



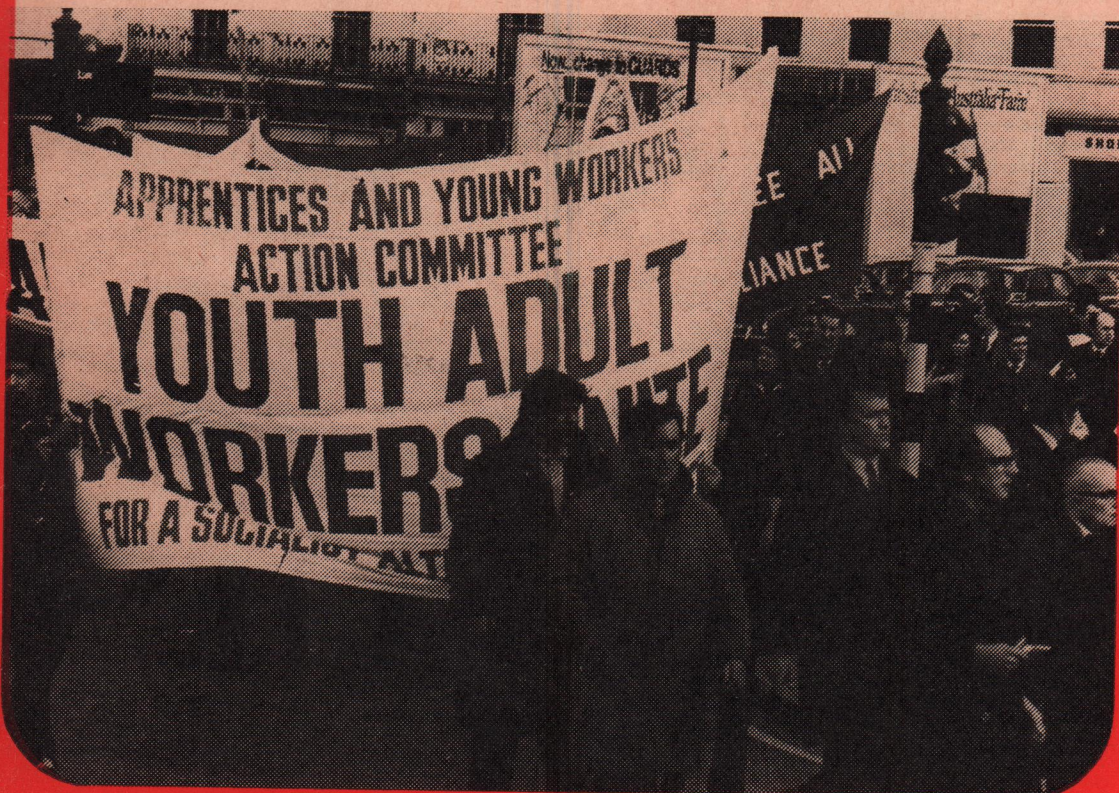
**3,000 YOUTH AND ADULTS SAY:**

**FIGHT WILSON TODAY!**

**STOP POWELL**

**TOMORROW!**

Report on  
Page three



## I'M GOING TO MORECAMBE!

Says Sunderland Forge convenor Gordon Kirton

**FIVE YEARS** ago, before the Labour government was elected, a member of my ETU branch—a Young Socialist—used to criticize the policies of Harold Wilson.

We older members used to shout him down, because we all had faith in Harold Wilson. Now we can see that the Young Socialists were right all the time.

Wilson has betrayed the working class.

I used to rush out canvassing for the Labour candidate and I could not bear to hear a young man come along and criticize the Labour Party.

But as time went on I realized he was right and I'm not ashamed to admit it now.

Some of us older workers were annoyed that a Young Socialist should try to put us right, but now some of us can see that the Young Socialists understood more than we did.

For a long time I thought politics and trade unions should not mix. I always thought that. As a convenor, I could work before and get things done on the shop floor.

I can't do that now because before I was just fighting the employer, but now the employers have the backing of the government.

The Young Socialists are right—trade union work is political today.

I attended the Morecambe Conference last year. I have attended the ETU Conference before but at the Morecambe Young Socialists' Conference I saw hundreds of young people rivetted to their seats and heard young people speaking in a way that made me feel I didn't know anything about the political struggle in the trade union movement.

I know now politics can't be kept out of the trade unions.

I will be coming to the Young Socialists' Conference again this year and I will be really proud to do all I can to help the Young Socialists in this area.

Fill in the form on page 12 for the Young Socialists' Conference

# New offensive by Vietnam NLF

By Ray Efford

ON FEBRUARY 23 the National Liberation Front began a new offensive in South Vietnam. Although such an event had been predicted daily in the past six months the American forces were taken completely by surprise.

The National Liberation Front, which does not, the Americans

like to inform us, control very much of the South, simultaneously attacked 125 towns and military bases causing heavy casualties amongst American and 'allied' troops.

The initial attack was followed up by highly-successful ground and rocket attacks against US bases, in particular the Da Nang and Lan Binh bases and surrounding 'pacified' villages suf-

fered heavy damage.

Heavy fighting is also taking place near Ashau Valley, where the US forces took heavy losses after last year's Tet offensive.

It is reported that American gunners were so jittery after two rockets landed on Saigon, that the Saigon batteries fired wildly into the jungle in the hope of hitting the NLF.

In Laos and Thailand the

guerrilla forces have also moved onto the offensive. Throughout the whole of Indo-China the forces of American imperialism and their collaborators are being driven into the sea.

In this position, with victory in sight, the heroic workers and peasants of Vietnam must be on their guard against any attempt at a 'settlement' being forced upon them through peace talks.

## WORLD NEWS

### NORTHERN IRELAND

# Our answer to Paisley and O'Neill

BY A  
KEEP LEFT  
CORRESPONDENT

THE February election in Northern Ireland has very serious implications for the working class.

Reflected in the split in the Unionist Party between the Paisleyites and the supporters of O'Neill is the deep crisis of British capitalism.

The economy of Northern Ireland is irrevocably tied to the British economy. Because of this the danger represented by the growth of Paisleyism and the bankruptcy of the social democrats and Civil Rights protesters cannot be separated from the struggle in Britain.

There is a definite parallel between the split in the Unionist Party and the divisions within the British Tory Party between the Powellites and the so-called 'moderates'.

The 'plum' reform of one man one vote in Northern Ireland

proved to be completely inadequate to solve the real problems of the working class.

O'Neill tried to campaign on the basis of a 'moderate' policy in the elections, but in spite of this he was very nearly toppled by Paisley in the Bannside constituency.

The crisis of British imperialism has gone way beyond whatever O'Neill has to offer by way of a 'democratic' government.

This is why Paisley's use of religious prejudice, in a way which echoes the period of the Nazis in Germany in the 1930s, is one more in tune with the requirements of the ruling class today.

Thus nothing has been resolved for O'Neill in the Northern Ireland elections.

Meanwhile the Civil Rights leaders and the Labour Party who have desperately tried to contain the working class

within a protest movement made the following statement in the Northern Ireland Labour Party election leaflets:

'Go further—full British rights—Vote Labour! . . . The Labour Party has sought to make no political capital out of the events of recent months, it has consistently urged restraint; it has consistently condemned the use of force; but it has consistently called, over a period of many years, for reform—and for the application in Northern Ireland of British standards of democracy.'

This follows the same pattern as the policy of the Labour government—a complete subservience to British imperialism.

The British working class has already had a taste of 'British standards of democracy' and found that when they elected a Labour government to power in 1964 and 1966 that government betrayed every single election pledge and actually became the organizer to save capitalism from its own economic crisis.

It is very clear in Northern Ireland that, should the situation require it, the Labour government will be quite prepared to use troops against the working class in order to bolster up O'Neill.

This is why the Northern Ireland Young Socialists recognizes that the fight of the working class in this country is part of the fight of the working class in Britain against the policies of the Labour government.

Both O'Neill and Paisley can only be defeated through a unity of struggle against the treacherous social-democratic reformist leaders of the labour movement and the Stalinists of the Communist Party who cover up for them.

The Northern Ireland Young Socialists is for the unity of struggle of the youth and the adult workers, both Protestant and Catholic, in the fight to build a revolutionary party and for a Marxist daily newspaper.

That is our answer to Paisley, O'Neill and the Powellites.

## Nixon's visit to Europe

PRESIDENT NIXON, the newly-elected leader of American imperialism, received a warm welcome from fellow representatives of capitalism on his recent European tour.

Travelling to Rome, Paris, Berlin and London in the name of 'peace' and 'harmony' his real purpose was to prepare for the big carve-up of European big business by American capital.

In Rome large crowds demonstrated against American imperialism. Clashes with the police resulted in 199 arrests and left 85 police injured.

In Paris, Berlin and London Nixon was also greeted by demonstrations; all of which involved clashes with the police or attacks on US buildings.

Throughout all these events Nixon remained calm and he was not one bit deterred from the job he came to do.

The American ruling class is not afraid of protesters—they have gained plenty of experience in the United States on how to deal with them.

Both Nixon and the representatives of European capitalism can only be shaken by a movement of the working class in a revolutionary direction.

Nixon's coming to power and his visit to Europe have sharply reflected the international crisis of imperialism, so the job of revolutionaries is not to protest but to build a revolutionary party whose task will be to lead the European working class to take power and thus deal the most decisive blow of all against Nixon and all he represents.

## American Trotskyist acquitted

Keep Left Reporter

CHARGES, carrying a deportation order if upheld, against Robert Sherwood, a US Trotskyist and draft resistor, have been dropped.

Comrade Sherwood faced a charge of falsifying his immigration questionnaire. He was acquitted by a Toronto court on February 13.

Charged under section 50f of the Canadian Immigration Act, the prosecution alleged that he had failed to list convictions received during civil rights activities in Chicago in 1963 and 1965. Only one witness was produced—a police officer, who could not prove that comrade Sherwood's arrest record showed criminal convictions.

This victory over the courts can be credited to the work of the Canadian Workers' League, which raised hundreds of dollars for comrade Sherwood's defence and built up wide support in the working-class and student movement.

The Committee to Defend Robert Sherwood has stated that it is prepared to continue the fight should the government decide to appeal or continue to harrass him in any other way.

## Flimsy evidence convicts Reverend Sithole

By Rosemary Boxall

ON FEBRUARY 12 the Rhodesian African nationalist leader the Reverend Sithole was sentenced to six years' hard labour, after he was found guilty of incitement to murder Ian Smith and two other Rhodesian Cabinet Ministers.

The flimsy evidence on which he was convicted consisted of a letter plotting the assassinations, which was supposedly written by

him to a Mr. X. However, only a photographic copy could be produced in court—the original had been mutilated, according to the prosecution. The handwriting could not be accurately compared with Sithole's.

Sithole called the charge a frame-up. Before the end of his trial he told the court that he wished to dissociate his name 'in thought, word and deed from any form of violence'. This however did not prevent him from being convicted.

Held four years

Sithole has been held without trial for more than four years, ever since the banning of his party, the Zimbabwe African National Union.

The letter was supposed to have been written from prison to his supporters.

His party is at the forefront of the African guerrilla forces in Rhodesia, fighting heroically against Smith's racist regime.

The victimization of Sithole may be the start of a new round of repressions against the opponents of Smith's supremacist regime.

Arm the Africans

Coming as it does at the same time as Smith prepares to introduce a new constitution, there is a vital need in the British labour movement to raise the demand for the arming of the African workers.

Wilson's government in Britain allows the Smith regime to continue and is actively preparing to sell-out the African workers. Trade unionists and youth must mobilize now to fight this treachery.

## Savage Israeli attack

THE SAVAGE attack by the Israeli Air Force on the bases of the Al Fatah on February 24 is only one side of the Zionist aggression against the Arab peoples.

The Israeli Air Force has also been active in bombing crops in Arab-held parts of the Jordan Valley. By destroying the livelihood of the peasantry the Zionists clearly hope to break the resistance of the Arabs and drive them out of the area so that they will be able to take over the land.

In the Arab territory occupied by Zionist armies resistance is growing particularly amongst the youth.

In Bethlehem 400 schoolgirls staged a demonstration against the occupation. When this was broken up by the police, who arrested 14, trainee teachers in nearby Ramallah began a strike.



# FEB 23

# MASSIVE MARCH AGAINST ANTI-UNION LEGISLATION

BY KEEP LEFT'S REPORTING TEAM

BEHIND the banners of the All Trades Unions Alliance, the National Apprentices' and Young Workers' Action Committee, the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League 3,000 youth and adult trade unionists marched through London's West End on Sunday, February 23, against the Labour government's anti-trade union laws.

On coaches from all parts of the country came members of Young Socialist branches and students from the YS Student Societies. They were joined by many hundreds of workers from important engineering factories in Swindon, Oxford, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

A realization that the demonstration had to sound a note of urgency for the working class was reflected in the chants taken up by the whole march: 'Paynter, Woodcock will betray!', 'Fight Wilson today! Stop Powell tomorrow!' 'Strike against the White Paper!'

The demonstration played an important role in the struggle to unite adult workers and youth behind a programme for the building of a Marxist revolutionary party and the launching of a daily newspaper.

### front line

It was particularly significant for the Young Socialists as it was first called by the National Apprentices' and Young Workers' Action Committee at the founding conference in December 1968.

This movement was fought for by the Young Socialists in the engineering industry and brought many young apprentices and junior workers into political action for the first time.

The call for the demonstration was immediately supported by the Young Socialists' National Committee, the All Trades Unions Alliance and the Socialist Labour League.

At a meeting packed to overflowing in the Porchester Hall, Paddington, AUBTW apprentice JOHN WATERFALL described

the international struggle of youth.

The youth were in the front line, he said, for all the repressions which the employers were mounting against the working class.

All unorganized youth must quickly be brought into the Young Socialists and the All Trades Unions Alliance.

HUGHIE NICOL, of the National Apprentices' and Young Workers' Action Committee appealed for older workers to support the fight of the youth. He called on them to attend the Morecambe Conference of the Young Socialists.

The national secretary of the Socialist Labour League, GERRY HEALY, said that the yardstick of who were the friends and enemies of the working class was their fight against the Labour government—'the most treacherous gang of traitors in the history of the labour movement'.

### action

Those trade union leaders who met in Croydon on February 27 did not want a fight against this government. Neither did the Communist Party.

The job of those who had come on the demonstration was to carry through the fight for the working class to break from reformism.

Ford and the docks were now in the front line of the struggle. It was better that there should be a real fight on these issues and bring down the Labour government than have the Tories return to power with the hands of the working class tied behind its back.

Merseyside docker LARRY KAVANAGH explained the big political implications of the docks struggle. The employers were using the Labour leaders in order to press forward to the virtual elimination of labour in some sections of the port industry.

Warned REG PARSONS, secretary of the All Trades Unions Alliance:

'We don't intend to let the employers use the Labour government any longer to whip the working class. Should they dare touch the dockers or the Ford workers we would go into action immediately!'

A magnificent collection of £204 3s. 1d. was taken after an appeal by the chairman JOHN POWER.

## Unanimous vote for two resolutions



THIS demonstration and meeting of trade unionists and apprentices totally condemns the government White Paper on industrial relations as a step towards opening the door to the return of a Tory government and the setting up of a dictatorship in Britain.

It calls on trade unionists to oppose all co-operation with the industrial boards and the Commission on Industrial Relations, whose purpose it is to regiment the working class in the interests of big business. The White Paper is not just the brainchild of Barbara Castle; behind her stand the real architects of the White Paper—the Tory bankers, big businessmen and stock exchange speculators.

The White Paper is the logical product of four years of collaboration with government-sponsored commissions, such as Donovan and Devlin, and the betrayal of workers' struggles, such as the AEF wage claim, by the trade union bureaucracy.

The appointment of Woodcock and ex-Communist Party member Paynter to the CIR is a clear warning to the trade union movement that the bureaucracy—'left' or 'right'—will continue to betray and facilitate the return of a Tory police state if it is not defeated and smashed.

We are confident that the working class will defeat this conspiracy, but only if it is politically and organizationally prepared to do so. Nothing could be

more dangerous than a spasmodic struggle without the political leadership. We warn all workers against propaganda which avoids the political struggle with the government and tries to divert militant workers into reformist and adventurist struggles with no prospect of victory.

Guerrilla struggles and sit-downs will not stop the White Paper. We support every strike action against the White Paper and call for the maximum unity of organized workers for a massive national strike against the White Paper and the Wilson government. At the same time we support the struggles of sections of workers like those at Ford, the London docks and the Lambeth dustmen, who are the target of a vicious government, press and employer attack.

We call on all trade unionists to give the utmost support to the struggles of youth in industry and in particular the fight of the apprentices to secure their just demands.

We further call on all trade union and 'left' MPs to stop equivocating on aspects of the White Paper and to come out openly against this reactionary proposal in parliament and outside it.

Encouraged by Wilson, the Tories are preparing to come back and complete the job of suffocating the trade unions with a mixture of blatant racialism and savage attacks against the closed shop, the legal immunity

of trade unions and what little is left after the White Paper.

A defeat for Wilson is a defeat for the Tories and their fascist hangers-on. It is better for the working class to build up their militancy in the fight against Wilson than to allow a Tory victory by default.

Recognizing the extreme gravity of the situation and the grave dangers confronting the trade unions, we pledge ourselves to build big branches of the All Trades Unions Alliance in all cities and factories throughout the country.

- Forward to the defeat of the White Paper and repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act!
- Full support for the struggle to win the apprentice charter! ♪

WE, the Apprentices' and Young Workers' Action Committee, on behalf of apprentices here today, pledge the fullest possible support for the demands of the Apprentices' Charter, which include:

- 35-hour week;
- Four weeks' holiday;
- 60 per cent of adult rate at 15 years;
- 90 per cent of adult rate at 20 years.

We further pledge the fullest possible action, including strike action, in order to implement these demands. ♪

# Keep Left

March 1969

## Fight the anti-union laws! One-day strike on May 1!

MORE AND MORE young workers are joining the fight to defend the trade unions against the attacks of the employers and their servants in the Labour government.

Close on 40,000 workers employed by the Ford motor company went on strike at the end of last month against a pay deal, approved by leading union negotiators, designed to prevent strikes and further increase the brutal speed-up which has gone on since 1962. In that year the company inflicted a defeat on the unions—caused largely by rotten leadership from Communist Party shop stewards and officials—and put 17 stewards out of its Dagenham factories.

This year, despite hesitation by union leaders and a High Court injunction preventing the two major trade unions spreading the dispute, the strike gathered strength.

If the court's March 6 decision to tear up the injunction is a victory, then it is a victory for the determination and unity of the strikers at Halewood, Dagenham and the other Ford plants in this country.

But it is one thing to strike against Ford's £5 million 'slave charter'. It is quite another to roll back the company's plans to shackle its workers to a vicious productivity agreement and defeat the Labour government's attempts, through Mrs. Castle's White Paper and the Commission on Industrial Relations, to enforce this kind of deal throughout industry.

This requires, above all, the building of a revolutionary political leadership in all the struggles of the working class.

After Mr. Justice Lane's decision that collective bargains between trade unions and employers are not, as the law now stands, enforceable through the courts, the employers are now certain to step up both their campaign for changes in the law and their preparations for the return of a Tory government which would directly carry through their offensive against the working class.

Reformist trade union leaders and MPs are both unwilling and unable to fight back. Both Mr. George Woodcock, former general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, and ex-Stalinist ex-miners' leader Mr. Will Paynter now sit on the CIR alongside . . . Mr. Leslie Blakeman of Ford's!

No one should under-estimate the dangers if the working class does not break in time from such reformist leaders. **Only an immense industrial and political campaign to prevent the White Paper becoming law and bring down the Labour government will now fit the bill.**

KEEP LEFT welcomed the strike and demonstrations on February 27, so far as they went, but they were only a beginning. Communist Party leaders did their best to contain the militancy of those who participated and channel it into 'pressure' on the trade union leaders and the Labour government.

A well-prepared national action, involving far wider sections of workers than were brought out on February 27, must now be organized in order to prepare a ruthless revolutionary struggle against Tory reaction.

We therefore fully support the Socialist Labour League Political Committee's proposal for a one-day strike on May 1. Now is the time to plunge seriously into the work of building a truly mass revolutionary party in Britain.

## YS SUMMER CAMP

Saturday, July 26 to Saturday, August 9, 1969

Cost £7 10s. 0d. each week

does not include fare

East Coast Resort

Discussions — Lectures — Swimming

Film Shows — Dances to top groups

# SWINDON BY-ELECTION IS ON!

**AFTER months of waiting, Francis Noel-Baker, the Labour MP for Swindon since 1955, has finally resigned and the by-election date should be announced in the near future.**

The Young Socialists' prospective candidate is Frank Willis, a well-known AEF shop steward and a member of the district committee.

Aged 34 years, he was born in Swindon. He is a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League.

In a statement issued in November 1967 he declared his determination 'to fight against the high cost of living, through socialist nationalization under workers' control, with committees of trade unionists and housewives controlling wages and prices'.

He believes workers must

oppose all speed-up productivity deals, measured-day work and rationalization. He is fully in support of all struggles for more wages.

In a special statement to Keep Left following the resignation of Francis Noel-Baker, he said: 'Since agreeing to be the prospective parliamentary candidate for the Young Socialists the political situation has grown much more serious for the labour movement.

'New laws are being legislated against the trade unions by a Labour government which has betrayed the working class. As a result they are paving the way for the return of a Tory government during the next general election.

'Trade unionists and all socialists must call a halt to this treachery by building a revolutionary leadership which will prepare the working class to take the power.

'The Labour Party and reform-

ism will destroy the trade unions.



Frank Willis—prospective Young Socialists' candidate.

Only revolutionary policies can save them.

'We look forward to a big political fight in Swindon, a town where a considerable portion of the electorate are trade unionists.

'As one who understands the wages problem as a political issue from my experience on the factory shop floor and in the union branches I appeal to them for support.'

Let Swindon give a lead in the fight against Toryism and those who serve them in the Labour Party.

## Young Socialists march on pupils' demonstration



**LETTERS demanding more say for pupils in their schools were delivered at the Department of Education and Science and the Greater London Council's County Hall after 500 young people had demonstrated through London on March 2.**

Called by the School Action Union around demands for control of schools by students and staff, freedom of speech and assembly, the outlawing of corporal punishment, comprehensive education, and more pay for teachers, the demonstration would have been confined to these broad demands if it had not been for the political intervention of the Young Socialists.

In a leaflet issued to the demonstration by the Young Socialists, who had a contingent with banners on the march, the issues in the schools were linked with

the fight against the Labour government.

The Young Socialists urged young people at school to 'join in solidarity with young people in Vietnam, Ireland, Spain, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and all over the world fighting against imperialism, Stalinism, and Labour reformism. . . .

'Young people at school,' it continued, 'must unite with young workers to throw out Wilson, smash the Tory capitalists and open the way for workers' power in Britain.'

The Young Socialists were joined by a number of London schools in shouting 'End the education cuts—throw Wilson out!'

The Young Socialists' contingent put forward a revolutionary programme of demands:

- Comprehensive education for all.
- Re-organization of education in co-operation with workers in the factories; control by elected workers' organiza-

tions over technical education.

- Raise the school-leaving age to 16 with full grants to working-class families.
- Free access to science and culture for working-class youth, with special arrangements for entrance to universities and technical colleges.
- Student status, with full maintenance grants for all worker-students and those at schools from age 16.
- End corporal punishment in schools.
- The vote at 18.
- Nationalization of the banks, basic industries and insurance companies under workers' control with no compensation.
- Victory to the NLF! Freedom for all colonial peoples!
- Down with the immigration laws!



Right-wing social democratic traitor Ebert, head of the 1919 government (number 2), and his colleagues—they opened the door for the rise of the Nazis in the 1920s.

## What can be learnt from the events at LSE

BY DAVID BRUCE

**THE students of the London School of Economics are back after a month-long lock-out, with the gates that were torn down now back in place.**

High Court injunctions forbid 12 students from entering the school without leave from the authorities, and one leading militant has been barred altogether. Three staff who supported the students still face disciplinary charges.

At two General Meetings of the Students' Union, motions calling for a 'sit-in' against the legal actions have been defeated, following right-wing agitation.

This situation leaves the students in a very dangerous position, since the struggle has been seen by the leadership purely as an 'LSE question', when the Labour government, the press and the school authorities have shown that they intend to give no concessions.

Instead, they plan to impose stiff disciplinary codes in the universities and threaten the grants of students who refuse to comply with their schemes, at the same time as they prepare a whole series of cuts to lower drastically education standards in Britain.

### witch-hunt

In line with this, the parliamentary sub-committee on student relations tours the universities collecting material for a big witch-hunt against students and student militants, and lays the basis for the recruitment of a right-wing force to mobilize against the working class.

At a time when the students come face to face with the capitalist state, the 'International Socialism' group at the LSE has not only carried out no real political work in the school itself, but has also refused to campaign in other colleges in or out of London for a real movement against the victimizations.

They simply led an adventure by occupying the University of London Union, where they have never had any mass support in the past, and by calling a 'Carnival', complete with calypso band and fancy dress, when the school

was re-opened with none of the grievances settled.

The Labour government plans a massive offensive against the trade unions with the new White Paper, which threatens both the right to strike unofficially and the power of the official trade union movement. This attack opens the way for the return of the Tories on a reactionary, racist programme designed to smash the unions.

Such a government will have short shrift for militant or protesting students.

The events at the LSE must therefore be seen as part of the preparations of the employing class to stop the development of a movement linking students with workers and to 'settle' the question of student protest before this war on the unions.

### Marxism

Neither students by themselves nor the trade unions under their present leadership can defeat this attack. Only the working class mobilized behind the Marxist revolutionary party is able to force a showdown with the Wilson government and stop the Tories coming to power with the White Paper already made law.

But it is not enough just to appeal to workers to support the struggle of students, or for students at the LSE to pledge solidarity with the fight against anti-union legislation. What is required is the fight to build the revolutionary alternative to the betrayals of the labour and trade union leaders. This means a fight inside the unions and in the universities to win workers and students to Marxism.

An understanding of and a fight for Marxist theory is the only basis on which the working class can be mobilized to take power.

The Young Socialists has always fought for the alternative to the sell-out of the Wilson traitors. Only this fight can unite students and workers behind a theory and a programme for working-class power. Students at the LSE who are serious about the fight against victimizations should join the Young Socialists and the Young Socialist Student Society which pledge to train young people as Marxists in a struggle to end capitalism for good.

## GERMANY 1918-1933

# Lessons of the Weimar Republic

This is the first in a series of articles by JOHN CRAWFORD on the developments in Germany which preceded Hitler's coming to power in 1933 and their comparison with the position of the Labour government and the Tory Party in Britain today.

**BRITAIN today stands on the brink of a tremendous upheaval.**

**On the one hand, the working class is highly organized and has built up its standard of living compared with the pre-war period. On the other hand the ruling class is forced, by the crisis of world capitalism, to try to smash the organizations of the labour movement and squeeze higher profits out of the workers.**

The Labour leaders, especially in the four years since Wilson took office, have done their best to weaken the workers in the face of this attack. But the needs of the employers now go beyond what even the most treacherous Labour leadership can do.

They prepare to bring back the Tories with an extreme right-wing leadership.

Such a government will carry out anti-working-class actions unprecedented in Britain. To prepare to answer them, it is necessary to build a Marxist revolutionary leadership which can draw on the historical experience of the international working class.

The development of Germany, from the revolution of 1918 to the smashing of the workers' movement by Hitler in 1933, is a tremendously important part of this history.

When the Kaiser was overthrown by the German workers, soldiers and sailors in November 1918, the ruling class of the whole world trembled. Was this the spread of the Russian Revolution to Western Europe? Workers' councils sprang up all over Germany, similar to the Soviets in Russia. But the Marxists of Germany, organized only a short time before in the Spartakus League, were not yet capable of the clear leadership

needed for the councils to take over power.

The right-wing Social-Democratic Party leaders were very clear, however. The equivalents of the present British Labour leaders collaborated with the Junkers and the General Staff of the Kaiser's army to keep the Councils under control.

Middle-of-the-road leaders of the so-called 'Independent Socialists' confused the situation still further by advocating a sort of combination of the Councils with parliamentary rule.

The Communist Party, newly formed from the Spartakus League, failed to win the leadership of the workers in time.

An ill-thought-out uprising was crushed in January 1919 and the finest leaders of the Communist Party, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, were murdered on the instigation of the Social-Democrats, Noske and Scheidemann.

We must never forget that the Labour leaders in Britain today will be quite ready to act similarly when the occasion arises.

When elections took place in the same month, 14,000,000 out of a total 30,000,000 votes went to candidates calling themselves socialist.

The extreme right-wing Nationalists and People's Party got only 4,500,000.

The National Assembly which met at Weimar at the beginning of February (hence the name 'Weimar Republic') was thus supposed to represent an electorate demanding big changes.

But history is not determined by votes.

The 'socialist' leaders refused to carry out a single measure to attack the power of German capital.

Whilst mouthing all kinds of democratic phrases, they in fact carried the capitalist state on their backs.

The Communists, although gaining support in the working class, and receiving guidance

from the Russian leaders, were still not able to learn all the lessons of their earlier mistakes.

In March 1921, they were drawn into another premature action. Then, in 1923, they were presented with an opportunity to lead the workers to power such as the world has never seen.

The economy, and especially the financial system, was in a desperate crisis. Several attempts from the right to take power had failed. Large sections of the middle class, imperished by the inflation, demanded revolutionary changes.

But the chance was missed.

Swinging away from their previous 'adventurous' line, the German Communist Party leaders had now failed to recognize that they had the support of a majority of workers for a revolution.

The Russian leaders, beginning to reflect the pressure of the Soviet bureaucrats (Lenin was very ill and Trotsky already in opposition to the Stalinists) did not correct their German comrades.

The ruling class recovered its confidence.

The workers, disillusioned by the Communist Party leadership, settled back to the daily struggle for a living.

The middle class swung right away from the working-class movement and increasingly turned to the right.

Now, under the Dawes Plan to stabilize the Mark, American banks began to pour capital into Germany. A period of feverish prosperity opened up.

A series of coalition governments, with or without the participation of the Social-Democrats, ruled Germany with a series of minor reforms to keep the workers quiet.

Capitalism looked very stable.

But the world economic crash of 1929 brought this period to an abrupt end. In 1933, Hitler came to power.



Armed Spartakists march through Berlin in 1918

**Part one of a new series by Frank Cartwright on capitalism's murderous drive for profit**

**CAPITALISM** regards men as 'labour' and nature as 'resources'. Both to be bought and sold, plundered and accumulated in the ever-fiercer struggle for profit. And capitalist technology now has unprecedented means for the destruction of the earth on which we all live and of which we are all an inter-dependent part.

There is no need to spend long on the obvious. If America had exploded a nuclear bomb like the one that was dropped on Hiroshima every day for the last 1969 years it would not exhaust the explosive force in its stockpile until 2600 A.D.

That is six tons of TNT for every man, woman and child on the earth. America has at least six times over-kill; Russia at least twice. Then add the United Kingdom, France and China. That is just explosive force. It does not count the damage which would be caused by fire, blast, radiation sickness, genetic damage, species mutation.

Every child in the world now has strontium-90 in its bones from the fallout of nuclear tests.

In the past 200-300 years capitalism has also gobbled up precious minerals and burnt up the coal and oil it took hundreds of millions of years to accumulate. Because of all this burning a layer of carbon dioxide is building up in the atmosphere which is preventing more and more of the earth's heat from escaping.

**CATACLYSM**

A very distinguished committee of American scientists warned that we might start melting the polar ice caps by the year 2000. If we only continue at the present rate of burning that will mean a rise in sea-level of 40 feet a century throughout the whole world. The consequences do not have to be imagined. And remember, the rate of burning is increasing all the time.

Two hundred species of animals have been totally destroyed in the past few generations. Over a hundred million people have been killed in the wars of this century. The air of our cities is foul and kills. The real costs of capitalist production are borne by the people of the earth—the dispossessed. The real cost of producing paper should include the dead rivers; the real cost of motor cars must include the depleted mineral resources, the dead on the roads, the cities destroyed by huge motorways, the corrosive effects on lungs of carbon monoxide. And that, added to the used-up exploited masses of people pressed into wage slavery, makes a big account to be settled.

The laws of motion of the capitalist system are driving us all to the edge of cataclysm. The urgency to organize to overthrow that system has never been greater.

Its own red warning lights are coming on. It is preparing for major attacks on the unions, on the universities, on the workers, students and teachers. Its newspapers and television stations are preparing us to take it quietly. Tory reactionaries prepare the pogroms, the final solution; the Labour government paves the way.

Running along all the time like a great sea cutting at the cliffs is the ever-increasing rate of destruction of our planet—our planet.

The 'Wall Street Journal' speaks to the class whose finance it represents. It speaks of its accumulations, its wealth, its rate of exploitation. It also speaks of the difficulties standing in the way of the continuation of the class, its own internal contradictions. It constantly seeks ways to mediate or destroy anything which threatens it.

But the logic of nature is dialectical. Deplete the earth and the loss is not to be measured just in the market place of mined ores. Throw huge slag heaps down and kill people in Aberfan. Build millions of motor cars for profit and pour the pollutants of industry and the wage force into the water.

Recently the 'Wall Street Journal' looked at one of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie. What did it see?

Lake Erie is the twelfth largest lake in the world. It is over 10,000 square miles and would cover the whole of southern England, from London, to Bristol to Penzance to Dover. In the words of biologists the lake may be 'on the verge of a biological cataclysm'.

**POLLUTION**

On the lake's shores are Detroit and Cleveland; 10,000,000 people and some of the most rapacious American industry, paper mills, rubber plants, steel works and, of course, car factories. It is fed by many rivers and most of them are badly polluted too. One river is so foul with oil and gases coming from deposited sewage that it is described as 'the only body of water ever classified as a fire hazard'. It does catch fire.

The cities pour massive amounts of sewage into the lake. Last year alone Cleveland dumped 30,000,000 gallons of raw (untreated) sewage into Erie's waters every day for six months because the city waste system collapsed under its load.

But it's not even this that is killing

Lake Erie. The untreated sewage is destructive but compared to the treated sewage it's mild. When sewage is passed through processing plants most of the nitrates and phosphates in it are left untouched. Nitrates and phosphates are sold on a vast scale as agricultural fertilisers.

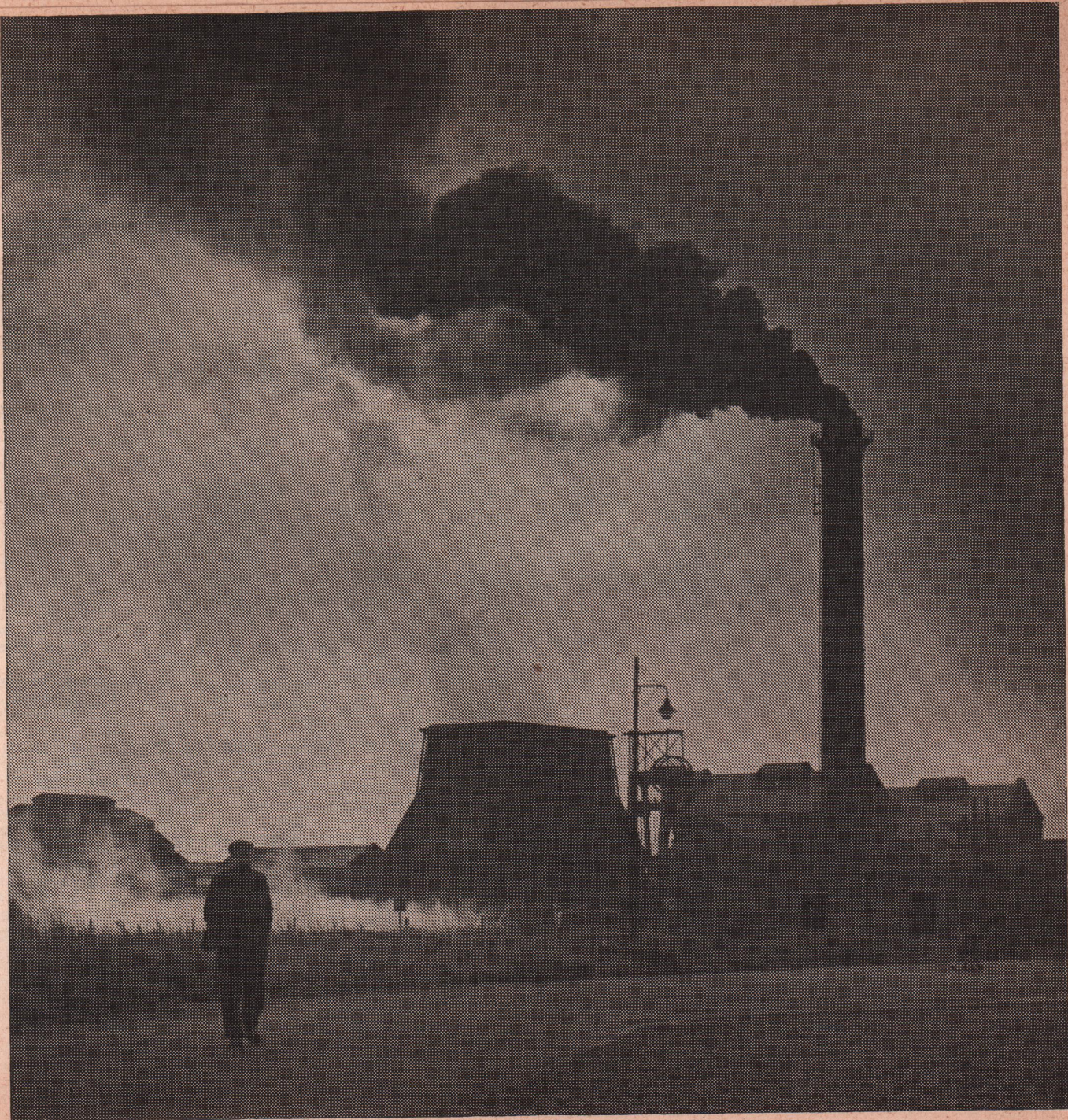
Treated sewage pours into the lake (along with the fertilisers running off the surrounding 30,000 square miles of farm land) and stimulates the water plants, algae, into huge growth. These plants consume enormous amounts of the available oxygen in the water. At certain periods large areas of the lake bottom are completely without oxygen. Fish die, of course, but there is an even greater hazard.

At the bottom of the lake is a layer of mud made up largely of the billions of tons of sewage poured in over the past hundred years. It was thought that this waste would be scoured out by the currents, but that didn't happen. Instead, a century's capitalist filth accumulated to a thickness of between 30 and 125 feet. Fortunately natural ecological forces formed a layer of ferric iron across that filth, effectively sealing it in with a chemical lid. But ferric iron needs oxygen to remain stable. Oxygen is fast becoming unavailable because of the algae blooms. The lid will lift, the seal burst—and Lake Erie will then die completely. The consequences for the whole region cannot be adequately predicted. But they will certainly be disastrous.

Finally, it has been calculated that even at present rates America will be pouring enough sewage into its rivers and lakes by 1980 so as to use up all the available oxygen in all its surface

waters. In ten years America could be an open sewer, all its rivers dead. And one third of England's rivers are dying, heavily polluted.

At a press conference of the Soil Association in January this year the Director of the Nature Conservancy's Monk's Wood Experimental Station, Dr. Mellanby, called for legislation to prevent the further poisoning of our inland waters by the discharge of toxic effluents. He said that the greatest danger today comes not from preventable poisoning but from eutrophication



**WHAT PRICE PROFIT?**

**By FRANK CARTWRIGHT**



—the process whereby nutrient salts (phosphates and nitrates), from sewage and run-off fertiliser, enrich waterways to produce excessive plant growth.

Dr. Mellanby ended his remarks like this:

'Many of our cities now drink river water, efficiently purified and bacteriologically safe, but still containing the nutrient salts which run off our farmland. High nitrate levels have been detected, up to some 30 parts per million. Such water is not, as far as we know (my emphasis) harmful to adults, but it is poisonous to young babies and deaths from this cause have been reported in America. Some authorities, recognizing the risk, advocate pure bottled water supplies for infants.'

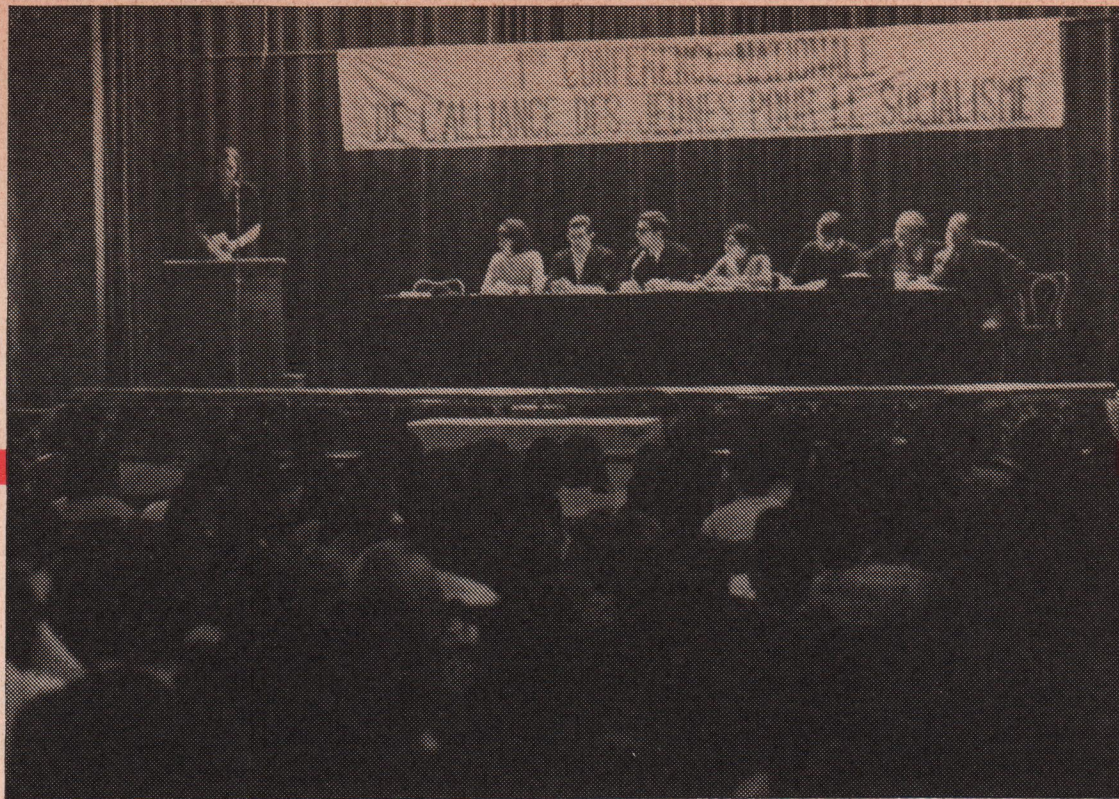
Fragmented efforts here and there to clean up this or that stretch of river can never meet the problem. Pollution on this scale is systematic, an inevitable outcome of the capitalist system. It can only be dealt with by the complete overthrow of that system. And the time to prepare is getting short. To clean up Lake Erie alone would take an effort as big as the American space programme. Is capitalism likely to foot its own bills?

ENGELS

In his essay 'The Part Played by Labour in the Transition from Ape to Man' Engels wrote this:

'The social science of the bourgeoisie, classical, political economy, is predominantly occupied only with the directly intended social effects of human actions connected with production and exchange. This fully corresponds to the social organization of which it is the theoretical expression. Individual capitalists are engaged in production and exchange for the sake of the immediate profit, only the nearest, most immediate results can be taken into account in the first place. As long as the individual manufacturer or merchant sells a manufactured or purchased commodity with the usual coveted profit, he is satisfied and does not concern himself with what afterwards becomes of the commodity and its purchasers. The same thing applies to the natural effects of the same actions. What cared the Spanish planters in Cuba, who burned down forests on the slopes of the mountains and obtained from the ashes sufficient fertilizer for one generation of highly profitable coffee trees—what cared they that the heavy tropical rainfall afterwards washed away the now unprotected upper stratum of the soil, leaving behind only bare rock? In relation to nature, as to society, the present mode of production is predominantly concerned only about the first, the most tangible result; and then surprise is even expressed that the more remote effects of actions directed to this end turn out to be of quite a different, mainly even of quite an opposite, character . . .'

Air pollution destroys the beauty of the South Seas—cement works in Fiji Islands.



Young Socialists' fraternal delegate Dany Sylviere addresses the conference

# FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH HOLD FIRST CONFERENCE

BY DANY SYLVIERE

**THE FIRST** conference of the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme (AJS) was held on February 15 and 16 in Paris.

There were 400 delegates representing branches all over the country in spite of the fact that it had been organized in the face of strong repression from the Gaullist regime which is stepping up its attack on the working class.

The revolutionary events in May and June in France were the centre of the discussion at the conference.

'Taking on the leadership of the working class in the trade unions and industry is on the agenda today not just criticizing the Stalinists . . .' said a comrade from the Michelin factory.

**CRISIS**

Charles Berg, who was elected as national secretary of the AJS, opened up the conference stating that it was taking place in a situation of international crisis. This crisis was reflected in France by the recent enforced military service for 11 students, the way the CRS (strong-armed police force) baton-charged university teachers and the redundancies in Citroen and Sud-Aviation.

But the working class and the students would not accept these attacks. In May and June 10,000,000 workers went on strike and occupied their factories thus showing their enormous strength.

The general strike had made it clear to the ruling class that they would have to crush the working class if they were to survive.

The policy of 'participation' led to the integration of the trade unions into the state machine: it involved the trade union leaders carrying out the measures required by the employers and it paved the way for a corporate state.

The French ruling class had understood that the Stalinist bureaucracy could no longer completely control the working class. The present situation had been described by Pompidou as: 'A situation of instability'. The general strike and the present situation posed the question of power, said Charles Berg.

He attacked the revisionists

who had proceeded with an impressionist method opposing Marxist method. Shortly before May and June 1968 they had announced that there was no possibility of any revolutionary struggle in the advanced capitalist countries.

Despite their heroism on the barricades, they lined up with the Stalinists in splitting and breaking the general strike. They refused to pose the central question of power, he said.

The AJS, which has several thousand members, has, in the preparation for this conference, seen the enormous potential for the building of a mass revolutionary youth movement.

**MANIFESTO**

The discussion demonstrated how the AJS had been built through active intervention in the class struggle. The AJS now has branches in the main industrial areas in France. Federations have been established and a National Committee was elected. The conference broke into commissions to discuss trade union, student, teachers, and international work. A manifesto for the AJS was drafted.

The launching of the AJS, with the building of a leadership to take the working class to power as its central aim, takes on immense importance today in France as a showdown is being prepared by the ruling class with the working class. It was only the lack of a fully prepared revolutionary leadership which enabled de Gaulle and the French ruling class to remain in power in June last year.

**Revolutionary Greetings**

KEEP LEFT Editorial Board sends revolutionary greetings to 'Jeune Revolutionnaire', paper of the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme (AJS). Twenty-five thousand copies were sold of the fourth issue of the paper and the target for sales of the fifth issue is 30,000. This paper plays a central role in the building of the AJS and is directed towards the political education and training of young workers and students. It has from its first publication received an enormous response from all layers of young people and reflects the experiences of youth and the struggle to build the AJS.

# In January of this year KEEP LEFT presented its first reply by Robert Black to Monty Johnstone's slanders against Trotskyism published in 'Cogito', discussion journal of the Young Communist League. This month Robert Black answers a readers letter.

Dear Comrade Black,

YOUR refutation of Comrade Johnstone's 'Trotsky' polemic seems to me to be quite brilliant. But then, I have to admit, so did Johnstone's original piece when I first read it. I suppose that I am easily impressed.

However, there are two aspects of your article which seem to me to weaken your case tremendously. And these are as follows:

The classic differences on socialism in one country are well known and your mountain of evidence on what Lenin thought, and even Stalin (your 1924 quote was most illuminating) is reasonable enough. BUT, and this seems to me to tie in closely with the way that Trotskyists, however brilliant their analysis often appears to be, always seem to over-estimate the revolutionary potential of any given situation, the objective fact is that revolution did not take place in Western Europe, and the tide of reaction swept the infant Bolshevik states in Poland and Hungary out of power.

Now, irrespective of arguments about 'incorrect' leadership, which may be perfectly valid, this was the over-riding situation—the revolutions did not take place. Surely Stalin, at this stage, could hardly be held responsible for this? So what then was the feeble socialist state to do? Throw in the towel and give state power over to the bourgeoisie? On this vital question you are silent.

Which brings me to the next point. You deride Johnstone's position on coming to the conclusion that socialism in one country was probably, given the circumstances, all that could be achieved. This seems to me to be a very reasonable position, and I do not see how, by any stretch of the imagination this theory in itself was responsible for the horrors of Stalinism.

Is it not more likely that these stem directly from the original ferocity of the conception of a revolutionary organization? Political in-fighting is never a tea party—even in bourgeois politics—is it not reasonable to suppose, that, given the conditions of backwardness in the Soviet Union, and the almost built-in arrogance and ideas of absolute certainty that are one of the major pitfalls of all Marxist activists, whoever had lost out in the power/policy struggle might have been dealt with in similar fashion to those who were in fact hounded by the Stalinist machine.

This, I suppose, is the questioning position that many people who once regarded themselves as revolutionary politicians find themselves in on looking back at the past 50 years.

It seems to me that your overall position, whilst having all the attractive characteristics of certainty and its consequent ability to fire young people with revolutionary fervour, nevertheless fails to ask itself the important question.

Stalinists of the old sort had a tremendous strength—a strength based on 'certainty'. It seems to me that the League's brand of Trotskyism—its substitution of one god for another—is merely the opposite side of the Stalinist coin, and is equally to be mistrusted.

Your final section on the indifferent performance of Soviet industry and agriculture in terms of productivity is chastening. But nowhere do you explain how or why a greater degree of democracy would improve this situation. Surely one of the reasons why the USA is so 'efficient' is precisely because it is so undemocratic.

Brian Blain,  
Muswell Hill, London, N.10.

## Robert Black replies...

BLAIN'S LETTER is important, not only for what it says, but for the method its writer uses to say it. This reply to his letter brings out therefore, not only the factual errors, which are many, but Blain's political method, which has much in common with Monty Johnstone in particular and Stalinism generally.

Blain confesses at the outset that he is easily impressed. This, we shall see, is the hallmark of his entire letter. But the Trotskyist movement is not out to 'impress' anyone in that superficial sense. Our fight for Trotskyist principles and programme, and against their attackers and distorters, the Stalinists and revisionists, revolves around basic questions of Marxist theory.

If one is, like Blain, impressed with both a Stalinist exposition of the theory of socialism in one country and a point by point refutation of it, then the substance, the theoretical content of the struggle, is being totally missed. The approach in Blain's case is not around questions of principle and programme, but rather to treat the fight as a formal debate in which both sides have scored some good points.

This difference in approach becomes clear if we deal with Blain's claim that 'Trotskyists, however brilliant their hindsight analysis often appears to be, always seem to over-estimate the revolutionary potential of any given situation'.

Trotsky did not argue purely from the vantage point of historical hindsight. It is true that he drew on all the historical experiences of the working class—its defeats as well as its victories. But in the struggle against Stalinism, he used this vast body of experience, generalized into Marxist theory, to warn the Bolshevik Party of the future defeats that would flow from the theory of socialism in one country.

Trotsky's foresight thus grew out of his grasp of the political lessons of the

past. The theoretical work of the Left Opposition was not confined, as Blain suggests, to analysis of past events, though this of course had to be the foundation of its programme and policy.

No, Trotsky wrote whole volumes warning the Bolshevik Party and the Communist International of the dire consequences of ignoring or revising basic questions of theory. Trotsky's writings on China, Germany, Spain and France are superb Marxist works not only for their analysis, but equally for their anticipation of the actual course of events, which in each case led to the defeat of the working class through the treacherous policies of Stalinism—based above all else on the theory defended by both Blain and Monty Johnstone, socialism in one country.

## Silent

Blain betrays a method of thinking which lifts the struggle for Communist leadership completely out of its living, historical setting. It is impossible to come to any conclusions about the respective merits of Trotskyism and Stalinism 'irrespective of arguments about "incorrect" leadership'. This is the entire nub of the question! We do not begin, as does Blain, from the 'fact' that 'revolutions did not take place'. Blain's 'facts' are in reality an evasion of an analysis of the processes and struggles which led to the situations which he chooses to call 'facts' (some of his 'facts' are none too factual—the Bolsheviks never held power in Poland!).

A little 'brilliant hindsight' would seem to be in order here, Mr. Blain! It was the role of leadership—reformist, centrist and revolutionary—which decided the fate of post-war Europe and led to the situation of an isolated Soviet Union in the period following on Lenin's death in January 1924.

But Lenin and Trotsky did not accept this 'fact' of defeated revolutions either. With the foundation of the Third Communist International in 1919, the fight was begun to take all the historic experiences of Bolshevism to the working classes of Central

## The Left Opposition



They held fast to the perspectives of world revolution.

KEEP LEFT  
OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS  
UNITS APPRENTICES - YOUNG WORKERS  
STUDENTS • UNEMPLOYED AND IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Vol. 18 No. 1  
January 1969  
Price 4d.

Monty Johnstone—  
an apologist  
for Stalinism

KEEP LEFT publishes a reply  
to the slanders against  
TROTSKYISM (starting page 4)

LEON TROTSKY founder of the  
Fourth International - leader of the fight against  
Stalinism - murdered by Stalin's agent in 1940

STEP FRENK: Stalin, Trotsky, National Secretary of the Young Socialists, Moscow, 1924. People's Republic of China, 1949. Trotsky's death in 1940.

LEON TROTSKY

and Western Europe, where the Bolshevik leadership knew the decisive class battles were to be fought out.

But for Blain, Lenin's split with the reformist and nationalist leaders of the Second International in 1914, and his much earlier split with the Russian Mensheviks, must remain academic, even if 'perfectly valid', points.

Blain is a specialist in presenting us with harsh, grim facts, to which we have presumably to adjust our theory, programme and principles.

Quite the reverse for Lenin and Trotsky. They used the method of Marxism to illuminate all the many-sided processes and factors which led to a certain reverse, and with this Marxist insight, prepared the political forces for fresh offensives. Stalinism is the politics of defeat. It arose through partial defeats, and in its turn, became a most virile agency in multiplying them tenfold, once firmly in the saddle.

This leads directly on to Blain's central point, which, regrettably leads him right back to the position of Monty Johnstone and Stalinism. Having referred to the 'mountain' of evidence which can be mobilized against the theory of socialism in one country, Blain turns through 180 degrees and affirms that with the failure of the revolution in the West, 'socialism in one country was probably all that could be achieved'.

## Evasion

Can we conclude from this that Blain believes Lenin to have been wrong all his life on this most basic of all questions? On this vital point you are silent Mr. Blain!

The commonest rationalization of starry-eyed middle-class commentators and ignorant journalists is the portrayal of Stalin as the ruthless but practical and 'realistic builder of socialism', and Trotsky as the brilliant but romantic visionary.

This is also Blain's technique. He implies that there were only two roads: either follow Stalin and build the socialist society or follow Trotsky and be damned—or as Blain himself rhetorically says; 'so what then was the first feeble socialist state to do? Throw in the towel and give state power over to the bourgeoisie?'.  
No, Mr. Blain! No.

Trotsky did not help to lead the world's first socialist revolution to victory only in order to install the capitalists in power. Nor did Trotsky indulge himself in fancy visions about a mythical world revolution.

Trotsky's fame as a theoretician does not rest exclusively on his analysis of international developments and his pre-occupation with the problems of world revolution.

In fact some of his finest writings deal with the problems of the Soviet economy and state. From the time of Lenin's death Trotsky fought to preserve and develop the social and economic foundations of the 'enfeebled Soviet state', not only against imperialism but also, and more important, against the myopic and reactionary policies of Stalin's faction.

Who fought for and drafted the industrialization plan for the Twelfth

Continued on next page →



# YS regional Conferences YORKSHIRE

THE theme of National Committee member John Nolan's speech to the Yorkshire Young Socialists' Regional Conference in February was that the vital question facing the working class was the building of a leadership based on Marxist theory.

Significant developments were taking place in the working class. Dominating their experience was the betrayal of the Labour government.

The employers were preparing their answer to the crisis. Powell's policies had been accepted by the Tory party.

Meanwhile the working class had learnt some hard lessons about their leadership. Amongst engineers in the Yorkshire area there had been rude shocks following the sell-out of the engineers' wage claim in 1968.

The increase in the basic rate, very small in many cases, had been taken off the bonus rates. Meanwhile fares and rents had gone up.

John Nolan appealed to all members to take seriously the political work of the Young Socialists. It was decided to run classes on Marxism for the YS branches.

Developments were reported from the area. There had been a particularly good response from the apprentices and young workers and work was going ahead for the Morecambe Conference in April.

Resolutions were passed on Northern Ireland, the LSE students and a campaign was planned out for recruitment into the Young Socialists along the lines of the regional committee's programme.

# MIDDLESEX

170 YOUNG Socialists and trade unionists from Middlesex and Hertfordshire met at their regional conference in Fulham on February 16.

National Secretary Sheila Torrance opened a wide discussion beginning with the teachers' pay fight and the struggles of students.

Branch resolutions in support of the Vietnamese and Chinese revolutions against US imperialism led to lively discussion.

The meeting laid plans for social activities and recruiting for the Morecambe Conference and elected a Regional Committee to lead this work.

This biggest-ever Middlesex conference showed the political advance made by the YS region, and was followed by a successful discotheque in the evening.



# Report on my husband

By Josefa Slanska

Translated from the Czech and with an introduction by EDITH PARGITER.

Hutchinson of London. 35 shillings

Reviewed by John Spencer

THE AUTHOR of 'Report on my Husband', Josefa Slanska, is the widow of Rudolph Slansky, chief victim in Czechoslovakia's most important Stalinist show trial.

Until his arrest in 1951, Rudolph Slansky was one of the top figures in the Czech Communist Party. A militant before the war, and one of the leaders of the Slovak uprising in 1944, Slansky was a deputy prime minister and a former general secretary of the Communist Party.

After his arrest he was brutally tortured, and forced to confess to being a 'Trotskyist, Titoist, Zionist, bourgeois-nationalist traitor', in the service of American imperialists and western spy groups.

Eleven of the 14 accused at the trial were condemned to death and summarily executed.

Slansky's trial was a frame-up from beginning to end, a fact that the Czechoslovak government tacitly admitted in 1963, when it posthumously restored his legal rights and his rights as a citizen, though it confirmed his expulsion from the Communist Party!

Mrs. Slanska herself was imprisoned for five months after her husband's arrest, and was heavily penalized along with her family, being exiled under the most primitive conditions despite her ill-health.

The Slansky trial took place at the time of Tito's break with Stalin, when Stalin wished to purge the Eastern European Communist Parties of potential opposition to his own chauvinistic policies of Russian domination over the East European workers' states.

Foreign Stalinists, including the leaders of the British Communist Party, hailed the Slansky trial and the execution of the 11 victims as another great victory.

They vied with one another in their efforts to slander Slansky, retailing every malicious lie put out by the Moscow propaganda machine.

They even accused Slansky of being responsible for the death of his own closest comrade, who died of exhaustion in the course of a forced march across the Tatras in 1944.

A further element in the case was the viciously anti-semitic tone of the press campaign waged during the trial. Descriptions of Slansky as 'Judas' and 'pharisee' and pointed mentions of his facial characteristics and red hair were common.

The Stalinist press of that time spared nothing to make use of backwardness and anti-semitism to malign the accused men, and the victims were carefully arranged so that no less than 11 of the 14 were 'of Jewish origin'.

Mrs. Slanska sets out in the first part of the book a series of documents that tell the story of the trial in cold official Stalinese.

They show how, even in 1963, Premier Novotny tried to lay the blame on Slansky for 'violations of socialist legality' in which he himself had a hand.

Mrs. Slanska's own story, in the



second half of the book, tells of the privations visited on her by the Stalinists and of her long struggle to restore her husband's honour.

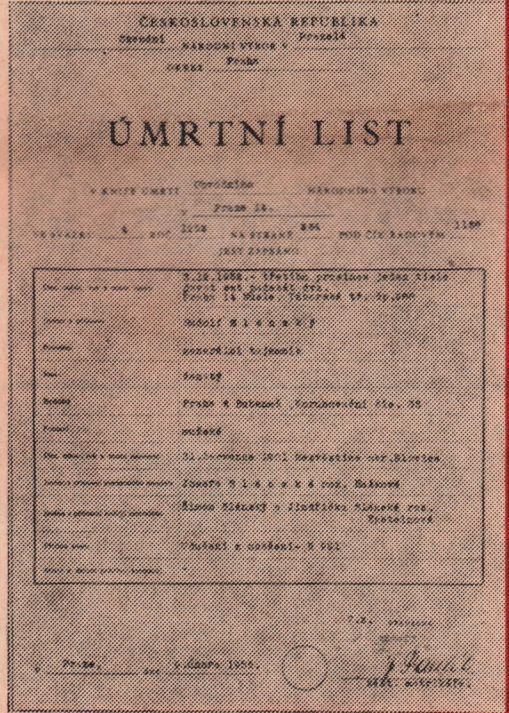
She shows that, despite the press campaigns and the 'unanimous' votes demanding the death penalty for 'the Slansky criminals', ordinary people went out of their way to help her, although many of her erstwhile 'friends' deserted her.

The frame-up trials of Slansky and the other victims of Stalinism are still unfinished business. The brutal Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in August 1968 was designed to forestall the working class from taking action to remove the Novotnys and the heirs of Stalin once and for all.

The bureaucracy's fear of the working class is well-founded.

Under the leadership of Trotsky's Fourth International, the workers of Eastern Europe will carry through the political revolution which will finally destroy the Stalinist bureaucracy and restore Stalin's victims to their rightful places in history.

Rudolph Slansky's death certificate dated 1955 (three years after his execution). Cause of death: suffocation from hanging. Place and date of burial are left blank.



# Apprentices' fear for A.E.I. jobs

Keep Left Reporter

OVER 1,100 AEI workers from the Neasden Lane factory, Willesden, marched to a local cinema on March 4 to hear five union officials speak about the closure of the factory.

A total of 3,500 workers in four GEC-AEI switchgear factories face the sack.

The latest wave of sackings follows only a year after the closure of AEI's Woolwich factory, where 6,000 were made redundant.

The company claims the sackings are necessary because of a cut-back in government orders, and a rationalization of production throughout the combine.

The Willesden meeting appealed for support from other GEC-AEI factories and warned the company of possible strike action if it refuses to change its plans.

Some of the 150 apprentices at Willesden have been offered jobs at AEI Manchester, but most fear that with the closure no other job will be offered to them.

Apprentices point out that their indentures contain no provision for re-employment in cases of closure, and that the management is not obliged to find them other jobs.

# MAY DAY 1969

March with the Young Socialists SUNDAY MAY 4

Leaving the Embankment 2.30 p.m.

LONDON AREA WEEKEND SCHOOL April 19 and 20

Cost approximately 35s.

Pier Ballroom, Hastings

## continued from previous page

Party Congress as far back as 1923? Stalin? Trotsky of course!

Who first warned of the dangers of a possible restoration of capitalism if the kulaks and New Economic Policy men were allowed to operate unimpeded and if industrialization were postponed? A rhetorical question, Mr. Blain!

Who first called for the gradual collectivization of the peasantry? Who indeed!

The fact that Stalin and the bureaucracy rushed through a belatedly bureaucratized version of Trotsky's plan of industrialization and collectivization, under the double impact of the world crisis and the grain strike of their erstwhile allies—the rich peasants or kulaks—is itself a rather grim tribute to the correctness of the Left Opposition's struggle.

Our conflict with the Soviet bureaucracy is not that it does not defend the economic basis of the USSR but

that it does so with methods that alienate and demoralize the Soviet and international working class.

Far from building 'socialism in one country' these methods, as Czechoslovakia so vividly demonstrates, are leading the USSR into a blind alley from which it must, and will be saved, only by the victory of the European revolution and the overthrow of the bureaucracy.

Blain claims that Stalin's theory appeared 'reasonable'. But Marxism has nothing to do with theories based on common sense, with what might appear to be reasonable. Marxism is a science based on an understanding of all reality as a continuous process of struggle and conflict between opposed forces. In society, this conflict takes the form of a struggle between man and nature, and within mankind, between classes based on the ownership of property and the production of wealth.

What Blain calls 'the facts' are but temporary surface impressions of a much more complex and conflict-torn process underneath a world which

'common sense' trains the non-Marxist to accept as real.

That is why Blain accepts Johnstone's claim that Stalin's theory of 'socialism in one country' did not lead on to the mass purges of the 1930s. Just as Blain separates revolutions from leadership, and the Soviet economy from world economy, so he walls off theory from the class struggle.

The theory of 'socialism in one country' was not just an idea. It was rejected by the whole of the Bolshevik Party up to 1924, and accepted by its Stalinist wing after that date, for very specific, material reasons. The theory reflected the growing national reformism and material privileges of the bureaucracy, which turned instinctively to Stalin as its protector and political spokesman, after being thoroughly chastened by Lenin in the last two years of his political activity.

Behind the faction fight between Stalin and Trotsky were definite social forces. That is not to say that every careerist was in Stalin's faction (some joined Trotsky in the mistaken belief that the Left Opposition was to be the

future Soviet government) or that Stalin's support based itself entirely on men corrupted by holding positions of power.

But, through all the criss-crossings of individuals and defections of groupings, there can be detected two lines: Trotskyism, which held fast to the perspectives of world revolution and against bureaucracy, and Stalinism which fought against the spread of the revolution and for the preservation of the status quo and all the privileges of the bureaucracy.

To be sure, the struggle was fought out, as far as the Stalinist censorship would allow, on the plane of debate and argument. But that was only in the early stages. By 1928, after the Sixth World Congress of the Comintern, all the genuine oppositionists had been expelled and exiled to remote parts of the Soviet Union. The issues were clear—continued struggle, even under repressions and the threat of death, or political capitulation to Stalin. Blain isolates the undoubtedly cruel and vindictive nature of Stalin's per-

continued on page ten →

# Mr Klein sets a booby trap

**PUBLICISTS** have described 'Mr. Freedom' as a new Matt Helm-type adventure.

William Klein prefers to see it as a monstrous James Bond masquerade and hopes that the cinemagoer will recognize that it is not far removed from present political, social and economic relations.

'After all, General Westmoreland is a real-life James Bond, but much more sinister,' says Klein.

In the film, when Dr. Freedom sends Mr. Freedom on his mission to France, it is no different from a James Bond mission, he adds.

And the form of the film is comic strip because the characters act like comic-strip characters both in the film and in real life. Johnson, Kennedy and Rusk, claims Klein, are like comic-strip characters.

People might try to seek a 'sixth-degree symbolism' in the form of the film.

'But it will only seem this to people who are "sophisticated", not to people like the Vietnamese, who are used to masquerades.'

The comic-strip form is simply camouflage for what Klein intends as the anti-US imperialist content. Yet, for the sake of the media-men—those for whom films are strictly business—'Mr. Freedom' appears outwardly no different from a traditional commercial film.

The same 'booby trap' is intended for the cinemagoer, too. Most spectators, says Klein, are attracted by the violence, costumes and 'jazzy things going on on the screen'. He hopes for a 'Pavlovian reaction' among 'Mr. Freedom's' audience, so that they will associate themselves with what is happening on the screen and understand the anti-imperialist message.

But this booby trap set for the producers, exhibitors and publicists can backfire.

'If you are distributed and hawked around by these people

*continued on page twelve—>*

## A KEEP LEFT INTERVIEW

**WILLIAM KLEIN**, director of 'Mr. Freedom', now showing at the Cinecenta in London, is an American who has lived and worked in Paris since 1949.

He was one of the six directors who worked on the anti-war film 'Far From Vietnam' and has made a trilogy on the evolution of Cassius Clay from a fighter to 'some sort of black leader'.

During the May-June revolution in France, Klein was 'resident' in the Sorbonne and has now several thousand feet of film on the day-to-day life there during the occupation. He hopes to edit this into a full-length film.

Before leaving for Paris following the London premiere of 'Mr. Freedom' (reviewed on this page), he spoke to a Keep Left reporter.



## FILMS - FILMS - FILMS - FILMS - FILMS - FILMS

### 'Mr. Freedom' at the Cinecenta

Directed by William Klein, with John Abbey as Mr. Freedom

'MR. FREEDOM' is a satire about American imperialism, presented in a style which is a combination of Batman and James Bond.

Its central character is Mr. Freedom, a super-man figure

sent from America to France to prevent it being taken over by the communists. The boss of the Freedom organization, played by Donald Pleasence, strongly resembles Lyndon B. Johnson.

Mr. Freedom, therefore, personifies the main export of American imperialism, so-called freedom—which is in fact subordination to American capitalism.

Some of the satire in the film is very effective. In one scene Mr. Freedom and a Russian, Moujik-Man, work out a plan to divide Paris between them. 'I'll take the Left Bank, and you take the Right,' says Moujik-Man, 'that's the "natural" division.'

Freedom is unable, however, to prevent the young French communists from leading a revolution against American imperialism.

The characters in the film are exaggerated and simplified as they are in strip cartoons. Mr. Freedom is dressed in an American footballer's outfit, he continually bursts into rooms through the window, and has an aerial tuned to America hidden in his wisdom tooth!

This type of presentation has meant that the film can be shown commercially, despite its political content and opposition to American capitalism, and because the technique is unusual it gives impact to some of the points made by the director, although not all

the gimmicks are equally successful.

Because it is a satire, most of the emphasis in the film is placed on Mr. Freedom rather than on those opposing him. Despite all his weapons and gimmicks, however, he is finally defeated by the French working class, as, it is implied, the Americans will be defeated in Vietnam.

There are some excellent scenes taken from film of the Paris demonstrations in May and June 1968 which alone would make 'Mr. Freedom' worth seeing.

reviewed by  
Mary Healy

## Robert Black replies to a reader from page 9

sonality from the rule of the bureaucracy. Why did the bureaucracy choose Stalin as its standard bearer?

Precisely because he combined in himself the prestige of an old Bolshevik with extreme ruthlessness and an iron will—qualities that can serve either the causes of revolution or reaction.

Stalin was no historical fluke. He was the child of the bureaucracy. His crimes are the crimes of a whole social layer which rallied to Stalin against Trotskyism.

For the Soviet bureaucracy, busily enjoying the fruits of the power that it had stolen from the working class and the Leninist core of the Bolshevik Party, the era of revolutions was at an end. It remained only to destroy all physical trace of the leadership which made the revolution possible. The Moscow Trials were therefore an integral part of Stalin's campaign against Bolshevism, and were in no sense an expression of a vindictive individual. This may be Khrushchev's and Johnstone's explanation, but it has nothing to do with Marxism.

No, Mr. Blain, we cannot talk about 'theory in itself'. Theory reflects, even if in a very abstract and refined form, the motion of the class struggle. It is only because it reflects that it is able also to guide. That is why you always leave out the question of leadership based on theory, because you separate it from the struggle of the working class.

That is idealism, something which the Marxist movement has fought

against from its very inception.

That is why you fail completely to understand the importance which the Bolshevik Party gave to theory. What you call an 'almost built-in arrogance' Lenin would have termed an intransigence on questions of principle.

But there can be little doubt that should you, Mr. Blain, have to undergo a serious operation at any time in the future, you will place yourself, if possible, in the hands of a surgeon who displays a similar theoretical devotion—though this time in the science and skills of surgery.

Yet medical science has developed not at all on the basis of uninterrupted success. Its failures, and with them, countless deaths, have entered into the creation of a body of theory which today saves and extends the lives of millions of human beings.

### Consequences

Marxism cannot avoid the consequences of its own acts, its own mistakes. But still less can it avoid action altogether. There can be no medical science without medical practice. Neither can there be Marxist theory without day-to-day action in the class struggle. What does Mr. Blain really want—action without theory or theory without action?

His raising of the so-called 'absolute certainty' of 'Marxist activists' as a cause of the Stalinist degeneration of the Russian Revolution naturally puts

a question mark against the building of Bolshevik-type parties today in Britain or anywhere else.

The Bolshevik Party of Lenin was physically destroyed by Stalinism—as Mr. Blain admits, the battle was a violent one—how therefore could this party have led to the growth of Stalinism?

We are of course familiar with this type of argument. It has been peddled for years by the International Socialism group, as well as being echoed by a whole generation of cold war politicians and journalists.

It now turns up again, this time allied with the theory of socialism in one country. Our suggestion that Johnstone's attack has been tailored to the requirements of the revisionists (amongst them the International Socialism group) seems to be near the target.

Just as Blain is able to equate the Bolshevik Party under Lenin to its purged remnants under Stalin, so in the final section of his letter he draws formal parallels between the theory of Trotskyism and that of Stalinism. But we have to go beneath the forms, as we have already stressed.

Trotsky, in his 'Their Morals and Ours' shows how middle-class thinkers, who concern themselves only with the forms of things and not their content and real development, have always equated Stalinism with Bolshevism, without being able to understand that the two movements are marching in opposite directions towards totally different political goals.

True, both movements claim to be based on Marxism-Leninism and the class struggle. But the job of the serious thinker is not to begin with that superficial similarity alone, but to go into the history of the movement, and so discover why Stalinism conceals its counter-revolutionary activities with the phrases of Marx and Lenin.

That is the job which faces every serious Young Socialist, and, for that matter, older ones too. What happened to the Russian Revolution? What forces did Stalin represent when he murdered the Leninist old guard? Has everything been lost after the rise to total power of the bureaucracy?

### Solution

These are the key questions of the day, for in their solution lies the answer to the problems that face the British workers' movement in its struggle for power against Wilson and right-wing Toryism. There is no 'in-between' in the fight between Stalinism and Trotskyism. We have already made that clear to Johnstone, the peddler of 'liberal' Stalinism, and we repeat it again for the benefit of Mr. Blain. Our trust in Marxism, as developed by Lenin and Trotsky, is not blind. It is founded on tested principles, hammered out in a century and more of world class struggle.

We will not throw that away for anyone or anything!

## Glasgow Civil Rights confusion

THE march organized by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Glasgow Campaign, on Saturday, February 22, turned out to be a very sorry affair indeed.

Some 500 supporters, mainly from Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities' socialist and labour societies, and the anarchists took part.

Despite the fact that they were barracked and provoked throughout by a band of 150 Protestant youths, no stewards at all were in evidence and the marchers were dependent for protection on the Glasgow police force.

Under the Police Order Act the police had been conferred special powers of arrest by the city magistrates.

As the march moved off the Protestants counter-demonstrated along the pavement. One youth was carried off by plain clothes detectives, whilst his friends protested that he was only 'carrying a Union Jack sir!'

Conspicuously absent from the march was the Communist Party, who normally associate with such reformist movements.

At the end of the march a meeting was held and the Protestant youth, now encouraged by the obvious indifference of the police, did their best to provoke the audience by singing the national anthem and waving their sashes.

Although one speaker told the meeting that not every worker in Derry had a job or a house he was unable to answer the Protestants youths who pointed out that not every worker in Glasgow had a job either.

No clear perspective was put forward beyond that of the typically liberal demand of 'one man, one vote'. At a time when the capitalist class in Northern Ireland is locked in severe crisis, the International Socialists particularly come forward with a confusion of no-class politics.

This of course provoked the inevitable reaction in religiously divided Glasgow.

However, Protestant youth who went away from the demonstration convinced that the civil rights were rubbish and that it was 'easy' to provoke the marchers, would do well to question the role of their mentor, the Reverend Pastor Jack Glass, Scottish disciple of the Reverend Ian Paisley, who, having worked his followers into a frenzy of hatred against the demonstrators, carefully abstained from risking arrest by maintaining that 'the police have enough work to do'.

Jimmy Johnston,  
Maryhill, Glasgow.

## Swing to the extreme right

THE recent swing to the extreme right in the Tory party represents a need for the ruling class to have a leadership which is prepared to attack the wages and conditions of the working class more openly.

These reactionary policies are designed to smash the trade union movement—as in the Lambeth dustmen's strike, where leading members of the Tory party helped by Tory councillors, tried to break the strike, which was officially recognized by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

This is the real face of

Toryism in a period of economic crisis. In 1964 large sections of the employers wanted a Labour government which would attack the working class with anti-trade union legislation and the prices and incomes policy.

The Labour government has been unable to carry out this role because of the organized strength of the working class. This is why Enoch Powell has spoken up for sections of the bosses. The employers now want to rule with much more authority over the working class.

The Young Socialists have consistently fought the whole betrayal of the Labour leaders and we will not compromise on questions of immigration. We are for the unity of all workers against the employers. The Tories are preparing their forces, we must prepare ours.

The building of a mass revolutionary youth movement is urgent. The history of the German working class in the 1930s must be understood by all Young Socialists. Only on that understanding can we build a our movement and defeat the Tories for good.

Pat Allan and John Nolan,  
West Yorkshire  
Young Socialists.

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

## University politics

ON January 23 Teesside International Socialist group called an unpublicized meeting near Stockton-Billingham Technical College with the aim of setting up a student youth movement in the college called Revolutionary Socialist Youth.

Young Socialist students particularly were not invited but attended anyway and found the IS and the Revolutionary Socialist Student Federation representatives unwilling to answer questions on how to support the London School of Economics students, how to build a mass movement and how to defend the trade unions against the latest legislation.

(Earlier that week 50 students at Newcastle university and 150 students at Rutherford College of Technology attended Young Socialist lectures on Powellism.)

At the Socialist Society meeting at Newcastle university on January 28 the IS voted against a Young Socialist's proposal for a demonstration on February 1 in support of students at LSE. They agreed however to review the decision if a meeting on January 30 was large enough.

Two hundred and fifty students attended this meeting and the majority voted that there were not enough present to prepare for a demonstration on February 1.

However, the meeting was forced to accept that there was enough time to prepare for a demonstration on February 8.

But no demonstration leaflets were prepared by the IS and at Billingham the real politics of the RSY group came out into the open.

No campaign for the demonstration was fought for by these people. Instead we had 'ghost meetings' and 'phantom sit-ins'.

One day before the demonstration took place the RSY held a meeting in which neither the IS nor the demonstration organizer mentioned the demonstration on LSE until prompted to do so by the Young Socialists.

Not surprisingly, at the demonstration the Young Socialists made up half the march. The other half was made up of students who came despite the machinations of the IS.

The Young Socialists were the only political organization to march behind their own banners. The IS remained anonymous throughout.

We ended off a successful day by taking students, workers and youth to the Regional Conference of the North-East Young Socialists.

Stockton Young Socialist.

## More closures in Essex

SOME readers may remember my article in Keep Left in 1968 on the closure of the Crompton-Parkinson factory at Chelmsford in Essex.

Are we soon going to witness a tragic repeat but on a larger scale?

Hoffman (ball-bearing) company, with a labour force of 3,900, will soon be auctioned by the Industrial Re-organization Corporation.

In October 1966 the Hawker-Siddeley combine absorbed Crompton-Parkinson (1,500 workers). A vast number of promises that there would be no redundancies were made.

Eighteen months later the news broke that the factory was to be completely closed.

An IRC spokesman said of the Hoffman company; 'We would hope to integrate it into a large group of bearing companies. At the end of the day there will be some rationalization, but whether that will mean redundancies it is much too early to say'.

I would like to ask; is the Hoffman factory to close in the same way that Crompton-Parkinson closed?

The effect on this small town of any more closures or mass redundancies will be disastrous as there is only one other factory of comparable size—Marconi-English Electric.

More than 240 of the ex-Crompton-Parkinson employees are still on the dole. What

will be the effect of nearly 4,000 extra at the employment exchange? What is to be the fate of the apprentices, some of whom were at Crompton-Parkinson, if Hoffman is closed?

The members of the Amalgamated Engineering and Foundryworkers' Union found it useless to appeal to the government over the Crompton-Parkinson case.

Indeed the government's role in helping capitalism has become very clear.

Trade unionists and Young Socialists must see through the fog surrounding factory take-overs. The Young Socialists must demand no redundancies and the immediate nationalization of the engineering industries under workers' control and with no compensation.

Francis Roberts  
Essex.

## In support of a revolutionary daily paper

THE CRISIS of British capitalism sharpens and the Wilson government, pushed from the right by the Tories, proceeds to attack the working class, the youth and the trade unions.

It is in this situation that the class role of the daily press becomes clear. The whipping-up of racialism, witch-hunts against the working class as in the QE 2 case, the attempts to rally the 'moderate' (i.e., right-wing) students, presenting a case for anti-union legislation, show how the press are continually trying to help the British bosses in their attempts to drive down the living standards of the working class.

Examples of the role of the capitalist press can be seen in the vicious attacks on the Lambeth dustmen, the LSE students, or in the case of the London dockers where the newspapers followed the line of the London dock employers; when they struck in support of Enoch Powell they were good lads supporting 'freedom of speech', when they struck for higher wages it was 'anarchy' and 'holding the country up to ransom'.

The 'Morning Star', the paper of the British Communist Party, throughout the period of the Wilson government, has acted as a left cover.

To say that George Woodcock is going to lead a fight against the anti-union laws when he is on the point of joining Barbara Castle's board to implement these laws, is politically misleading the working class. This is exactly what the 'Morning Star' did.

The daily press prods the Wilson government from the right, calling for more laws against the trade unions, whilst the Communist Party covers up from the left.

The only answer is a daily Marxist paper which can, and will, tell the working class the truth about every struggle and help to organize a fight against the bosses and their hangers-on—Wilson and the reformist Labour and Communist Parties.

Such a paper is 'The Newsletter'.

We think that every Young Socialist branch and every YS member should fight to help build this paper and raise money towards the fund for the daily. We think that the National Committee of the YS should give a prize to the YS branch which raises the most money for the daily paper.

John Thomas, Peter Davies,  
D. Livingstone, Elaine Deason,  
Jill Gardiner, Linda Berrill,  
Frank Byrne, Paul Gamble,  
Michael Horne,  
Martyn Thompson, James Allen,  
Susan Hawksley,  
Stephen Walker,  
John Thrower, Diane Brown,  
Stella Barry, Norman Porter,  
New Park YS Leicester.

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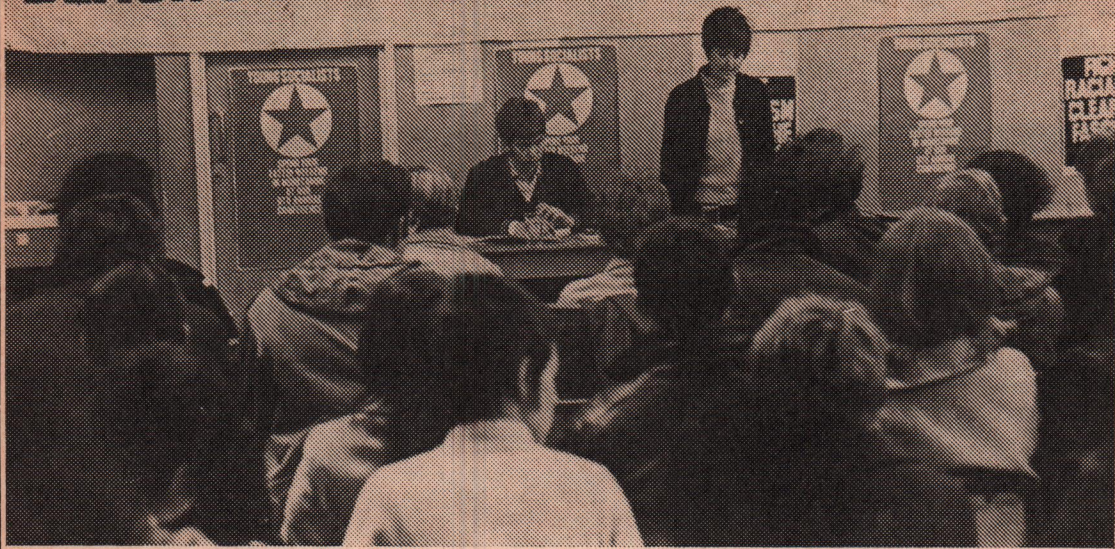
# Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Paper of the Workers' League USA  
Room 8, 243 E.10. St. NYC 10003, USA

YOUNG SOCIALISTS SAY

# BLACK & WHITE UNITE AGAINST RACIALISM



## Young Socialists Regional Conferences LONDON

Keep Left's editor Aileen Jennings speaks to the London Regional Conference.

'THIS conference is meeting on the eve of a decisive turning point in relation to the world economic crisis,' said Keep Left Editor, Aileen Jennings at the annual conference of the London Region Young Socialists.

The United States had announced its lowest trade export figure for 30 years and also had a bank rate as high as that which preceded the Wall Street crash of 1929.

The struggle between the working class and the capitalist class had reached a turning point in 1968, and 1969 would see the working class thrust forward into revolutionary struggles.

Capitalism was getting ready for a showdown. This was the meaning of Powell—the move to

the extreme right of the Tory Party and the anti-union legislation.

The Young Socialists had to be in the front line of the defence of the trade unions. In this fight the national apprentices' movement would play an important part.

The Young Socialists had to fight for the building of a revolutionary party and for the daily 'Newsletter'.

An immediate campaign for the Ninth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists had to be started to make it the largest conference in the history of the Young Socialists.

Before holding a discotheque in the evening the conference elected a new Regional Committee.

### SOUTHERN

ALL OUT to make the Morecambe Conference at Easter the biggest ever!

That was the unanimous decision of more than 50 Young Socialists at the Southern Region Conference held at Gatwick Airport on February 9.

In the main political discussion, Aileen Jennings, editor of Keep Left, and Jeremy de Rose, National Committee member for the region, stressed the importance of the consistent struggle of the YS against the Labour government, and how the em-

ployers now had to prepare a dictatorship against the working class, using racialism to turn backward workers against the trade unions.

The Lambeth dustmen's strike showed how correct the YS was when it fought Powell in 1967 with the slogan 'Racialists today: strike breakers tomorrow'.

Plans were made to set up new branches in both the Federations, and a new regional committee was elected to lead the fight.

### SCOTLAND

THE Scottish Regional Conference marked a step forward in the area. Young Socialists from branches in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Paisley and Glasgow were present, with members of the All Trades Unions Alliance.

The political report was given by National Committee member Myles Buchanan who stressed the importance of building the Young Socialists to give leadership to the big struggles of the working class now developing in the area.

In France, Italy, Mexico, and Vietnam the working class showed enormous determination not only to defend their political rights and organizations, but to gain big concessions from the capitalist class.

Throughout the world, wherever the working class came into confrontation with the capitalist state or the bureaucracy in 1968 it showed tremendous militancy

and strength.

The betrayal by the Labour government of the working class and the threat of a return of the Tories posed big responsibilities before the YS. Only the YS and the All Trades Unions Alliance could mobilize any real fight against Wilson and the Tories.

The YS has the record of being the first organization to warn the working class of the threat of anti-union legislation, and of conducting a consistent campaign to make the 'lefts' fight.

Resolutions were passed on the LSE students and the need to build the Young Socialist Student Societies, Keep Left and support for the daily 'Newsletter'.

A report on the campaign for the Morecambe Conference was given.

A speaking contest was also held and in the evening there was a discotheque.

## Booby trap from page ten

whom you are trying to "screw" in a certain way, you can get "screwed" yourself.

'If I was Cuban and working for the national cinema, I would be paid a salary for doing things like newsreels and documentaries. I would be happy doing this. But it is not possible, for in France the cinema would become like the television [French TV is state-owned and programmes are heavily vetted].

'So this is a jungle where everybody is trying to "screw" everybody else to get the best exhibitor, the best producer.

'The situation is so complicated and deformed that perhaps the result is that the object is also deformed.'

He is less pessimistic about his May-June experiences.

'It was the spectacle of the microcosm of what the whole social movement was about—the control of your university and your factory.

'The trouble is that this was never really seen—it was deformed by the mass media.

'What I filmed would be interesting to show for a lot of reasons—to see how it actually worked at a physical level, its evolution day by day.'

May-June was also a fantastic illustration of what Marx talked about in the nature of change, he said.

France, a traditionally closed, complex and unopen society completely changed its face.

But de Gaulle and the Communist Party played on the fears and prejudices of the people who had 'jumped back into their chains'.

'Mr. Freedom' had annoyed many people and closed a lot of doors to him.

'Far from Vietnam' had the same effect—he had lost the agency which was to obtain the money to make 'Mr. Freedom' because of reaction in the United States to the film.

'This proves that the "permissive society" does draw a line somewhere,' he said.

More and more, artists like Klein will find themselves, their ideas and their films restricted and rejected by the capitalist society they attack.

They will only be able to truly express their art when events like May-June in France are taken through to a successful conclusion.

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# 9th Annual Conference of the Young Socialists Morecambe April 5-6

Spend your Easter weekend with us at the biggest event of the year.

### YOUR WEEKEND TIME-TABLE

FRIDAY 10 p.m.—TRAVEL overnight to Morecambe from the social or discotheque in your local area, in luxury coaches on the motorways.

SATURDAY 8 a.m.—ARRIVAL in Morecambe, leave your luggage at the hotel and look around.

SATURDAY 2.30 p.m.—ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Young Socialists opens to discuss the socialist alternative to Wilson, and how to take a lead in the trade unions.

SATURDAY 8 p.m.—Civic reception by the Mayor, free buffet and GRAND DANCE at the Winter Gardens ballroom to the Orange Bicycle and a top-line supporting group.

SATURDAY NIGHT—Bed and Breakfast in Morecambe's comfortable hotels.

SUNDAY 9.30 a.m.—CONFERENCE re-assembles to discuss the struggles of international revolutionary youth, and how to build and expand similar movements overseas.

SUNDAY 5 p.m.—RETURN by coach to build the biggest revolutionary youth movement ever seen in Europe.

Last year one thousand two hundred delegates attended our conference. It was a great success. This year we expect even more to attend what promises to be the most outstanding socialist youth conference of 1969.

Saturday evening at 8 p.m.

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