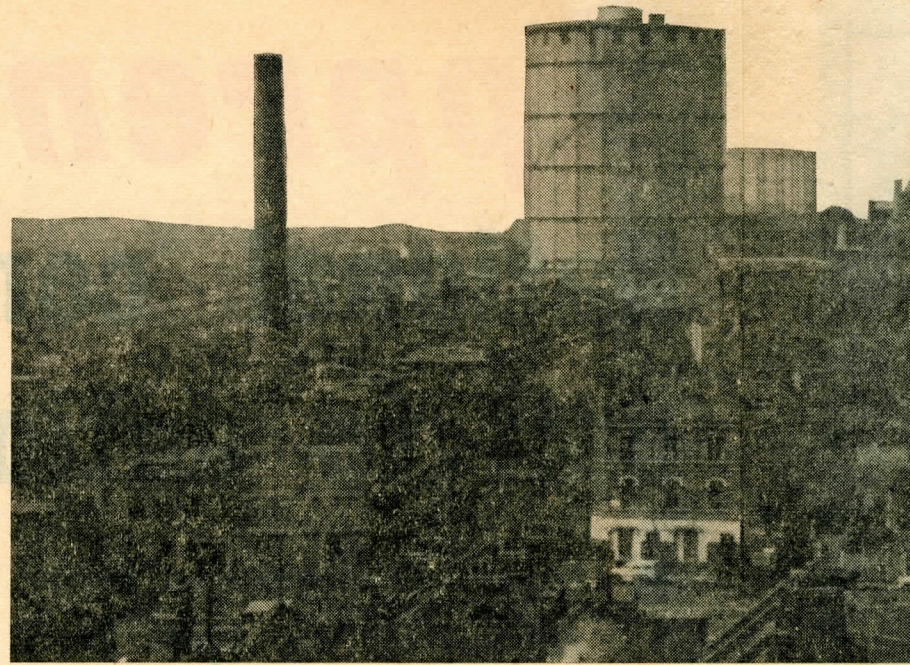
This whole area is a paradise for landlords and property speculators. The Milner Holland report pin-pointed a number of cases where landlords have threatened tenants and set out deliberately to make their lives so unpleasant that they have been forced to leave their homes, in order that the landlord could raise the rent.

But the report only shows these as isolated cases of one or two 'bad' landlords.

It is the capitalist system which creates bad landlords, the system which allows private profit to be made from the need of people to have somewhere to live.

Bath connected?

At a Young Socialist member's home in St. Ervans Road, the landlord was ordered by the council to install a bath. He fulfilled the regulations by partitioning off part of the landing and putting in a bath—but he did



DATELINE KE

In the face of attack from fascists

Y S fights

in 'landlo

paradis

by Keep Left rep

not have it connected to the water supply or even fix any taps!

In this part of West London there are also many prison-like blocks of tenements, built over a hundred years ago. They have never been modernised.

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Tenants threatened

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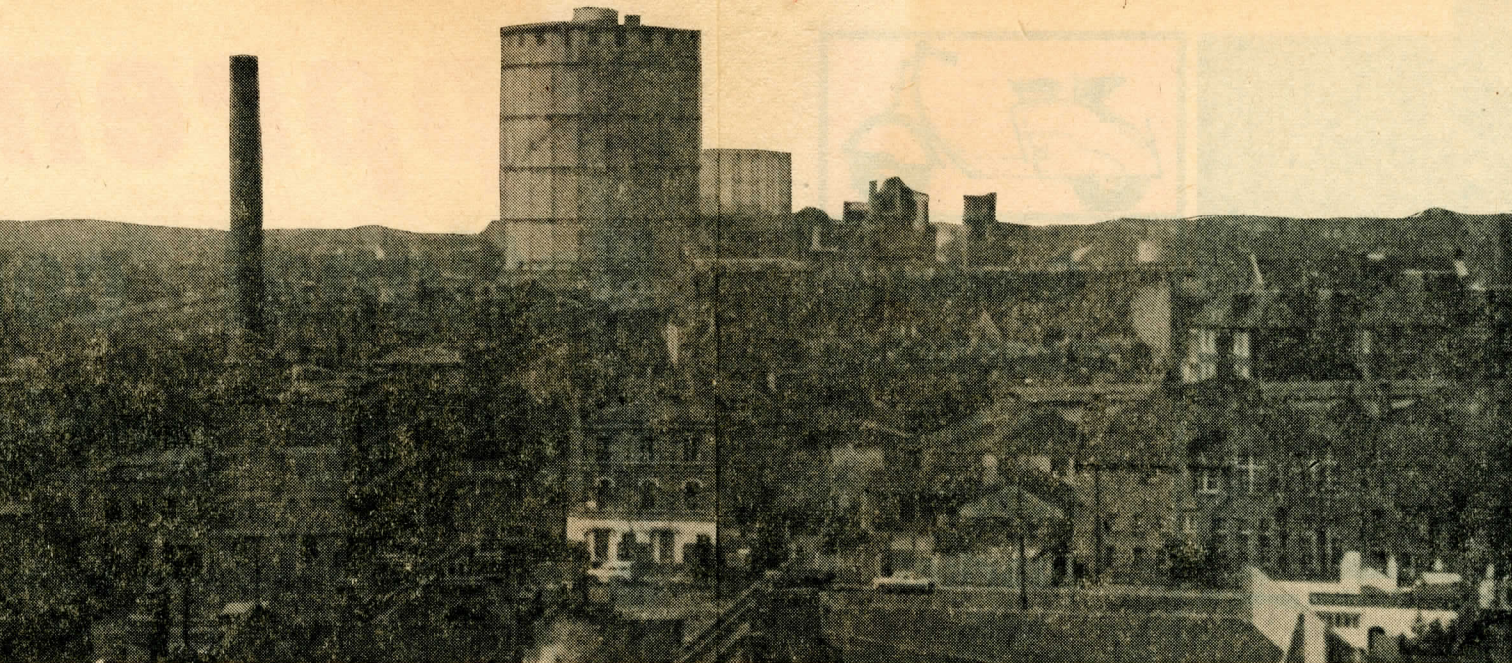
This whole area is a paradise for landlords and property speculators. The Milner Holland report pin-pointed a number of cases where landlords have threatened tenants and set out deliberately to make their lives so unpleasant that they have been forced to leave their homes, in order that the landlord could raise the rent.

But the report only shows these as isolated cases of one or two 'bad' landlords.

It is the capitalist system which creates bad landlords, the system which allows private profit to be made from the need of people to have somewhere to live.

Bath connected?

At a Young Socialist member's home in St. Ervans Road, the landlord was ordered by the council to install a bath. He fulfilled the regulations by partitioning off part of the landing and putting in a bath—but he did



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Round the regions

Following on from the Morecambe Conference at the end of February, Young Socialist branches throughout the country have organised successful Regional Conferences which formed the basis for serious plans to build the youth movement around campaigns and activities in the next few months. Regional Committees were elected which will discuss these future plans.

LONDON

Chaired by Chris Goldie, the London Regional Conference discussed resolutions on housing, racialism and fascism, the apprentices' fight for higher wages, the war in Vietnam and the struggle of the American Negro workers, following a report given by National Committee member

Paddy O'Regan.

Over 60 delegates listened as plans were outlined to conduct campaigns against racialism and fascism in West London and against bad housing in London.

Delegates were urged to report back to their branches about May Day. 'We want to make the

Young Socialists' contingent the biggest on the march,' said Goldie.

Following a report from a YS member in Shoreditch, the conference agreed that all London branches should help with the setting up of an East London Federation.

SCOTLAND

Sixty delegates and visitors to the Scottish Regional Conference held in Glasgow, unanimously voted to make May Day a big day for the Young Socialists.

They agreed to campaign throughout the branches in Scotland to organise a large YS contingent.

After a report given by Bob Hamilton, National Committee member for the area, the conference also supported resolutions

calling on young workers to join trade unions and unite their struggle with adult workers; expressing support for the apprentices' fight for better wages and conditions and a national lobby of the AEU National Committee in April; opposing racialism and the Immigration Bill; opposing the support given by the Labour government to American imperialist aggression in Vietnam; and a resolution opposing rent

increases and calling for the nationalization of the building industry, banks and finance companies, in order to solve the housing problem.

A letter of support from two old age pensioners who attended the Morecambe conference from Glasgow, was read out and Mr. Oliver from the Pensioners' Association said that the demand should be for an increase of the pension to a minimum of £5.

S. YORKSHIRE

Strong links were forged at this conference between the Young Socialists and adult workers.

Among those present were Frank McCabe, a miner from Brodsworth colliery, near Doncaster, old age pensioner, Mrs. Coleman (both of whom addressed the conference), Councillor Billy Mead, a steel worker and prominent 'left' on Hillsborough Labour Party GMC (Sheffield),

and Jack Watson, president of the Blacksmith's and Forgemens No. 4 Sheffield branch.

There were also delegates from the Denaby National Union of Public Employees branch and the Chesterfield No. 7 branch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and an observer from the Dronfield branch of NUPE.

South Yorkshire's National Committee member, Jim Beachill, also stressed the necessity of a

new leadership from the YS. He discussed the role of 'lefts' in Parliament and described the reception given to the YS by Harold Walker, MP for Doncaster, who refused to give any pledge on the fight to increase old age pensions.

MCCabe told the conference that in the YS he had seen something 'that can start the fire again in the miners and in the working class'.

SOUTHERN

This conference marked the beginning of a new development in the region. There was a break from the method of small talking shops and the discussion on recruitment and the building of new branches covered the organisation of social activities in line with the political campaigns.

National Committee member for the region, Joe Kearney, said the YS was now called on to build a leadership to lead the struggle of all workers against

the ruling class and the betrayals of the trade union and Labour leaders, at a time when the ruling class was attempting to solve its economic crisis by attacking working-class organisation.

He stressed the importance of good organisation of branch meetings and activities with attention to the detailed work of membership lists, collection of dues, etc.—this had to be seen as a political task.

The conference supported the

call to set up a Direct Action Committee in the area. Two apprentices spoke of the need to link up this struggle with the opposition to the 'package deal'.

The YS is to lobby the Croydon council to protest against its decision to end the supply of free sweets and tobacco to pensioners in council homes and against those Labour councillors who, before the vote on this question, walked out to go to a football match.

NORTH EAST

On behalf of Dave Ashby, secretary of the National Committee, who was unable to attend, Dave Davis, a former NC member of the Young Socialists, addressed the North-east Regional Con-

ference held in Newcastle.

He said that YS branches in the area had to be built up.

Young Socialists had to go out on to estates and into pubs and anywhere else where young wor-

kers met.

One young delegate from Sunderland stated that YS members had to go into trade union branches and fight for workers' wages and conditions.

NORTH WEST

Following a report given by National Committee member Mike Farley, delegates to the North-west Regional Conference in Manchester voted for a regional committee consisting of 11 members from branches in the Merseyside and Manchester area.

Outlining the future work of the committee in planning out campaigns for the area Mike

Farley said that YS members could not afford to be complacent. Branches had to be built up and new members recruited in Liverpool.

It was agreed to continue visiting large towns in the North-west in a drive to establish new branches.

Delegates voted to set up a football league and to form

branch teams.

Other resolutions discussed included ones on Vietnam, Keep Left, the apprentice movement and the lobby of the Amalgamated Engineering Union National Committee in Blackpool.

Conference agreed to support the lobby of St. Helens trades council and Labour Council on the pensions question.

Show Spot by Bob Dickens
 'Young Cassidy'
 Directed by Jack Cardiff



O'Casey was at one time secretary of the Citizen Army, an organisation developed by the Transport Union to protect its members from police brutality in the Irish 'troubles' in the early 1900s.

THIS film is based on the story of the first part of Sean O'Casey's life and his struggle against the poverty, hunger and disease of the Dublin slums to become a writer.

The emphasis of the film is the young worker who raises himself out of his class to become a successful writer.

But the film glosses over the struggles of the Dublin working class, the Easter uprising of 1916 and the vicious war waged by British imperialism against the Irish people. All these events are presented in a confused manner.

O'Casey was born in the Dublin slums. Before his birth poverty and disease had killed off eight of his brothers and sisters.

Mis-cast

The part of O'Casey is ludicrously played by strapping Australian actor Rod Taylor.

This piece of mis-casting is only one of the efforts to glamourise the life of this poet who grew up amongst Dublin's tenements against a background of evictions involving 30,000 workers every year.

In this film, directed by Jack Cardiff and produced by Robert Graff and Robert Gina, there are some extremely good colour shots, especially of the rebels barricading a street in Dublin during the Easter 1916 uprising.

But apart from a few sporadic shots of action the film does not attempt to portray much of the details of the fight of the Irish workers against oppression.

General Strike

The film presents the General Strike and lock-out of 1913 as a bit of a joke. One scene shows a scab being thrown into the river along with his wagon and the charge by the mounted police at the pickets suggests that violence by either side is equally as bad.

In case the filmgoer should get too interested in the strike he is immediately offered a love scene.

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Citizen Army, which was developed by the Transport Union to protect its members from police brutality.

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The tragedy of O'Casey was that here was a gifted man who was capable of developing into a working-class leader: instead he wrote plays.

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Nationalism, whatever its brand, can never solve the problems facing the working class. The Young Socialists must build the movement needed by the Irish working class and workers internationally.

● If you have any views on current films post them to us.

THE Labour government has given sport a measly £1,571,000 for the current financial year. This only scratches the surface of the problems facing British sport but at least it's a start.

This, together with the announcement of a sports council, comprising past and present sporting personalities, will be welcomed by sportsmen and women as a start for a fair deal for British sport.

All this was learnt from a special announcement made by Dennis Howell, Minister with Special Responsibilities for Sport, in the House of Commons earlier this year.

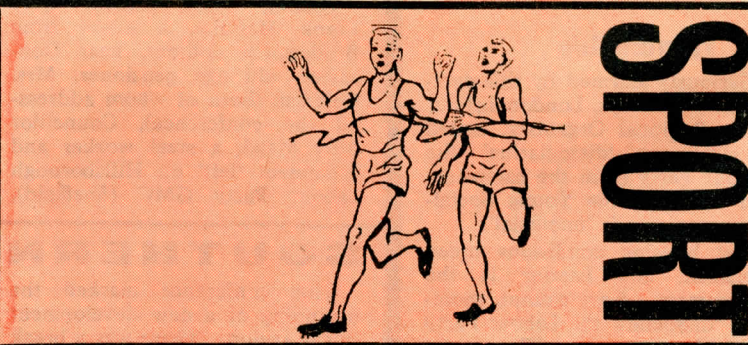
SPORTS COUNCIL

At the beginning of February Prime Minister Wilson held a reception at number 10 Downing Street to introduce sportsmen to the new Sports Council.

The Wolfenden Committee (set up by the Tories to study the needs of sport) said, five years ago, that sport should have an executive body.

Howell, however, turned down this plan because, he said, it would take at least two years to find time for legislation necessary to give the council executive powers.

The government, no doubt feeling that the case was



urgent, decided to go ahead with the establishment of an advisory body.

So, according to Howell, the reason for the setting up of this body is that urgently-needed money can be ploughed immediately into certain sports.

Or is it that an executive body would have voted more money than the government wanted to give to sport?

The Tories, when they were in power, would not allow £5,000,000, suggested by the Wolfenden Committee, to be spent on sport. In fact, they spent very little at all on facilities and the buck was passed to the Labour government. And we have just seen how much their contribution will be.

All sporting enthusiasts, young and old, expected the Labour government to carry out its promises of help to amateur sport.

But it seems that things are

different now that Labour is in power. The leaders are not singing the same tune now.

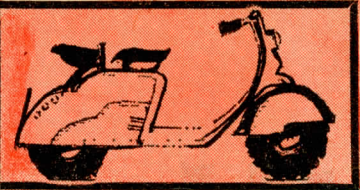
The Council's first announcement that someone should go to Mexico (the venue for the next Olympic Games) to study the conditions British athletes are likely to encounter is a welcome titbit.

But before anyone can start plans for improving facilities in Britain, the dark cloud of Lord Cromer, Governor of the Bank of England, forms in the background.

CUT EXPENDITURE

He has announced that the Labour government must cut down its public expenditure and the Labour leaders have given every indication that they will take his advice.

Amongst the many other thousands of promises that will go to the wall will be the one about improving the lot of amateur sport.



Greater monopoly in the scooter market

By our Motor Cycle Correspondent

SINCE the youth revived the scooter markets, the British assemblers and Italian manufacturers have been rushing to cash in by pushing out streamlined bikes on to the market.

Although the Lambretta GT 200 c.c. engine has improved over the weaknesses of the old wide-style TV 175 c.c. models, the suspension and exhaust systems could still be improved.

The GT is like the 'Pacemaker' with a bigger engine.

The 'Pacemaker' is the best on the market (they are as fast as GT's when tuned, as all the Li 150 c.c. series have been), but as Lambretta's have swept the market with the GT one wonders: will they start economising on the production costs of the 150 c.c. models, now that Vespa's are out of the running?

CEASING

Douglas of Bristol have announced that they are ceasing to assemble Vespa bikes in this country.

The Italian manufacturers, Piaggio, were prevented from importing into this country the new 205 c.c. GS—which has been selling so well in Europe—by the 15 per cent import surcharge that the Labour government introduced (the Lambretta 50 c.c. has been held up in the same way).

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class needed then and today is a revolutionary movement based on Marxist theory.

Nationalism, whatever its brand, can never solve the problems facing the working class. The Young Socialists must build the movement needed by the Irish working class and workers internationally.

● If you have any views on current films post them to us.

THE Labour government has given sport a measly £1,571,000 for the current financial year. This only scratches the surface of the problems facing British sport but at least it's a start.

This, together with the announcement of a sports council, comprising past and present sporting personalities, will be welcomed by sportsmen and women as a start for a fair deal for British sport.

All this was learnt from a special announcement made by Dennis Howell, Minister with Special Responsibilities for Sport, in the House of Commons earlier this year.

SPORTS COUNCIL

At the beginning of February Prime Minister Wilson held a reception at number 10 Downing Street to introduce sportsmen to the new Sports Council.

The Wolfenden Committee (set up by the Tories to study the needs of sport) said, five years ago, that sport should have an executive body.

Howell, however, turned down this plan because, he said, it would take at least two years to find time for legislation necessary to give the council executive powers.

The government, no doubt feeling that the case was



urgent, decided to go ahead with the establishment of an advisory body.

So, according to Howell, the reason for the setting up of this body is that urgently-needed money can be ploughed immediately into certain sports.

Or is it that an executive body would have voted more money than the government wanted to give to sport?

The Tories, when they were in power, would not allow £5,000,000, suggested by the Wolfenden Committee, to be spent on sport. In fact, they spent very little at all on facilities and the buck was passed to the Labour government. And we have just seen how much their contribution will be.

All sporting enthusiasts, young and old, expected the Labour government to carry out its promises of help to amateur sport.

But it seems that things are

different now that Labour is in power. The leaders are not singing the same tune now.

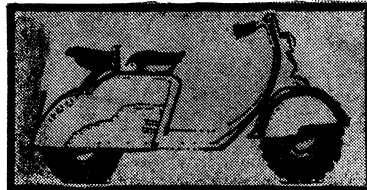
The Council's first announcement that someone should go to Mexico (the venue for the next Olympic Games) to study the conditions British athletes are likely to encounter is a welcome titbit.

But before anyone can start plans for improving facilities in Britain, the dark cloud of Lord Cromer, Governor of the Bank of England, forms in the background.

CUT EXPENDITURE

He has announced that the Labour government must cut down its public expenditure and the Labour leaders have given every indication that they will take his advice.

Amongst the many other thousands of promises that will go to the wall will be the one about improving the lot of amateur sport.



Greater monopoly in the scooter market

By our Motor Cycle Correspondent

SINCE the youth revived the scooter markets, the British assemblers and Italian manufacturers have been rushing to cash in by pushing out streamlined bikes on to the market.

Although the Lambretta GT 200 c.c. engine has improved over the weaknesses of the old wide-style TV 175 c.c. models, the suspension and exhaust systems could still be improved.

The GT is like the 'Pace-maker' with a bigger engine.

The 'Pacemaker' is the best on the market (they are as fast as GT's when tuned, as all the Li 150 c.c. series have been), but as Lambretta's have swept the market with the GT one wonders: will they start economising on the production costs of the 150 c.c. models, now that Vespa's are out of the running?

CEASING

Douglas of Bristol have announced that they are ceasing to assemble Vespa bikes in this country.

The Italian manufacturers, Piaggio, were prevented from importing into this country the new 205 c.c. GS—which has been selling so well in Europe—by the 15 per cent import surcharge that the Labour government introduced (the Lambretta 50 c.c. has been held up in the same way).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Send us your opinions,
branch reports, ideas
on how to build the
Young Socialists

Policy

WE started up a YS branch in Hindley (near Wigan) just before Christmas. The Labour Club provided a room and soon we had 20 members who immediately joined the Labour Party.

Full of good intentions we looked forward to assisting the local party in the fight against the Tories—we were in for a few shocks.

Some club members were hostile towards us from the start, we were called 'bloody ignorant sods', and treated with suspicion and contempt. After only a few meetings the committee withdrew the facilities.

However, we were able to convince them that the charges brought against us by the 'hostile sect' were either untrue or exaggerated, and they agreed that the meetings should continue.

At this stage we brought the matter before the monthly meeting of the local Labour Party, and they told us that they were unable to do anything about it.

A few weeks later after one of our meetings we were told, without warning, that our meetings had been suspended because the 'hostile sect' had complained that we left the room in an untidy state? The chairman of the committee accepted that it was untrue.

We arranged to hold the next meeting in a private room at a public house, but when we turned up the landlord told us that he had changed his mind and that we could not have the room. Three other landlords have had the same attitude towards us since. We will not be put off by such hostile acts.

This branch is sick and fed up with the right-wing policies which are being pursued at present.

We see daily, policies which make the workers pay for the crisis in British capitalism. The 15 per cent import surcharge, the 6d. on petrol, the increase in national insurance contribution, the increased bank rate... have all been passed onto the workers by the capitalist manufacturers and by the time the pensioners got their increase it was nearly worthless due to rising costs.

We do not wish to see the Labour government fall, the Tories must never again come to power, but if the present policies are pursued there is a real danger of this happening.

Because we are committed to fight for and with the working class in their struggles against

capitalism and exploitation it is necessary for us to accept real socialist ideas and policies.

The policies which seem most relevant and those we accept are those laid down in the policy statement of the 1964 Brighton YS Conference.

We know that in making this statement we run the risk of expulsion from the party but we consider that it is important to give the lead to people who think for themselves.

We call upon the Labour Party to reinstate all those branches and comrades who have been expelled.

Hindley Young Socialist

Fakers

AS part of their campaign to get wide support for the Young Socialists Conference, several comrades from Crawley and East Surrey visited another branch in the area.

When the question of the conference was raised, supporters of 'Young Guard' and 'Tribune' exposed themselves yet again as the fakers that they are.

They could not support the conference, they said, because John Robertson (a past chairman of the Young Socialists) had called them political scabs.

The discussion then turned to the apprentice movement and the recruitment of young workers into the Young Socialists. The extent of their political confusion and cynicism was shown when one state capitalist accused Keep Left of responsibility for the failure of the November 2 strike last year, when, as every Young Socialist knows, the blame rests on the Pabloites, state capitalists and Stalinists, who attempted to disrupt a serious movement by engaging in a wild adventure.

They could not recruit young workers, they said, because these people were not class-conscious, and there was no economic crisis.

The chairman said that Britain's 'virile capitalism' could survive for many years and another state capitalist asked why we should recruit young workers. Another could not see that strikes were part of the class struggle: 'Where is the class struggle?' he asked.

For many of the comrades visiting the branch it was their first contact with fake-lefts and they learned a great deal from the experience, for the cynical anti-working class attitude of the fakers was shown clearly.

The fakers smirked and sniggered when the plight of the pensioners and the behaviour of the police were mentioned. Police were, in fact, at that moment outside the hall intimidating two YS members.

The fakers would not support the conference because they were told some home truths and they would not recruit young workers because they were not socialist.

So, true to form, the fakers once again found excuses and theories to avoid a fight and again side with the capitalists.

Crawley Young Socialist

'Old' socialist

I HAVE obtained a copy of your paper Keep Left. I must congratulate the socialist youth movement in this area for the hard work they are doing. I feel as they do that the present government really needs to get cracking on a real socialist programme for the sake of the youth and old age pensioners' requests.

I believe that the Labour government of today is as we were back in the 1920s. I say that they must get with it and take a leaf or two from the Young Socialists. I was a Young Socialist in those days, and am an old one now, but at least I can listen to the young ones who have the spirit to try and shake the government that is at pre-

sent trying to run our country.

William E. Goacher,
Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Racialism

A FEW weeks ago we saw a great step towards the defeating of racialism in Smethwick.

Dudley Road Young Socialists held a meeting attended by representatives from four Birmingham Young Socialist branches, the Coventry Federation of Young Socialists and the Indian Workers' Association.

After a short speech by an Indian worker and one by a Dudley Road Young Socialist there followed an interesting and varied discussion. Subjects ranged from the conditions of Indian workers in India to the role of the police in Britain.

It was pointed out that only by a united working class action, such as the demonstration held on March 28 by the Indian Workers' Association in protest against the imprisonment of Indian communists, could we obtain our goal—socialism.

Despite witch-hunts, cancelling of rooms and a decision to raise the cost of halls for the Young Socialists from 25s. to £5, the YS branches in Birmingham and especially Dudley Road, which is on the borders of Smethwick, are increasing in size.

We are following the Morecambe Conference in this area by a Regional Conference. We are building a new federation (the old right-wing one has fallen through) and organising social activities as well as a week-end school this Easter in Skegness.

Perhaps the most important events, however, are the effects of our campaigns on the rest of the working class.

The Indian Workers' Association has turned to the Young Socialists to help them with their campaigns, union branches have regular supplies of Keep Left and invite Young Socialist speakers, the Old Age Pensioners Associations, never too old to fight, show their solidarity and even in the Labour Party itself we hear the questioning of Wilson's policies.

Let us show the united working-class answer to fascism, imperialism and the betrayals of the Labour leaders—socialism.

G.Y.,

Birmingham YS.

Apprentices

AS a visitor to the Morecambe conference from Harland and Wolff, Glasgow, and a non-member of the Young Socialists, I was very much encouraged by the support being given to the apprentices' demands.

I was not aware before the conference that there was any organisation that would back us to such an extent as the Young Socialists.

For the first time in these works we are forming an apprentices' committee which is a step in the right direction, bearing in mind the fact that our apprentices have seldom taken part in any sort of militant action, including the ill-fated strike of last year.

J.M.,

Maryhill, Glasgow.

Factory conditions

MY friend and I are machinists at a small clothing factory in Manchester.

There are only about 50 people there, and only seven young ones.

While the older people on piece-work earn £19 a week, we work a 45-hour week for 1s. 9d. an hour, making £3 18s. a week.

We are 16 year olds and get half an hour each day for dinner.

We are not supposed to talk during the day or the manageress comes up. She threatened to knock one girl off her stool if she did not get cracking.

Apart from the long hours and low pay, the working conditions are very bad.

The only heating is by pipes across the ceiling. During the cold spell recently, we had to wear our coats and scarves and stuff cotton wool in our shoes to keep warm. Also, as the machine room is in the attic, the only window is the skylight and there is a terrible draught. When we do get any sun, it burns down through this window.

We would like to change our jobs, but this is our third and they have all been as bad.

Now, however, we are trying to do something to fight back. We have formed a Young Socialists branch in the area and are recruiting a lot of other young people in similar jobs and are building a movement to fight against the bosses.

S.R. and C.K.

(Manchester Young Socialists)

Textiles (1)

WE are writing to Keep Left about the conditions at a textile factory in Wigan.

All the young employees have to work shifts—6 a.m. to 2 p.m. one week and 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. the week after. That means that the young ones can't go out and enjoy themselves every other week.

We are getting the same rate of pay now as the workers were getting six years ago, but the management is making more profit than they were then.

They get £65 for one roll of cloth, so you can imagine what they make in one day.

The Young Socialists who work there want to make it a closed shop and organise the YS secretary as shop steward.

The present shop steward is not very good. The other day he had a young lad doing all the work of two in the winding shed because his mate was away.

Our bosses expect us to get more weft (cross threads) off the frames which keep breaking down because they are in such a bad state.

If the threads break they blame us for being lazy and not the state of the machines.

The central heating is terrible, either we're sweating or it's too cold.

At 15 we get £3 a week.

When a person is off work through illness the bosses send for them to find out the reason why they haven't come in.

One more point is the hygiene of the toilets. They are never swept out or mopped.

We have to bring our own soap and the towels we wipe our hands on are filthy.

Three Wigan Young Socialists

Textiles (2)

IN the clothing factory where I work there are bad conditions and low wages.

A girl at 15 when she starts, gets up to £3 18s. 6d. without stoppages.

You get a rise when you have been there three months and then they only give you a couple of bob.

You start at 8 a.m., get a ten-minute break in the morning, then carry on until 1 p.m. for your dinner. You start again at 2 p.m. and carry on until 5.30 p.m.

They call these good hours! They have a poster outside the factory saying good wages! good hours! music while you work! 3 weeks holiday, sports and social activities.

The only social activities are billiards which the men and boys play during the dinner break—or you can get a box of dominoes. These they call social activities.

As for music while you work, that is right out because you cannot hear a thing.

We have been given a rise and

a 40-hour week. The reason I think they are giving us this rise is because there are lots of factories being built round our way and girls are leaving the factory to find better work and higher wages.

Some people are saying that girls can get £10 a week on these new jobs but they are on piece-work and to earn that amount you have to slave your guts out.

The pay rise they are giving is not enough with the cost of living going up. All we are is cheap labour. Girls in our factory should join their union and demand higher wages, tea breaks in the afternoon and proper ventilation.

(This would stop a lot of the quarrels in the factory about whether the windows should be open or shut. Some want them open, some want them closed.)

Girls at 15 should get sick pay as well as anybody else and we should demand longer holidays and more holiday pay.

The bosses can afford these things. Make them pay up. I am in the union and I have also joined the Young Socialists.

From a young South Shields
worker

CND

I WRITE in reference to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's Easter march this year; and write to emphasise the extreme importance of this year's demonstration.

No doubt you share our complete disappointment—not to mention disgust—at the line of defence policy being taken by Harold Wilson and his cronies.

We were led to believe in Labour's election manifesto that Labour would at least make *some* attempt to depart from the Tories' foreign policy—perhaps we should have known better!

However, a number of MPs are making strong efforts in protest and we in Labour CND have obtained the signatures of more than 30 MPs to a letter welcoming the Easter march.

I was present at the great march and rally of Young Socialists in Trafalgar Square last September, and even though I sometimes disagree with some of your editorials I must say I was very impressed by the numbers of Young Socialists that Keep Left manages to urge onto the streets.

Surely if it can be achieved once, it can be achieved again, and equally surely nothing would show the right wing more our determination to get a socialist foreign policy than an enormous demonstration by Labour Party supporters on the Easter march?

I therefore press you most strongly to do all in your power to get every Young Socialist worthy of the title onto the march.

Wilson is paving the way to let the Tories back in, we therefore have an enormous responsibility; I trust you will put your full weight into the left's campaign.

John Nash,

Secretary of Albany Park
Youth Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament and Bexley YS.

● We welcome Comrade Nash's letter.

Although Keep Left does not entirely agree with the way in which the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament carries out its fight for peace it is, of course, very important to unite young workers on many important issues such as the fight for peace.

We must make it clear that we support the march and urge Young Socialists to participate. We think that all those young people in the disarmament movement should join with the Young Socialists inside the labour movement to fight the right wing and recruit into the Young Socialists as it is the only way to really achieve this aim.

YS and Indians unite to demand freedom for jailed communists

Keep Left Reporter

FULFILLING their promise to Mr. J. Joshi, secretary of the Indian Workers' Association, a fraternal delegate to the Morecambe Conference, hundreds of Young Socialists supported the Association's demonstration and rally against the imprisonment of pro-Chinese Communists in India in a great show of solidarity on March 28.

Mr. Joshi had asked at the conference for full backing for the march—and he got it.

Well over 2,000 Indian workers set off from Waterloo Bridge, London, to march through the city to Hammersmith Town Hall.

Chanting demands

As they approached the Albert Hall, they were cheered by over 300 Young Socialists from London and other areas. They added their chanting demands to those of the Indians to release the Indian Communists and end the brutal war in Vietnam.

The tremendous unity between the young and old, immigrant and white workers on this solidly working-class march demonstrated the determination of the Young Socialists to carry out their conference policies of international solidarity and against racialism and the Immigration Act—such unity between Indian and British workers was a slap in the eye of the racialists.

No lead

At the Hammersmith rally, secretary of the YS National Committee, Dave Ashby, was on the platform with R. Palme Dutt, member of the Communist Party political committee, and Reg Birch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Palme Dutt and Birch were completely unable to give a

proper lead in their speeches to the Indian struggle.

Ashby explained how the YS had agreed to join the demonstration 'because young workers joining the Young Socialists are fundamentally opposed to the plans of the bankers internationally to subject millions and millions of people to the wishes of big business.

Despite what had been said by the other speakers, there were

differences of opinion about India.

'While, on the one hand, you have 900 Communist Party members in the south and east regions (of India), supporters of the pro-Chinese Party, in jail, you have a section supporting Moscow continuing to exist legally.'

At the same time the Soviet leaders were sending arms to the Indian government to carry out a war against the Chinese.



ROGER SHIEFF

able to give a lead to the working class and to defeat those leaders, whether of the Labour Party or the Communist Party, who betray socialist policies on behalf of the Tories and the employers.

Roger became extremely active in both the Young Socialists in Oxford and his hometown of Lancaster.

With very little help from anyone else he began to rebuild the Lancaster Young Socialists branch where his two brothers are now members.

Last year he organised the bringing of 15 Lancaster Young Socialists down to the massive anti-Tory rally held on September 27 in London.

He joined the Oxford University Marxist Society and began to demand answers to some of the questions raised by Leon Trotsky, one of the leaders of the Russian Revolution, concerning the degeneration of the Communist Party leadership.

He was one of many young members of the Communist Party, who raised such important questions, that were expelled last year.

Roger Shieff was one of that ever-growing number of young people, students and young workers who refuse to be used and discarded by this society, who insist on having some control over their own lives and who see that to do this they must fight in the Young Socialists to understand and to change the society they live in.

Tragically Roger did not live to play the full part in this fight and see the final results of such a struggle.

But he did help to build in the Young Socialists a lasting monument to socialism, and the work that he so actively started will live on.

All young workers and students must carry on this fight that he started in a way that he would have been proud to do.

WITH deep regret we announce the death, at the age of 22 of Roger Shieff, an enthusiastic member of the Young Socialists and a third-year student at Oxford.

Taught at home to criticise the Communist Party from the point of view of supporters of the Chinese Communist leaders, Roger joined the Communist Party in this country after he became a student.

However, he rapidly became critical of the Chinese faction and he began to see in the Young Socialists and the policies of Keep Left the possibility of a movement

Lobbyists attacked by police and right wing

a pensioner.

But the pensioners refused to be goaded. 'These young people are fighting for us,' said 65-year-old Mrs. Cameron. 'If you don't talk to them, then you don't talk to us.'

They left without seeing Parkin.

When four people could get no satisfactory answer from one of Bradford's Labour MPs, McCleavy, they called in 16 others, including pensioners.

Nervously lighting his pipe, McCleavy, surrounded by 20 people, said he only gives answers to individual constituents.

(On the mass lobby of Parliament on February 4 he told lobbyists that he had fought all his life for old people.)

The youth and pensioners refused to move until they were answered, and the Labour agent called the police.

The third disciplinary move against Young Socialists in 12 months is being taken by the Willesden (London) Labour Party following a recent lobby of Labour MP Reg Freeson by YS members and pensioners.

Two Young Socialist apprentices are to be suspended from the Party.

But the YS campaign has gained much sympathy from trade unionists, a number of whom will oppose the 'disciplinary action' at the next General Management Committee meeting.



MP spurns Wigan YS

WIGAN Young Socialists, which in January was closed down by the local Labour Party, decided to continue and on the afternoon of Saturday, March 27, they held a march through Wigan town centre to demand the backdating of the pension increase to November 1.

A letter was sent to Alan Fitch, Labour MP for Wigan,

asking him to be present to meet a delegation from the march, but a reply was soon received stating that he would not be present, since he was attending a conference.

We were able to produce our own leaflets in which we explained how many old people had fought in two world wars for people like Winston Churchill and now they were expected to contribute to the Churchill Fund.

This point proved very popular on the estates where the leaflet was distributed.

On the leaflet we asked how the Labour government could afford to pay a Tory MP £15,000 a year to hold down wage increases.

We demanded that the Labour government should stop compensation payments to wealthy ex-owners of pits and railways, and a much bigger increase be given to the old age pensioners.

Although the march itself was not very big, it attracted a lot of attention.

It was well worth holding, because it showed how it is the Young Socialists, and not the Labour Party or the Communist Party, which is fighting on behalf of the working class.

YS paves way for NALSO victory

THE strength of the socialist policies forged at the Morecambe Conference were reflected in the annual conference of the National Association of Labour Student Organisations at the beginning of the month. Resolutions criticising the Labour government, calling for a programme of nationalization and an end to bans and proscriptions operated by the Labour Party were passed.

Conference strongly attacked Labour Party Assistant National Agent, Reg Underhill, and Yorkshire Regional Officer, Harold Sims, for witch-hunting the Young Socialists and the Sheffield University Labour Society.

Delegates expressed their solidarity with the Vietnamese people when they elected North Vietnam leader, Ho Chi Minh, as honorary president of NALSO.

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UP and down the country Young Socialists, trade unionists and old people have faced attacks from police and right-wing Labourites in answer to their plea for a better deal for pensioners.

In Paddington (London) and Bradford police were called in by right-wing agents to manhandle lobbyists in MPs' 'surgeries', and, in Willesden and Drumchapel (Glasgow), youth have faced expulsions and police violence when taking up demands for increased pensions backdated to November 1, 1964.

North Paddington's Labour MP, Ben Parkin, called in police to the Chippenham Road headquarters of the Party on April 2 to eject 40 Young Socialists and pensioners eager to question him about pensions.

After the police arrived, it was agreed a deputation of two pensioners and two Young Socialists should discuss with Parkin.

An official then attempted to split off the YS from the pensioners—'You don't want to get mixed up with a political demonstration do you dear?' he asked