

KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER
OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

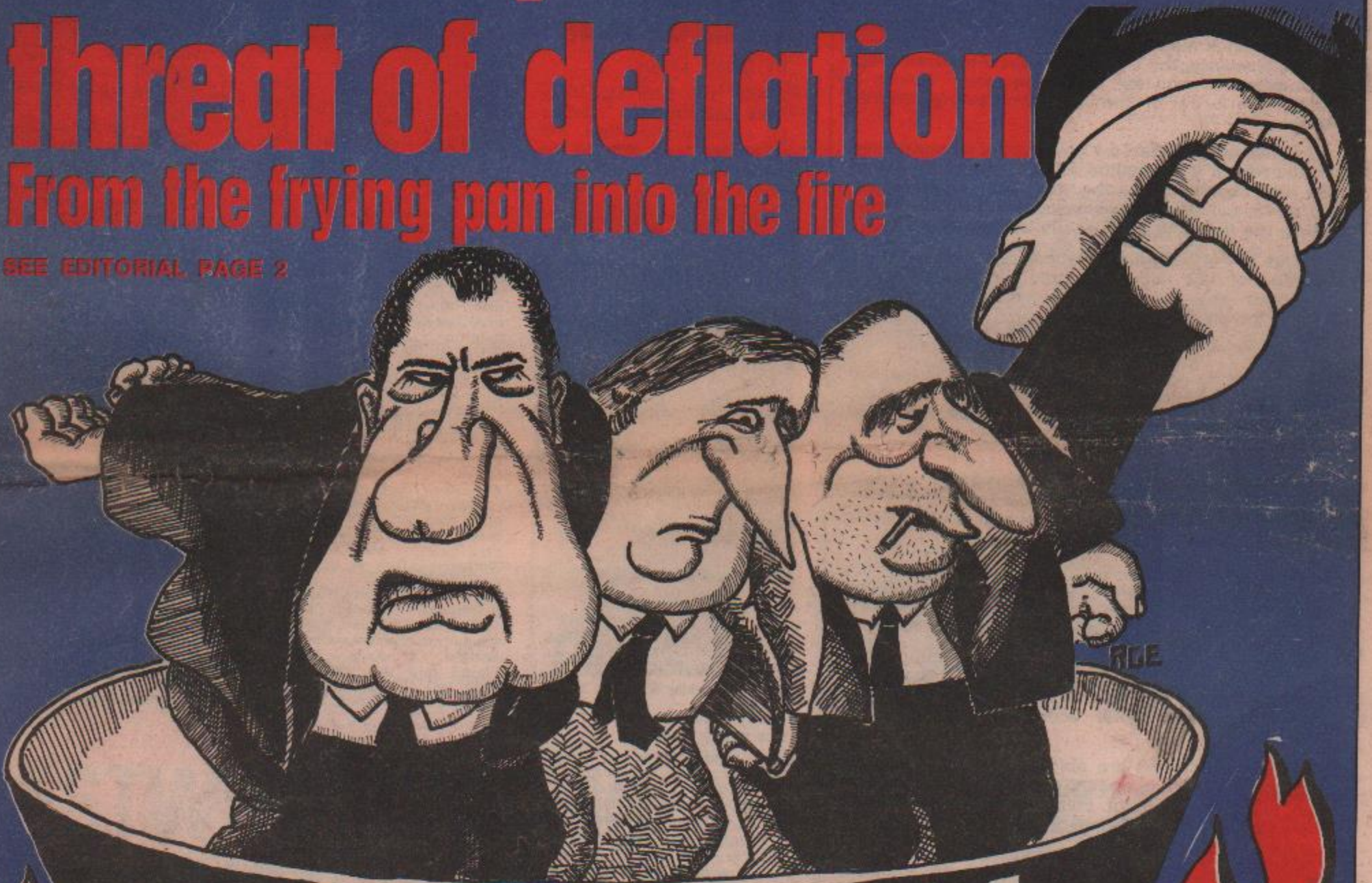
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World capitalism faces threat of deflation

From the frying pan into the fire

SEE EDITORIAL PAGE 2



Threat of deflation

POWERFUL sections of the capitalist class in Britain and the United States are demanding an end to runaway inflation which is undermining the value of the dollar and eating into established wealth.

They want to set in motion a slump, in the knowledge that they have no means of controlling and containing what will happen once the boom is brought to an end. This has created deep divisions in the ranks of the capitalists.

There are those sections for whom an end to inflation will mean certain ruin. Others see the opportunity for huge extensions of their monopoly holdings as a result of a major commercial and financial crash.

The tension and fear within the ruling class is reflected in the Nixon scandal in the United States and in the Lambton affair now racking the Tory government and revealing the political demoralization in their ranks.

This government is nothing more than a regime of scandals, a worthy junior partner of the Nixon administration in the United States.

The economic and political crisis are now brought together in a single knot of contradictions. Watergate sends the stock market reeling and forces up the gold price, intensifying the squeeze on the American West Coast new rich who are the Nixon men. This is a crisis which is out of control and careering towards slump.

The weakness of the Tory government demonstrated conclusively in the Lambton affair is the weakness of men with their backs to the wall. They will hit back with all the cunning and viciousness at their command against the threat to their wealth and privilege.

This is the government which came to power on a pledge of 'law and order' and has carried out a continuous and savage attack on basic rights of working people.

The Tories are responsible for:

- The Industrial Relations Act, under which the two largest unions have been fined huge sums of money and five dock-workers sent to prison. This Act takes away 'at a stroke' the independence of the trade unions from the capitalist state.
- The Housing Finance Act, which has imposed rent increases amounting in many cases to twice the original rent on hundreds of thousands of families living in council and private houses and flats.
- The Counter-Inflation (Emergency Provisions) Act, which abolishes the right to free collective bargaining and imposes a rigid state control of wages to a norm of £1 plus 4 per cent, far below the rate of inflation.

Like the Watergate crisis in the United States, the Lambton scandal in the ranks of the Tory cabinet reveals paralysis and division within the ruling class resulting from the worst economic crisis in their history.

Nixon and Heath are able to stay in office only because the Labour leaders and the Stalinists keep them there, cover-up for their scandals and fight at all costs against any attempt to bring them down.

The task of mobilizing the working class to force the resignation of the Heath government and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies is one for revolutionary leadership.

All young people should be warned. If this government is allowed to remain in office it can only become the forcing-house for the preparation of the most vicious anti-working class dictatorship. It must be defeated.



Aftermath of Bertoli's bomb explosion.

Italy — CIA backs fascists on the streets

by Cissie Lodge

ITALY has been staggering from one crisis to another for a considerable time. But events last week brought the dangers of a fascist coup out into the open.

The extreme political and economic instability of the country, rocked by huge strikes and the collapse of one government after another, has



Anti-communist Bertoli.

brought the fascists out onto the streets again.

A hand grenade was thrown into a group of people last week who were attending a ceremony commemorating the death of a police commissioner.

Gianfranco Bertoli, who launched the grenade, pretended to be a left-wing anarchist taking revenge for one of his comrades.

But it has since been clearly revealed that Bertoli was really a fascist, working for CIA-sponsored organizations.

Bertoli had travelled all the way from an Israeli kibbutz, where he had been known as an anti-communist, to carry out his mission.

Some of his previous activities in Italy had been attacks on workers out on strike and on workers demonstrating for their rights.

American governments since World War II have intervened heavily in Italian affairs, to prevent the working class taking power.

Through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) they have subsidized those forces they thought best capable of stopping communism.

Up to 1967 they backed the Christian Democratic Party, which has been the traditional party of Italian big business.

But from facts coming to light out of the Watergate investigations, it appears that Nixon and his CIA henchmen have been turning their attention to the neo-fascist heirs of Mussolini.

The fascist bombings have been used as a smoke-screen to make attacks on working-class organizations and to deprive workers in Italy of their democratic rights.

The Communist Party has deliberately held the powerful Italian working class back from taking on the government and bringing it down. This has played into the hands of the right and the military who are consciously preparing for power.

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ONCE again this week you our readers and supporters have responded to our fund with a great total of £37.95.

The crisis now facing the Tory government makes it vitally important that we strengthen and expand the whole base of the Young Socialists and Keep Left.

Your response to our fund makes us absolutely certain that this task can be carried out. Let's go all out now to make next week's fund.

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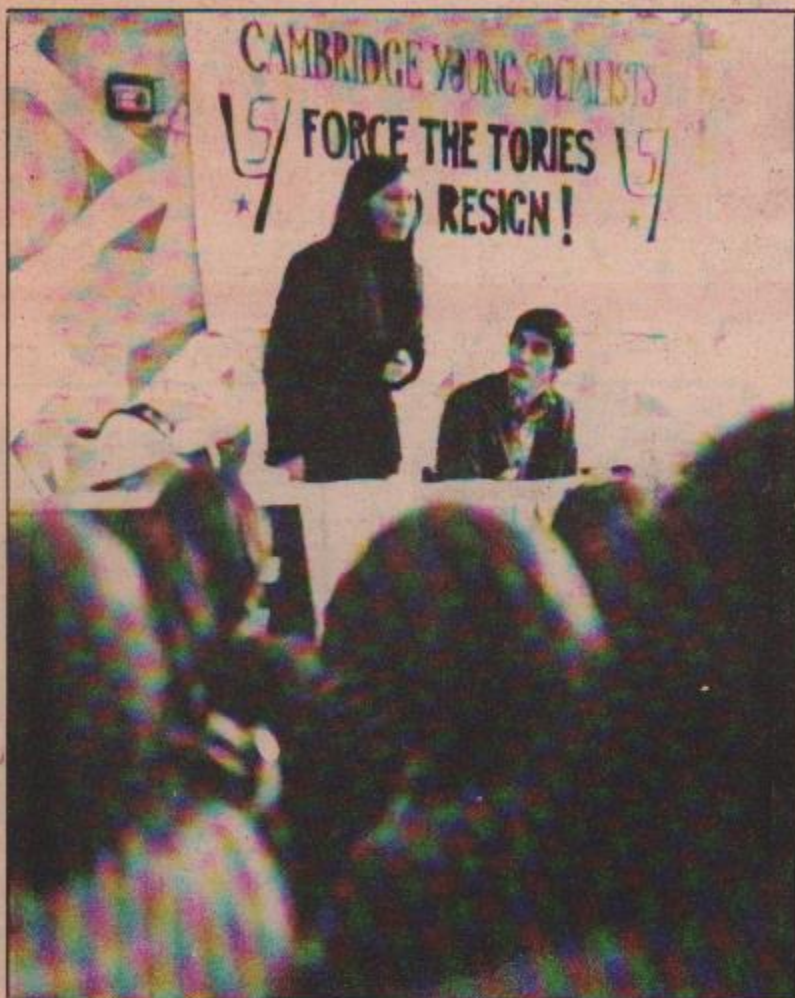
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Sarah Hannigan addresses Eastern region conference.

Successful Eastern region YS founding conference

By our correspondent

YOUNG Socialist branches from the East Anglia area came together last Sunday for a very successful founding conference of the YS Eastern Region.

Held at the Howard Mallet Club, Cambridge, the one-day conference was attended by delegations of youth from Norwich, Huntingdon, Newmarket, Peterborough and Cambridge.

Keep Left editorial board member, Sarah Hannigan, opening the discussion said that the present developments on the

world money markets clearly verified the YS analysis of the capitalist crisis.

'And it is very fitting,' she went on, 'that as we meet here today for the founding conference of the Eastern Region of the YS we should discuss the enormous crisis which is now disrupting all the old relationships within capitalism itself.'

Discussion after the report centred on questions of building an alternative revolutionary leadership and the problems encountered in a fight for Marxist policies.

The resolution for the setting up of an Eastern Region, proposed by a member from Cambridge YS, was passed unanimously and delegates from each of the areas were elected to form the new regional committee.

Conference then discussed proposals and plans for a wide social programme aimed at attracting new members in the campaign to build up the region.

The first regional social event takes place on Bank Holiday Monday. It is a 5-a-side football tournament in Cambridge.

Sessions on capitalist crisis at weekend school

by our reporter

THE Scottish region of the Young Socialists held one of its most successful schools ever at Sterling last weekend.

YS members stayed at Sterling castle—now converted into a youth hostel.

The weekend was divided into two sessions. On Saturday the capitalist economic crisis was discussed as well as its implications for the working class and especially young workers.

On Sunday there was a lecture and discussion on the origins of Stalinism and its role in Britain today. This was particularly important, speakers said, because of the way Stalinism has sold the working class in Scotland over the struggle

at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

This was followed by a lively debate over the way the Young Socialists could mobilize the working class.

A Dutch auction was held to raise money for the £100,000 special fund for the building of the Revolutionary Party. This proved a very effective way of raising cash.

Delegations from Glasgow, Renfrew, Paisley, Aberdeen, Dundee and Ayrshire ended the weekend making further plans for the summer campaign.

These included discos in every area, trips to the coast and inland resorts and federation dances with big name groups in Scotland.

The most immediate Scottish area attraction is the sports day, which will include a five-a-side tournament and a dance.

Lively disco for Hull Young Socialists

EVERYBODY had a great time at the Hull YS disco last Friday. This was the first in a series planned by the Young Socialists to build their branch.



BESTWOOD YOUNG SOCIALISTS START UP

BESTWOOD is a large council estate north of the city of Nottingham—a mixture of pre- and post-war housing. North of the estate is Bestwood colliery.

Youth facilities are quite good with a local swimming pool and newly-built sports centre.

Padstow Secondary School is the largest in the area and on May Day quite a number of the teachers took the day off in protest against the Tory pay laws.

A large number of the pupils also took the day off in support of the teachers.

The Young Socialists met youth from the estate while campaigning for a football and rounders rally in Nottingham. Since then 20 members have joined the YS, mainly due to a very successful disco held in a local hall.

All the new YS members agreed that a lively social programme must be one of the most vital points in building a big YS movement to fight the Tory government.

Pete Checkley (15), is still at school. He has this to say:

'At first I wanted the Tories in. At school we held our own general election and the Tories won, but now I know anything would be better than the Tories. I don't like the Tories because of rising prices. They said

they would bring them down but instead prices just shot up, especially clothes. I would like to know why food is dearer because we joined the Common Market.'

Dave Hill (16), works at Raleigh, Nottingham, where he is a member of the National Society of Metal Mechanics in the pedal and bar section. Dave earns £13 a week.

'A lot of youth leave Raleigh every week. The jobs are too boring. Five that I know have left this week.'

'I came out on May Day and would have gone on the march if someone had told me about it. Some people just don't want youth to join the union, we are too much trouble for them.'

'I would like to know why we didn't get strike pay on May Day.'

'I have not been political, but a lot seems wrong to me,' says schoolboy Jim Cast (15).

'The price of living is going up and up so much that the housewife will revolt. I don't know why housewives and workers don't all go on strike. The bosses wouldn't make profit and they wouldn't like that.'

'About this mugging business—if we got enough money and prices were cheap nobody would do any mugging. If everybody got what they wanted there wouldn't be any trouble at all. We pay for everything—we pay for houses, we pay to live

and die. We are born to pay to live. The earth was here before we were. Everybody was born here—why don't we share it.'

'Take coal. Coal keeps you warm. Coal comes from the earth, from the world. We are part of the world. Why do we have to pay for something we are a part of and is ours?'

'I can't understand why one man can own huge factories, land and even the sea. We get all the cheap things that break easily, the rich get all the good things. All our houses are badly built. Workers build houses, but have to live in slums. We pay for houses 25 times over.'

Pete, Dave and Jim all agreed that the YS must build a mass youth movement to defeat the Tories.

The attacks on youth and the working class by the Tories and their capitalist backers today bring up all the questions of the nature of capitalism, in particular why a few men should determine the lives of millions of working-class people, the sole producers of wealth on this earth.

Workers and youth will fight to defend their basic rights and will take the revolutionary road.

But the agents of capitalism in the workers' movement will fight to prevent them. Only the building of a mass youth movement to help transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party can guarantee the working class a future.

Have you joined the Young Socialists yet?



WRITE OFF TODAY!

Join the socialist movement which fights against Toryism, anti-union laws, unemployment and low wages. For details fill in form and send to YS National Secretary, 186A Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

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Young Socialists Week

Nixon, inflation and the Watergate crisis

YOUNG SOCIALISTS from branches all over the London area attended a weekend school at Broadstairs, Kent last weekend to discuss the nature of the world crisis of capitalism and its implications for the revolutionary youth movement.

Two lectures were given—the first by Peter Jeffries on 'Nixon, inflation and the Watergate crisis' and the second by Alex Mitchell of 'Workers Press' on 'The Rise of Japanese Militarism'.

There was no shortage of questions and discussion on both subjects with a wide variety of points raised by the attentive audience.

We meet this weekend, Peter Jeffries told the school, at a time when it is becoming clearer to everybody that every development in every capitalist country in the world directly arises and is aggravated by the economic crisis.

We have chosen in this school to examine in some detail the reflection of this economic crisis in the United States.

The US is the most powerful capitalist country in the world and its President is the single most powerful representative of the capitalist system in the world.

Yet today a grand jury is sitting in Washington and it seems likely that the President will be indicted as a fraud and a cheat in the next week.

It is common knowledge that thieving, embezzlement etc. are common to all of US capitalism. The crisis is different now because the capitalist class has chosen to blazon the Watergate affair across the pages of its own newspapers.

This indicates a major split in the American ruling class.

It is a ruling class which is today completely incapable of resolving its internal crisis. When we're talking about Watergate, we're talking about the crisis of the most powerful

capitalist nation in the world.

America mirrors the developments of the whole of the system. When has it been possible that a paper like the 'Washington Post' has been able from week to week to carry stories indicting the president?

This is only possible because of divisions inside the ruling class.

In periods of history when the old ruling class is unable to rule in the same way this has led to big internal crises and divisions. Such divisions existed in the heart of the Russian ruling class prior to the revolution of 1917.

What is the basis of the financial crisis which has reflected itself in the United States?

It can be summed up in one word—inflation.

Millions and millions of people all over the world are affected every day of their lives by this crisis. And it is the working class who are hit first.

Every time people go to the shops to buy a packet of cigarettes or something else, they are affected.

But it's not just that the crisis hits the working class—it has a big impact on the ruling class itself.

They are affected in the way that inflation disrupts the whole system they represent. The whole stability of the world trading system is today called increasingly into question.

Inflation is setting the scene for the collapse of world trade, for mass unemployment, for a return to the conditions of the 1930s when in Europe in 1932, 40 to 50 million people were without work.

This is why the agreement of the trade union leaders with the Tories for wage laws is a very reactionary thing indeed.

On August 15, 1971, Nixon announced that the world's dollar supply was no longer tied to the world gold supply.

He announced that paper money was no longer convertible into gold.

We must first understand

from where the value of gold arises. The measure of all value in capitalist world economy is labour time. It is the amount of labour time needed to extract and purify gold that gives it its value.

When Nixon told the big capitalists that their paper holdings were worthless, he brought to an end a period of history in which practically everybody in this room was brought up.

This period of history was based on the principle of the Bretton Woods agreement in 1944.

This agreement was made when the big capitalists got together and tried to hammer out a system whereby they could avoid another 1929 Wall Street crash.

They said the basic question was whether there was one currency in which world trade could be carried on, which could guarantee stability to the whole system.

They wanted to make one of the world currencies so strong that it could be converted into gold. It was decided that it should be dollars.

The American government guaranteed that any dollar holder in the world could at any time convert these into gold.

The arrangement which allowed capitalism to expand was based on the convertibility of the dollar.

August 1971 was the announcement of the beginning of an era in world politics the like of which none of us have ever seen.

What caused the Americans to break that agreement that they made at the end of the war?

In a sense they had no choice. The whole of the previous prosperity had been based on American pumping of dollars into the world markets.

They pumped more and more and more of this paper money into the world economy to keep it going.

The situation we have today is like a triangle on its point—



Peter Jeffries



Above: Packed audience at Broad

if you can imagine a small amount of gold underneath at the point and millions upon millions of paper dollars piled up on top—then that's something like what it is.

It's a situation which has to collapse sooner or later.

Over the past two years each capitalist country has tried to devalue at the expense of everyone else. The reality of the situation we're living in is one of increasing protectionism.

We have 'floating' currencies where the value of every currency is fixed every day.

But value arises through the sweat and labour of people throughout the world. The ruling class can only extract value from the working class by imposing dictatorship.

By reducing the working class of Europe and America to the same standard which colonial workers have suffered over the past 100 years that is how they will restore value. They have to bring the conditions of the colonies home to New York, to Paris, to London.

The fight for decent wages today has been made into a criminal offence by this Tory government.

It would be dangerous for us to underestimate the extent of this crisis. The working class is led by the most spineless and compromised union leadership ever in its history.

The big challenge today is the challenge of leadership. The working class is a very powerful class but it lacks the generals to lead it.

The purpose of this school is so that Young Socialists can take a leading role to mobilize the working class against this rotten system of anarchy and corruption.

We must struggle to build a revolutionary party to take the working class to power.

The only future for the working class is to get rid of not only Nixon but the whole of Nixon's class throughout the world. The role of this school is to prepare for that task.



A quick dip in the sea during the break.

A section of the audience listens with rapt attention.



Weekend School — Broadstairs



Below: Interest at the bookstall.



For some there was a ride on the donkeys.



Alex Mitchell

The rise of Japanese militarism

THE many myths about Japan had to be exposed in the British workers' movement, Alex Mitchell, news editor of Workers Press, told the London region YS weekend school.

He said the chief myth, which had 'virtually reached the status of an industry', was that Marxism had no basis in Japan. A recent survey of Japan by the news magazine 'The Economist', carried a headlined article: 'Japan: The Most Unmarxist Society'.

Bourgeois academics and commentators both inside and outside Japan had invented the 'theory' that Japan was a society based on consensus and not conflict.

'They say that the head of the country—the Emperor—is the father and that the Japanese people are his children. They all belong to one happy, hard-working, extended family. This is complete and utter rubbish,' he said.

He went on to describe the unique conditions under which Japanese capitalism was built.

Britain, he said, had the first industrial revolution and the new industrial proletariat had grown up in unity and conflict with the capitalist means of production.

'As the capitalist class improved its means of production and technology, so the British working class developed its strength and its fight for basic democratic rights.

'In Japan, however, the rise of capitalism occurred under totally different historical circumstances.'

Until the mid 19th century Japan was ruled by a brutal military dictatorship—the Tokugawa Shogunate, the samurai (warrior) class. They kept Japan in a state of complete isolation from the outside world for more than four centuries.

When the marauding ships of the British, Dutch, American and German imperialists appeared off

Japan the shogunate had to take a decision: whether to put up a military wall and defend itself against the invaders or to make an accommodation with the industrialized imperialist powers.

They chose the latter course and introduced capitalism by an act of state. In other words, he said, there was no bourgeois revolution in which the shogunate or the feudal forces were overthrown.

This meant that the developments of capitalist means of production were 'imported' into Japan and imposed on the peasant workers.

'One day they were working in the field growing rice, next day they were in shipyards or munitions factories,' he said.

And the capitalism that was introduced was not the small-time entrepreneurial variety but ruthless monopoly capitalism controlled by the big ruling class families.

'The immediate drive of the new Japanese capitalist class was towards militarism and territorial gain. At the turn of the century, after only 30 years in business, they took on and defeated the Tsar's navy.

'In the next decades they attacked Manchuria, Korea, China, Malaya, Borneo, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia and the United States of America itself.'

He said the post-war 'economic miracle' in Japan had to be explained in terms of the settlement reached at Potsdam and Yalta between Stalin and the leaders of world imperialism.

The so-called 'peace' constitution imposed by General Douglas MacArthur was a fraud: although it had outlawed rearmament, Japan now had an army, navy and air force; although it had called for the purging and destruction of the big business clique, the zaibatsu, these people were now firmly back in business; although it legally enshrined certain rights for workers, millions of workers in the public service industries—railways, post office and civil service—still didn't have the right to strike.

Even if the Japanese ruling class had any intention of observing the constitution, it was entirely abandoned through American government policies.

The communist revolution in China and the Korean war turned Japan into an offshore nuclear base for US imperialism. The Japanese ruling class became willing allies in a massively inflationary plan to rebuild Japan as a modern world power.

'In seeing the great strength of Japanese capitalism, many British trade unionists take a chauvinist or racist view of it. They think of the "Japs" as the "Yellow hordes" making cameras and television sets for very low wages in giant sweat shops. They see the Japanese worker as an "enemy".'

'This is the sort of mythology we must fight in the British trade union movement. The Japanese worker may seem politically and industrially backward, but that is only as a result of the special historical conditions in which capitalism was built in Japan.'

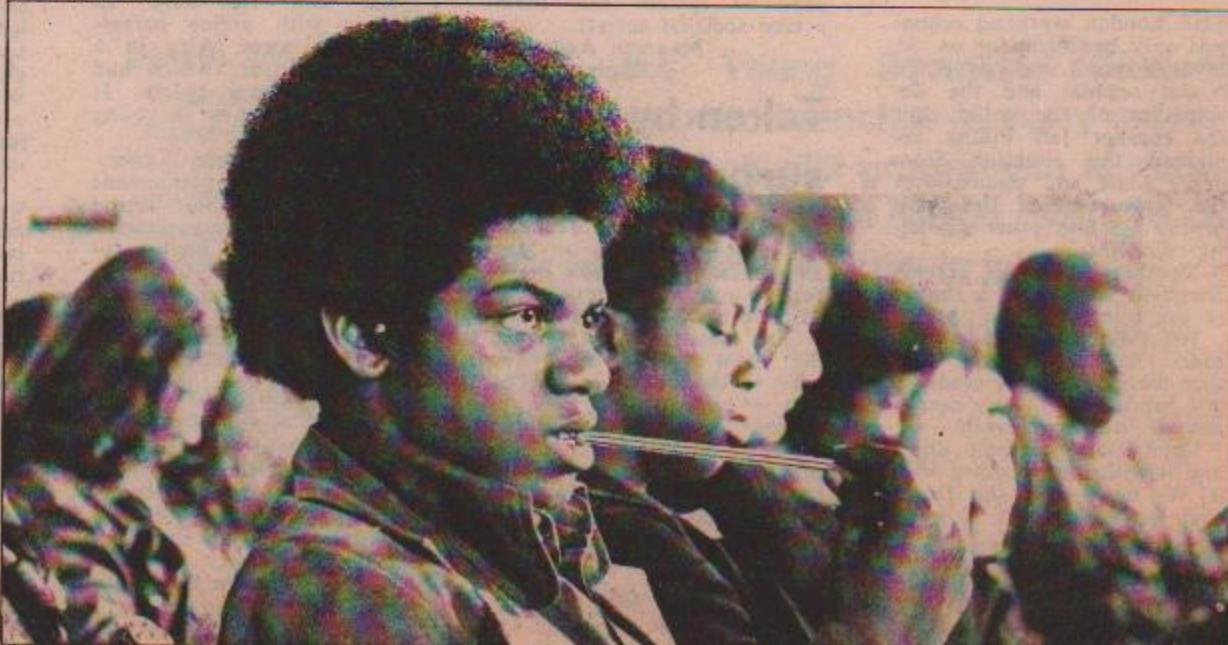
'The Japanese working class is today engaged in massive fights against its Tory government for better wages and conditions.'

'In the past few weeks there has been a General Strike of public service workers, 7 million workers went out on strike to attend May Day rallies and the threat of a second General Strike last Friday forced the Tanaka government to abandon plans to fiddle the electoral laws.'

'If Japanese workers heard the way some trade union bureaucrats talk about them, they would be horrified. It is important to remember that Japanese workers follow very closely all the struggles which British workers have. They have enormous sympathy for their strikes and, for instance, what's happening in Ireland.'

'They know that we have powerful unions and they look to them for a lead. On May Day, for example, a worker said to me: "The papers say we had about 7 million out today. I wonder how many came out in Britain?"'

Another section of the YS audience.



Israel - founded on denial of Palestinian rights

Zionism - arm of reaction in Middle East

By our correspondent

ISRAEL celebrated its 25th anniversary two weeks ago with a massive military display on the streets of Jerusalem.

American-supplied tanks and aircraft were especially prominent. Here in Britain, on the same day as the parade, the Duke of Edinburgh attended a dinner held by the Jewish National Fund, which raises money from abroad for Israeli development.

The dinner marked the planting of a forest, dedicated to the British Royal family, in Galilee. Outside the Guildhall, where the dinner was held, Palestinian Arab students demonstrated, saying that the forest was on land stolen from the Arabs.

Over a million Arabs were made refugees when the State of Israel was established. Thousands more lost their land to the Zionists under Israeli laws which permit expropriation of Arab land.

The Palestinian people will not be celebrating the Israeli state's anniversary — Israel's statehood was founded on the

denial of rights to the Palestinians.

Behind the creation of the State was the world-wide Zionist movement, mainly financed by Jewish capitalists in the US.

Zionism began as a response by the Jewish middle class to the problem of anti-Semitic persecution. But instead of understanding the cause of this racialism, in the decay of capitalist society, the Zionists accepted it as inevitable and 'eternal', and sought a way out through the creation of a separate Jewish state.

To realize this aim, they were prepared to turn to anyone, however reactionary, for support.

Even the Tsarist minister Von Plehve, who had organized a vicious anti-semitic movement in Russia, and was responsible for the bloody massacre of Jews, was approached by Zionist leader Herzl who promised him that Zionism would help the Tsarist regime by persuading Jewish youth to leave revolutionary movements and go to Palestine instead!

The Zionist movement eventually received recognition from the British government, which issued the famous Balfour

Declaration backing their claim to Palestine.

This was motivated both by Britain's own plans to carve up the Turkish Empire (of which Palestine was then part) after World War I, and the idea that a Jewish colony there would serve British interests.

When the Nazi persecution and mass murder campaign led to thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing Europe, the American Zionist leaders insisted that they should be allowed into Palestine, and the American government backed them—but Zionists and anti-Semites combined to oppose any suggestion that the refugees be allowed to come to America instead!

In 1956, Israel acted in collusion with the British Tories and the French colonialists by sending her troops into Egypt to start the Suez war.

(Egypt under Nasser had antagonized imperialism by supporting the rebels in Algeria and by nationalizing the Suez canal.)

The so-called 'independent' state of Israel remains heavily dependent on aid and investment from the West, and both the Zionist movement and the Israeli government serve as loyal

allies to imperialism.

The Zionist youth movements in Britain and elsewhere set out deliberately to confuse Jewish youth by bracketing Marxism with Stalinism, to segregate them from other youth, and to try to persuade them to have nothing to do with the working-class movement and the fight for socialism.

The Israeli leaders, like Golda Meir, urged American Jews to vote for Nixon at the last election. They are also on record as fully supporting Nixon's war in Vietnam.

Since 1967, Israeli troops have occupied large areas of captured Arab lands, and repressed the Palestinian Arab people.

They were told by their leaders that this would bring 'security', but in fact more Israeli lives have been lost to the Palestinian Resistance than were lost during the 1967 war!

As a result, the Israeli government is now having to face not only opposition from the Palestinian masses, but also from an increasing number of young Israeli workers and students who are beginning to reject its policies.

Israeli armed might on the streets.

At the same time, the Israeli working class, which has to bear the cost of Zionist policies has engaged in a number of strikes, to defend its standard of living, and demonstrations over the housing problem.

Jewish youth from Oriental backgrounds have come out, calling themselves 'Black Panthers', to demonstrate against discrimination, slum housing, and police brutality. There have been several clashes between them and the police.

The question of uniting Arab and Jewish workers and youth against Zionism and imperialism is now clearly on the agenda; and with it, the question of creating a revolutionary party as a section of the Fourth International.

In fact, some Israeli youth have already begun steps to set up a revolutionary youth movement.

Outside Israel too, there have been a number of indications that Zionism is losing its influence, as Jewish youth reject it, and turn to revolutionary politics.



Congratulations

THE branch committee of the Walcot YS branch, (Swindon) sends its warmest fraternal greetings to the editorial board of the Keep Left and all members of the Young Socialists on the first anniversary of the weekly Keep Left.

- * Forward to the 12-page Keep Left!
- * Forward to the mass Young Socialists!
- * Forward to the Revolutionary Party!

Walcot YS branch committee.
P. McKay
M. Woodhouse
J. Mirams
P. Mirams.

Your opinions on the London weekend school

Beneficial

THE London weekend school was very beneficial for us. At first we didn't understand the Nixon scandal and the devaluation of the dollar, but the speaker Jeff Pilling explained the situation from every angle and pointed out the seriousness of the crisis in the US and other capitalist countries.

Members of the Young Socialists were given a chance to ask questions.

Jeff Pilling and other comrades emphasized the fact that there is a major crisis on our hands and that we cannot just sit back and watch.

Capitalism is going down and it will drag us down with it. We must show the Tories that we know what is going on.

As a divided people we cannot stand up to them but

POST BAG

united we can overthrow the capitalist system.

Kathleen Barnes
Rosalind Francis
Battersea YS

More understanding

BY participating in the YS weekend school at Broadstairs new horizons have opened up for me in understanding the immense corruption of this world-wide capitalist system and how it works.

This system is being destroyed by its own worthless invention of too much paper money which is undermining our very existence.

This is why we must oppose and fight against the capitalist system and build a true socialist society.

Maureen Anderson
Orpington YS

Taken by surprise

I ATTENDED the weekend school at Broadstairs on May 19 and 20 and as a new member I was taken totally by surprise by what I heard.

The discussion following the main speaker was not what I thought it would be like — embarrassed fanatics stating the exact party line. Speakers endeavoured to explain issues and many questions which were at the back of my mind were answered.

The general feeling was one of friendship and comradeship.

I learned far more than I thought I ever would both at the school and about the movement.

I am looking forward to the next one.

Chris Farley
Woolwich YS

Willesden YS discuss the police

WILLESDEN Young Socialists held a meeting last Thursday on police violence and the conditions facing youth today.

Federation secretary Raye Francis opened the main report by explaining that as the crisis of capitalism deepened police violence and unemployment would worsen.

She said we were all familiar with police harassment. We were living in a period of history which had never been seen before. It was completely new to young people of today.

Living standards, entertainment and environment were under the most brutal attack by this Tory government as it moved further towards dictatorship in order to make the working class pay for its crisis.

In a lively discussion some of the youth said that police in Willesden were the most brutal in London.

One YS member, Michael Clarke, said that the only way to get rid of the police was to get rid of the employers that stand behind them and that meant making the Tory government resign.

Willesden YS reader

A comment on National Union of School Students

AFTER the recent article about the National Union of School Students (Keep Left Saturday May 12), we felt we must write up and comment on the truth of the article.

Some time ago we went to an NUSS meeting in Leicester. All that was discussed was the sending of delegates to London for the national conference reported on. Nothing was discussed about taking action to increase membership or about the coming May Day strike.

Later, after thinking about the meeting, we wrote a letter to the secretary asking for a special meeting to challenge the existing right-wing leadership—especially over their failure to give a lead on May Day. We have not yet had a reply.

These so-called leaders weren't elected. They just nominated themselves. They take no action. So the NUSS turns into just a name.

The solution is to kick them out and replace them with a democratically-elected leadership, which will fight to unite school students with workers in the struggle against the common enemy, i.e. the capitalist system led by the Tories.

We plan to do this at the special meeting we have called.

Pete Pold & Gaz Smith
Leicester YS.

No appeal for Storey says judge

PAUL STOREY, the 16-year-old Birmingham boy, sentenced for his part in a robbery last year has now been told he cannot appeal against the two 20-year sentences served on him.

The boy, who is at present detained at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, was told that Lord Justice James had studied his trial papers and made his decision.

The ruling also covers the cases of the two 15-year-old boys sentenced with Storey. Both were each given two ten-year concurrent sentences for their part in the so-called 'mugging' in which they stole five cigarettes, 30p and a bunch of keys.

Residents of the city's depressed Handsworth area where the boys live have said they will try to raise enough cash to carry on the fight.

First stage of 'Belfast 10' trial

HEAVY police surveillance accompanied the first stage of proceedings against the 'Belfast 10' in Lambeth, South London, on Monday, May 21.

The 'Belfast 10' are charged with 'conspiring together and with others on or before March 8 to cause explosions in the United Kingdom of a nature likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property'.

Protest action is not enough

THE future of art students all over the country is endangered by the recommendations of the Pooling-Delaney report which is part of the Tory government's vicious cut-backs in education.

This report, if brought into use, will mean cut-backs in part-time staff, especially in smaller colleges and will inevitably lead to a reduction in the number of art students.

In the face of this, the National Union of Students bureaucracy has come forward with proposals for 'three days of protest' including sit-ins, work-ins, work-outs, strange events and other activities.

At a meeting of London art students at the Slade School of Art last Friday the reactionary nature of these protest politics was revealed.

Speakers backing the campaign defended it on the grounds that if the 'general public' (including Mrs Thatcher) could be made to understand the importance of art schools then local education authorities could be persuaded not to implement the proposals.

Students from Goldsmiths School of Art pointed out that the Tory government would not be swayed by protest as they face an economic crisis which makes it necessary for them to carry out all these cut-backs. They pointed out the need for a new sort of leadership.

Anti-working class resolution at Middlesex

A general meeting of Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union, passed a resolution recently on the NUS grants campaign.

The motion, proposed by vice-president Steve Crossly, contained a serious attack on the working class. It made no criticism of the limitations of the present campaign and, in fact, advocated a continuation of protests.

The motion condemned 'some sections' (of the working class) who 'regularly use their bargaining power' to 'screw sections of the community such as students, old age pensioners, and hospital workers'.

A series of amendments substituting the formation of Councils of Action for protest politics and deleting the anti-working class resolutions were proposed by the YSSS.

These however were defeated. The only Communist Party member present, Bill Broom, abstained on the substantial motion which still contained the attack on the working class.

Nottingham University into action on the rents issue

By a Keep Left correspondent

NOTTINGHAM University, for long the preserve of the right wing, has sprinted into action this term with a rent strike as part of the National Union of Students campaign for higher grants.

There are about 2,000 students living in halls of residence which are situated on an enclosed self-sufficient campus in acres of gardens on the outskirts of Nottingham.

It costs £8.40 a week to live in a hall such as Cripps Hall. This includes the cost of three meals a day. The lunchtime meal is often not taken as it may involve a 20-minute walk from a centre hall, but it still has to be paid for.

At present there are about 200 students on rent strike. The small number is due to the confusion surrounding a union meeting at the end of last term, which left it to the executive to determine what support there was, before calling a rent strike for this term.

The right wing which dominates the executive incensed the majority of students by doing its best to obstruct any strike.

It even published leaflets—at the union's expense—suggesting that the rent strike was unofficial, without the knowledge or consent of the whole of the executive or the president Eric Allsop, who has done most of the organizing for the strike.

At a recent stormy meeting of 600 students, called to ratify the rent strike, the response was overwhelmingly in favour—358 for, 237 against.

Bernie Murrell of the Young Socialist Student Society proposed that a Tory amendment—aimed at preventing the strike—should not even be discussed

and should be removed from the order paper.

Despite howls of anger and accusations of 'undemocratic' procedures from both moderates and Tories alike, the move received enthusiastic backing and was endorsed.

Pete Judge (20) a second year mathematics student told Keep Left:

'I was surprised at the number of people overwhelmingly supporting the rent strike.

'This marks a change at Nottingham University which I think will be permanent. Students here wouldn't have supported a rent strike if other colleges had not taken a lead.'

Notable absentees in the fight against the Tories were the International Socialists.

Simon Turner, recently elected NUS executive member and a member of IS, spoke after the Tories, amendment had been defeated. His contribution could not be distinguished from the pressure politics the executive have been pushing for.

Said Turner: 'The grants campaign is now to get a reply from the government by May 21. Twelve-hour pickets outside the Department of Education and Science are being organized to effect this. We really have very few options open to us to carry forward the fight.'

Turner was extremely vague as to how students protected themselves against victimizations—something that perturbed Nottingham students who had called for a guarantee that no disciplinary action would be taken against rent strikers.

He called for 'a vigorous campaign against victimizations', which should involve 'united action, calling vice-chancellors' bluff, further action such as occupation and then further action'.

At no time did he call for

united action with the working class in defence of democratic rights.

And he ended on the most contradictory of notes.

'Let's make next year the most disruptive since 1968,' were the left words, followed by: 'If we are to influence the government in any way at the next review then we must have mass action and more rent strikes'—a capitulation to the pressure politics of the Stalinists.

£20 insult for students

THE TORY government has announced that it will give students a grand increase of £20 a year in their grants.

This magnificent offer is to be on top of a £20 increase already due under the present grants scheme.

But what the government failed to mention is that this will be the maximum increase. Students who do not receive the full grant will receive much less than £20.

A brief look at how this offer works out in practice may help to show just how this sum will transform (sic) the lives of students now skimping meals and buying less and less books just so that they can continue at college.

The response of the National Union of Students' leadership has been typical. Digby Jacks and his whole chorus have been unanimous in condemning it. But in an interview with the 'Sunday Telegraph', his criticisms became somewhat muted and the £20 insult became, in his words, 'a qualified success'!

Student protest at Parliament against grants offer

Students demonstrated outside parliament against the government's latest offer of £20 a year increase on Monday last week.



Where the YSSS branches meet

BRADFORD YSSS
Every Tuesday
1 p.m.
Room E22

SOUTHAMPTON YSSS
Wednesday May 30
1 p.m.
Clubs & Socs Room
'Lobby the NUS on June 8!'
'Reject the DES offer!'

BROCKENHURST YSSS
(New Forest)
Meets every Thursday
Room 59

LEEDS YSSS
Wednesday May 30
1 p.m.
'Defend Democratic Rights!'

BATH YSSS
Thursday May 31
1.30 p.m.
Room 1 East 36
'The Marxist theory of knowledge.'

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
Mechanical
Engineering Block
Room 214 1.00 p.m.

OXFORD YSSS
Wednesday May 30
8 p.m.
Seminar Room A
Jesus College
'The English Revolution'

EXETER YSSS
Thursday May 31
1.15 p.m.
Room C, Devonshire House
'Perspectives for launching the Revolutionary Party.'

Wednesday June 27
Reading and Discussion of
The Communist Manifesto
'The crisis of Capitalism and the Fight to build a Revolutionary Party.'
Reading of Vol. 1 of Capital

JOIN THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS STUDENT SOCIETY TODAY!

Help the Young Socialists Student Societies build branches in every university with a socialist programme to make the Tory government resign. Write to us for more details on how to join.

Name.....

University.....

Fill in this form and post to YSSS, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

What goes on in record sales promotion?

I AM an independent record producer, which means I deal with all the major record companies in the course of my job.

When any record is released by a company, all the people concerned, such as the producer, the publishers of the songs, the artist's management, and of course the record company, are very likely to get together to discuss the 'promotion' of the record.

Of course, as in any capitalist business, the primary concern of the record company is to recoup the costs of recording the record, as well as any advance-earning payments made to the artiste or producer, and then to press

on to collect the huge potential profit that is temporarily lying as loose change in the pockets of young workers and schoolchildren throughout the country.

This is the task of 'promotion'.

In order for someone to buy a record, they must first like it, and to decide if they like it they must first hear it. In Britain that predominantly means hearing it on the radio.

Obviously, therefore, it is most important for a record company to get as many 'plays' as possible for its records.

If a record is by a well-established and popular group or artiste, then there is little problem, as the radio programme producers will want to include records by popular

artistes so that their programme is popular in turn.

The difficulties of getting 'plays' arise with the promotion of the record of a new artiste. At this point the decisions reached at the promotion meeting I mentioned are put into action.

It is perfectly usual for gifts, such as bottles of whisky, boxes of cigars, etc., to be sent to producers and disc-jockeys at their offices, usually in conjunction with relevant promotional photographs and other material, in order to 'draw their attention' to a particular record.

Less usually, but nonetheless quite commonly, producers and those disc-jockeys who have control over the records played on their programmes (not all do) are

offered cash in return for 'plays' on their programmes.

A typical sum would be £300 for three plays on a particular popular programme.

For £300 the record is heard each week for three weeks on a 'peak' programme, possibly with a few extra words of patter from the disc-jockey thrown in for the price.

Also very usual are the offers of free trips here, there and everywhere.

One disc-jockey seems to be very taken with flying first class Jumbo to New York.

The boss of one record company makes his fully-crewed yacht and house available every spring, in return for help in getting his

new records heard by the record-buying public.

All this is quite commonplace and its benefits and uses freely discussed at promotional meetings within every record company.

Some people concerned with promoting records prefer to pay the owner of a chain of record retail shops a lump sum to falsify the returns made from his shops to the pop-record chart compilers.

In this way a record can appear at Number 40 or 35 in the charts without having sold a single copy!

When one looks at this situation one feels inclined to ask the question, where does 'legitimate' promotion of the products of free enterprise stop and 'corruption' begin?

WHAT'S ON WHERE MEETINGS

BLACKBURN: Every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. 'Queen's Hotel', Town Hall Street.
CAMBRIDGE: Every Wednesday, 8 p.m. 'The Royal Standard', Mill Road.
PETERBOROUGH: Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. 'The Still', Cumbergate.
NORWICH: Every Tuesday, 8 p.m. Room 5, Kier Hardie Hall, St George's Alley.
KIRKBY CENTRAL: Every Wednesday, 8 p.m. Scout Hut, St Chads Hall, corner Country Road/Rough Lane.
TOXTETH: Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Domestic Mission, Mill Street, Liverpool 8.
LIVERPOOL KENSINGTON: Every Monday, 7.30 p.m. Kensington Community Centre, Low Hill (nr 'Coach & Horses').

LEICESTER
BELGRAVE: Every Tuesday, 8 p.m. Jubilee Inn.
NEW PARKS: Every Wednesday, 8 p.m. Adult Education Centre, New Parks Boys School.
SANFORD: Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Methodist Church Hall, Broad Lane, Leeds 13.
WREXHAM: Every Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. Fairfield Tavern (snug) cnr Erddig Road/Wellington Road.
MURTON: Every Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. Miners' Welfare Hall, Murton, Durham.
SHEFFIELD
CENTRAL: Every Wednesday, 8 p.m. YS Premises, Portobello (nr Jessops Hospital).

HACKENTHORPE: Every Thursday, 8 p.m. Frenchville Community Centre.
FIRTH PARK: Every Thursday, 8 p.m. Shiregreen Middle School.
PARSONS CROSS: Every Tuesday, 8 p.m. Mansell School.
SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday May 29, 7.30 p.m. Baytree Inn, New Road.
BASINGSTOKE: Every Wednesday, 8 p.m. Wote Street Club.
BATH: Every Tuesday, 8 p.m. York Street, Wine Vaults, Bog Island.
COWLEY: Every Wednesday 8 p.m. Cowley Community Centre.
READING: Every Wednesday, 8 p.m. 'Happy Prospect', Coronation Square, Southgate.
PORTSMOUTH NORTH: Every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. Grove Club, Paulsgrove.
PORTSMOUTH SOUTH: Every Thursday, 7.30 p.m. Fountain Hall, Fratton.
ROSEHILL: Every Thursday, 8 p.m. Tree Hotel, Ilfley.
WALCOT: Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Walcot Common Room, Sussex Square, Walcot, Swindon.

SPORT

EAST MIDLANDS YS SPORTS DAY
 Sunday June 3
 Saffron Lane Stadium
 Leicester
 Contact local YS branches for entry form and details if you want to compete.

EASTERN REGION YS FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
 Monday May 28
 Jesus Green
 Cambridge
 Meet 1 p.m.; Kick-off 2 p.m.
 Transport from Norwich, Peterborough, Newmarket and Huntingdon.
 (Contact branches for details.)

FOOTBALL PORTSMOUTH FEDERATION
 Every Sunday
 Kick-off: 2.30 p.m.
 Southsea Common

LIVERPOOL YS
 Five-a-side football every Sunday
 Meet, Central Cafe
 Sefton Park
 2 p.m.

Do you want to form a YS band?

If you do and you have your own instrument write to us: **Keep Left, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG.**

What's your sporting interest?



If you can swim, play football, or if you are good at athletics and want to participate in YS events please write to us

Name

Address

Event

Fill in this form and post to : **YS SPORT 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG**

DISCOS

COWLEY YS DISCOTHEQUE
 Starting Friday June 1 (every two weeks following) 7.30-10.30 p.m.
 Cowley Community Centre
 Tickets 15p

CAMDEN YS FEDERATION RALLY & DISCOTHEQUE
 Sunday June 3
 St Martin's Church Hall
 Vicars Road
 off Grafton Road, NW5
 Starts 6.30 p.m. Tickets 20p

PORTSMOUTH SOUTH YS DISCOTHEQUE
 Tuesday May 29 7.30-10.30 p.m.
 St. Peters Hall
 Somerstown
 Tickets: YS members 10p Non-members 15p

SOUTHAMPTON YS FEDERATION DISCOTHEQUE
 Thursday May 31 Starts 7.30 p.m.
 Mansel Middle School
 Calver Close
 Millbrook
 Tickets 15p

MIDDLESEX POLY YSSS DANCE
 Friday June 1 7.30-10.30 p.m.
 Broadbent Theatre
 Enfield Branch
 Queensway, Enfield (nr Southbury Road BR station)
 Live group 'The Wave'
 Tickets 20p; at door 25p

CALDER VALLEY YS DISCOTHEQUE
 Saturday June 2 Starts 8 p.m.
 White Hart Hotel
 Todmorden
 Tickets 20p

SOUTH SHIELDS YS DISCOTHEQUE
 every Wednesday
 TUC Hall
 Westhow
 7.30 p.m.

BATTERSEA FEDERATION YS DANCE
 Raise funds for the building of the revolutionary party
 Tuesday June 5
 Battersea Town Hall
 Lavender Hill, SW11
 Live band, disco, light show
 Starts 8 p.m.
 Invitation tickets 40p

PRESTON LARCHES YS
 Youth Club
 Every Friday
 St Peter and Paul's
 Park Avenue
 7.30-10.00 p.m.
 Adm: 5p Records

EAST LONDON FEDERATION YS DANCE & BUFFET
 Saturday June 2
 Raise funds for the building of the Revolutionary Party
 Bromley Public Hall
 Bow Road, E3
 Starts 8 p.m. Tickets 40p

HIGHFIELDS YS DISCOTHEQUE
 every Saturday
 Queen Victoria (Near Leicester Mercury offices)
 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
 Adm: 10p

NORTH WEST YS
 Dance and Cruise aboard the **NEW ROYAL IRIS**
 Monday June 18 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
 Sound system and live group refreshments and buffet
 Pter Head, Liverpool
 Tickets 50p

WEMBLEY YS DISCOTHEQUE
 Saturday June 16 Starts 8 p.m.
 Copeland School
 Wembley High Street nr Wembley Triangle
 Tickets 20p; at door 25p

OUTINGS

POPLAR YS COACH TRIP TO BRIGHTON
 Sunday June 10
 Details of coach times and pick-up points to be announced.

CAMDEN YS FEDERATION COACH TRIP TO MARGATE
 Sunday June 10
 Details of coach times and pick-up points to be announced.

WESTERN REGION YS COACH TRIP TO SOUTHSEA
 Sunday June 3
 Football and Funfair
 DISCOTHEQUE 7.30 p.m.
 Grove Club, Paulsgrove
 Portsmouth
 Details of coach times and pick-up points to be announced.