

KEEP LEFT

JANUARY

1970

Vol. 19, No. 1

6d.

Official paper
of the
Young Socialists

UNITES YOUNG WORKERS - APPRENTICES - STUDENTS - UNEMPLOYED AND IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Message from Keep Left A.G.M. Rally January 10 & 11

'FORWARD TO THE REVOLUTIONARY 1970s!'

1969, editor Aileen Jennings told the Keep Left Annual General Meeting on Saturday, January 10, had been a remarkable year for the paper.

Its circulation, which had averaged 20,668 copies a month, had seen an average monthly rise of 1,668 and this enabled the Young Socialists to look forward to the 1970s, 'the revolutionary 1970s', with confidence.

'Behind this increase', Comrade Jennings emphasized, 'lies a tremendous effort and a great deal of political enthusiasm unrivalled in the labour movement today.'

On the basis of their principled fight for Marxism in the working class, the 40 Young Socialists who had attended the 'Keep Left' Annual General Meeting ten years ago (January 1960) had won decisive majorities for their policies inside the Labour Party and—following their expulsion by Wilson and the right wing on the eve of the 1964 general election—had taken the Young Socialists and their paper from strength to strength.

This strength was demonstrated by the Annual General

Continued on page 16 →



The platform and part of the audience at the Keep Left AGM at the East India Hall, London.

'Stop Wilson' campaign – a highly successful demonstration

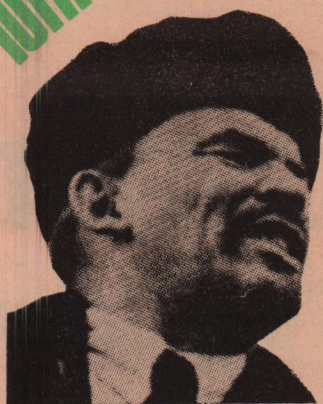
'OUR CAMPAIGN on Vietnam, now, from this meeting, must shift back into the factories', Socialist Labour League national secretary Gerry Healy told a packed meeting of trade unionists and Young Socialists following January 11's 1,500-strong demonstration through London demanding the stopping of Wilson's visit to Washington at the end of this month.

The demonstration included contingents from the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, International Socialism and the International Marxist Group.

The meeting pledged itself to carry the campaign into every section of the labour and trade union movement.

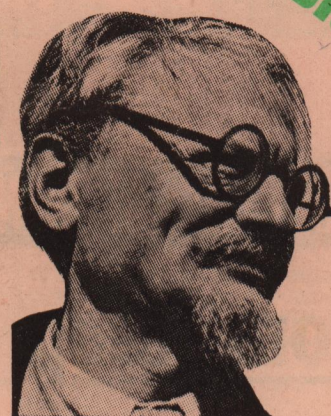


TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS



100 years since Lenin's birth

APRIL 11/12 1970



30 years since Trotsky's death

YEAR OF LENIN AND TROTSKY

LAST YEAR ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DELEGATES ATTENDED OUR CONFERENCE. IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! THIS YEAR WE EXPECT EVEN MORE. COME ALONG TO THE MOST IMPORTANT CONFERENCE WE HAVE EVER HELD. DECIDE SOCIALIST POLICIES! BUILD THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

A weekend at **SCARBOROUGH!** GRAND HALL, THE SPA.

YOUNG Socialist branches all over the country are taking part in thorough-going discussion as part of the preparation for the movement's Tenth Annual Conference in Scarborough this April.

Copies of the draft resolution for this conference—published in full in the November 1969 Keep Left—have now been sent to branches in the form of an attractive pamphlet, with spaces for amendments, alterations and notes.

The resolution emphasizes the international character of the class struggle and the lessons of the struggles of workers in France, Czechoslovakia and the United States.

The resolution stresses the need to prepare in Britain for revolutionary struggles against the Tories and the Wilson leadership and points out that 'the only effective preparation against the Tories is to fight against Wilson, for socialist policies'.

Endorsing the 1966 Young Socialists' programme, the draft document sets out demands for young workers, school-leavers and unemployed youth.

It reiterates the Young Socialists' consistent opposition to racialism and fascism and calls for the building of a mass youth movement in support of the daily Trotskyist newspaper 'Workers Press'.

The closing date for amendments and alterations to the draft programme resolution is March 11. Resolutions must be in by March 1.

1970 has a special significance for the Young Socialists. Not only does it mark a decade of struggle against the Tories and the Labour leaders, but it is the centenary of Lenin's birth and the thirtieth anniversary of Trotsky's assassination at the hands of Stalin's GPU (secret police).

Armed with the daily 'Workers Press', the Young Socialists plan to make 1970 a memorable revolutionary year. As the draft resolution says, 1970 will be 'the great year of building the revolutionary party in Britain and internationally'.

The Scarborough conference promises to be one of the highlights of 1970. The opulent Grand Hall of the Spa, Scarborough, has been booked for April 11 and 12 and hundreds of Young Socialists have already reserved their places at the conference.

The cost—about £4 in all—includes the coach fare to and from the conference, bed and breakfast, the conference fee, and a dance on the Saturday evening to 'The Element of Truth' and another top-line group.

Book your place at Scarborough NOW! Write for details to National Secretary, Young Socialists, 186a Clapham High Street, London S.W.4.

YOUR WEEKEND TIMETABLE APRIL 11/12

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

SATURDAY 8 a.m.—ARRIVE in Scarborough, leave your luggage in the hotel and look around.

SATURDAY 2.30 p.m.—ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Young Socialists opens to discuss the socialist alternative to Wilson, building the All Trades Unions Alliance and the Workers Press.

SATURDAY 8 p.m.—CIVIC RECEPTION by the Mayor, free buffet and GRAND DANCE at the Spa Ballroom to The Element of Truth and another top line group.

SATURDAY NIGHT—Bed and breakfast in Scarborough's comfortable hotels.

SUNDAY 9.30 a.m.—CONFERENCE re-assembles to discuss the international struggles of youth and the building of an international youth movement. Delegates from different countries to attend.

SUNDAY 5 p.m.—RETURN by coach to build a massive Young Socialist movement to prepare for the struggles of the working class in 1970.



Dance to **'THE ELEMENT OF TRUTH'** and another top-line Group

on
SATURDAY, 11th APRIL, 1970
at
**The Spa Ballroom
Scarborough
at 8 p.m.**

Coaches leaving from all areas. Cost approximately £4 includes bed and breakfast, fare, conference and dance on Saturday evening

I would like to come to the Conference/join the Young Socialists

NAME

ADDRESS

Deposit enclosed: £.....

Complete and send to: Sheila Torrance, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

world news ■ world news ■ world news ■ world news

New Year blow to Nixon:

By Peter Sylveire

THE 1960s DREW to a close with explosive signals for the 1970s.

On Xmas eve in Vietnam GIs staged a combined demonstration with Saigon workers in John F. Kennedy Square.

Said the organizer, Richard Boyle:

'It is the first attempt to unify South Vietnamese civilians and US soldiers opposing the war into a single movement'.

Although the immediate demands of this movement were pacifist i.e. both sides to stop fighting unconditionally at Tet (the Vietnamese New Year) on February 5, its great importance lay in the simple fact that US soldiers on active service demonstrated their hatred for the war by openly defying the commanding staff of the US army.

Back in America, Nixon no doubt celebrated Thanksgiving somewhat apprehensively; indeed the general malaise of the US bourgeoisie was unable to conceal itself when ex-president Lyndon Johnson bared his soul to the nation on a TV interview-cum-confession.

Judging from reports, such a scene might have been clipped from a vintage Hollywood melodrama.

It may have caused some sobbing among the American middle-class, but in Britain Johnson's new image as a remorseful victim of circumstances was given the cold shoulder.

Brushing down

A stern brushing-down appeared in the 'Sunday Telegraph' on December 28:

Leadership, says the editorial, 'rests on a noble fiction: that great office endows those who occupy it with greatness. It is a necessary fiction since if the public cannot believe in it . . . the conditions for the exercise of authority are unfulfilled'!

For the Young Socialists Johnson's confession came as a welcome trailer to the Xmas anti-war march, because it was the firmest proof yet of the growing crisis of confidence of the American rulers faced with a deepening economic crisis and a strong working class.

These events, following on after the My Lai massacre, were quickly taken up by the YS for use as fresh ammunition in their 'Stop Wilson's Visit To Washington' campaign.

Struggles like the Xmas GI march, no matter how hard the capitalist press may try to camouflage them amidst all the customary tripe printed in their newspapers, will always be dug out and used by the YS against their class enemies.

Clampdown

On the other hand the almost total clamp-down on news material from the rally exposed more than ever the cynical hypocrisy of bourgeois journalism.

Eager reporters fell over themselves hunting down every war-weary veteran, even down to the last brutalized private at the time of 'Pinkville'.

Columns of indignant conscience-stricken blurb filled the papers as part of a conscious attempt to pin responsibility for the war on the so-called psychopathic tendencies of one or two GIs.

Then comes the anti-war rally of US servicemen.

No capitalist newspaperman dare chance his arm on that one, realizing the pretty care-

G.I.s demonstrate in Saigon



Imperialism tries to pass off responsibility for the Vietnam massacres but it is clear who the murderers really are.

that would be needed to turn it into anything other than what it was.

No beating about the bush

for George Brown, though.

'Stop weeping and get on with it' was his brotherly advice to Nixon's genocidal gang

when a few of them paused to size up the gathering strength of the anti-war movement in America.

Italian crisis

All classes and social groups affected

By Roger Horrocks

FOLLOWING the massive general strike of 20 million workers on November 19, the crisis in Italian society has reached tremendous proportions.

All classes and social groups are being affected by this pre-revolutionary situation in sharp and contradictory turns—thus, in Milan the fascist salute was given at the funeral of a policeman killed in the riots, while in Sicily sections of police are to be tried for mutiny and for showing sympathy to the workers.

The working class has continued, in a series of huge strikes and demonstrations, to show a growing awareness of its own power—in Rome carrying banners calling for the dictatorship of the proletariat.

One million engineers won an increase in wages, and im-

that will probably drive small businesses to the wall, while other sections, such as the metal workers, the teachers and public employees, have come into massive strike-action.

Craven C.P.

More and more militants are beginning to protest at the reformist, craven policies of the Communist Party, which is now itself placed under increasing strain.

In Bologna, 60,000 workers demonstrated against the Stalinist-controlled council, while within the Party, a left-wing faction, publishing the journal 'Il Manifesto', which calls for a return to revolutionary politics, has been expelled from the Central Committee.

Significantly, the first issue of 'Il Manifesto' sold 150,000 copies.

But within the Italian labour movement, such tendencies are



Fascist salute in Milan—a dark reminder that the only solution for the working class is to take power.

tions for the crisis of leadership.

The growth of Maoist and anarchist groups shows the turn of young workers and students away from the parliamentary reformism of the Communist Party.

But the Milan bomb explosion which killed 14 people, and for which a group of anarchists have been arrested, shows the dead-end individualist solutions offered by these movements.

Fascist growth

Furthermore, the fact that this group had been infiltrated by a known fascist shows the ease with which undisciplined, anti-Marxist groups can be smashed by the ruling class.

The rapid growth of fascist groups, backed by powerful interests, points to the abandonment of compromise solutions by sections of the ruling and middle classes.

A more discreet, but no less devoted fan of Nixon's murderous military strategy for South-East Asia, is Prime Minister Wilson.

Trusted agent

By his appointed task of reducing the purchasing power of wages, Wilson has become a most trusted agent of Anglo-American imperialism.

The task of Young Socialists is to take the political reality of the Vietnam war into the trade union movement, linking up the struggle of Vietnamese workers and peasants with that of the British working class.

The current fight to defend the independence of the unions in this country is inseparable from the life-and-death struggle for self-determination in Vietnam.

Pressure

Bowing to pressure to repay the interest on the enormous loans still owing to the US, Wilson turns again and again to the wage packets of the working class. Part of that money goes into the financing of genocidal attacks such as 'Pinkville'.

During the course of working for the success of the campaign to stop Wilson's trip to Washington, fundamental questions such as 'what is communism?' have continuously arisen, giving Young Socialists countless opportunities to go over the vital question of Stalinism and its theory of 'socialism in one country' as opposed to the basic communist principle of internationalism.

We make our internationalist position clear by demanding:

● Stop Wilson's visit to Washington!

● Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

of the Stalinists that enables these groups to spring up, by disarming the working class of the only policies that can meet this revolutionary crisis.

That is, for the working class to take power and smash capitalism.

With Italy poised on the brink of civil war, the sight of the fascist salute at public meetings in Rome is a dark reminder to the international working class of the tragic defeat once suffered by the Italian workers under Mussolini.

But today the working class in the main capitalist countries has suffered no defeats since the war.

The Young Socialists must base themselves on this strength, and struggle to build revolutionary communist parties that will scourge Stalinism and fight for workers' power.

We must be ready very soon to give aid and support for the lasting victory of the

KEEP LEFT

January 1970

Into the seventies with confidence!

We are publishing YS assistant secretary John Simmance's speech at the public meeting following the demonstration on Sunday, January 11. John Simmance expresses exactly the aspirations of revolutionary youth in the 1970s.

I THINK the demonstration today which has been organized by the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists and the campaign to 'Stop Wilson's visit to Washington' has been one of the most successful and at the same time most difficult campaigns that we have ever held.

I think today that the struggle of the British working class on the questions of wages, conditions and the fight to build the revolutionary party in Britain is completely inseparable from Vietnam. We see daily in Vietnam the struggle of the youth, day in and day out, against United States imperialism. We see in Vietnam that this youth fights for its life day in and day out.

The centre of our campaign is the establishment in Britain of the revolutionary party. That is why we took this campaign not just to sections of youth but into the workers' movement, into the factories, into the trade unions, the trades councils and into the universities.

I think that this shows today that our fight to bring into the workers' movement internationalism, to bring in the whole struggle of the world working class, has a big reception from the leading sections of the workers' movement.

When we enter the year of 1970 we enter the year of Lenin and Trotsky. The year in which we have to build this revolutionary party. Lenin and Trotsky devoted their lives in the building of the Bolshevik Party.

We go into 1970 not in the period of peaceful co-existence. Today we enter the period in which big class battles are being prepared throughout the world. We see at the end of 1969 in Italy, in Vietnam and in France the beginnings of mass movements of the working class.

We see in Britain the development of the working class very slowly but in big steps.

Section after section of this working class is now pushing ahead for wages. This mass movement is resisting and fighting back against any control of their wages. That is why I think that the fight of the Young Socialists in this campaign has been a difficult one.

I know in my own factory, which is closing down, we had much resistance from the skilled sections of workers there. But we went out to the youth and layers of workers on the basis of the fight for internationalism and of the fight for the development of a Marxist leadership.

The fight of the Young Socialists over the last 10 years of its history has been one for Marxist principles. When we broke from social democracy six years ago in 1964 we broke on the principled basis that Wilson would be elected and he would betray the working class.

We took the experiences of the whole working class over the past 100 years, the experiences of other Labour governments and the experiences of the working class embodied in this Marxist theory.

We now go into a period which poses big class battles. For most young people the end of the 1960s is the end of the first decade that they can remember. We look forward to a new decade and a new generation of the working class, a generation which has never seen a slum, never seen mass unemployment; a generation which is confident and which is beginning to fight back on a mass scale and on a political scale.

We are now going ahead for the plans for our tenth annual conference. This conference will aim not only for the biggest attendance in our history, but for the biggest development of the Young Socialists.

We think now when we go into the 1970s this new generation of youth will fight internationally for socialism: from Vietnam, to Northern Ireland, from Britain to France and Europe.

We are preparing at the end of this year, 1970, an international conference of youth throughout the world. I say we should go forward into the 1970s confident that the working class is going to fight back and the 1970s will be the revolutionary 1970s.

Published by A. Jennings, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), r.o. 180 Clapham High Street, London

Full support for French comrades

The full text of a resolution passed at the Keep Left AGM.

THIS national meeting of Young Socialists pledges its wholehearted support for the Assembly of French Revolutionary Youth organized by the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme (AJS) at Le Bourget Airport on February 1, 1970.

We see this rally, which aims to mobilize 10,000 young people on the basis of intervening in the class struggle with our policies, as a decisive step in the preparation of an International Conference of Revolutionary Youth.

The preparation of this conference will take place through the fight to organize masses of youth against the growing attacks of the employers and the government.

We enter the decade of the 1970s with the recession of US capitalism looming ahead, setting the pace for world imperialism.

International capitalism is pushed more and more to try and defeat the working class and its organizations in order to drive down its standards of living.

Capitalism can offer no future for the youth and the working

class. Millions of workers in France, Germany, Britain and Italy have moved onto the offensive against the attacks of the employers.

Only the Fourth International based on the Transitional Programme can assimilate the lessons of these struggles which posed the question of power:

'The world political situation as a whole is chiefly characterized by a historical crisis of the leadership of the proletariat.' (Transitional Programme, 1938.)

The betrayal of the Stalinist and social-democratic bureaucracies and the need to build alternative revolutionary leaderships become today part of the living experience of more and more workers all over the world.

The launching of this mass rally of French youth is an historic event in the construction of an international revolutionary movement to lead and theoretically arm the working class.

FORWARD TO THE AJS RALLY IN FRANCE ON FEBRUARY 1! FORWARD TO BUILDING OF A MASS YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN BRITAIN AND TO THE RALLY ON JULY 5 AT ALEXANDRA PALACE! FORWARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH!

Stalinist bureaucracy interns oppositionists

By a Keep Left reporter

THE SOVIET bureaucracy in its attempts to muzzle the voice of the communist opposition in the Soviet Union now interns oppositionists in lunatic asylums.

The most recent victim is the 33-year-old poet Natalia Gorbunovskaya.

Charged by the bureaucracy with 'defaming the Soviet state and social system', she has been sent to a psychiatric clinic for pre-trial examination.

By diagnosing the political opponents as insane the Stalinists avoid the need to stage a 'show' trial which could embarrass them.

It also leads, thanks to a ruling in the Communist Party constitution, to automatic expulsion with, of course, no right of appeal.

Victim

No court determines the period of detention and political prisoners are locked in with patients who have committed criminal offences—murderers, rapists and thugs.

Another victim of this procedure is Major General Piotr Grigorenko, one of the most outspoken and principled leaders of the anti-Stalinist opposition in the USSR.

His charge that Khrushchev was following in Stalin's footsteps lost him his position at the Frunze Military Academy, where he had lectured since the war.

Since then he has taken up the defence of the writers Daniel and Sinyavsky, publicly denouncing the Stalinist legal

system outside their 'trial' in 1966.

He has championed the cause of the Crimean Tartars and the Volga Germans—two oppressed national minorities deported en bloc by Stalin during the war, who have more recently become victims of police terror for demanding their rights.

Last year, while celebrating Lenin's birthday, a group of deported Tartars were viciously attacked with poisonous liquid aimed through pressure hoses.

For his opposition activities Grigorenko was declared insane in February 1964, by a panel of forensic psychiatrists at Serbsky Institute in Moscow headed by Professor D. R. Lunts.



Major Grigorenko

Grigorenko was released after six months imprisonment in the Leningrad Prison Hospital, but by that time Khrushchev had reduced him to the rank of private, expelled him from the CPSU and taken away his army pension.

A recent issue of the underground periodical 'Chronicle of Current Events', which circulates among the opposition,

gives a clear insight into the real implications of the bureaucracy's 'mental institutions'.

The first 'hospital' of this kind was established before the war at Kazan.

'After the war, a special colony was created at Sychevka in the Smolensk province. . . .

In 1952 a special hospital was opened in Leningrad. . . . people who end up in this colony are reduced to a state of complete mental collapse.'

More were set up in other areas in 1965, 1966 and 1968.

They are staffed by members of the MVD, the state security organization.

The 'Chronicle' states that the conditions in these institutions, especially in Sychevka and Chernyakhovsk, are worse than in the labour camps.

Prisoners who have feigned mental illness have begged to be returned to the labour camp after entering such 'hospitals'.

'Prisoners are subjected to injection of large doses of animazin and sulphazin, which cause depressive shock reactions and serious physical disorders. . . sometimes sodium amine is given to weaken the patient before an interrogation.'

After leaving these psychiatric prisons the victims are given a special identity card.

Those who refuse to admit they are ill hardly have a chance of being let out at all.

Omission

In the Keep Left issue of December 1969 we omitted to mention the name of Bernadette Devlin's book, which was reviewed by Sarah Hannigan. It is in fact: 'The Price of My Soul'; Published by Pan; Price 6s.

World News Round-up



'TO PROTECT society and the state from the abuse of press freedom, which was the basic cause for the decadence of democracy in Greece' was the official reason given for the savage press law put out by the Junta colonels on January 1.

All but two national dailies have had to raise their prices by a third to off-set the enormous loss caused by the law.

The most crippling is the clause depriving the press of the long-standing right to use duty-free newsprint.

The two papers ('Free World' and 'New State') still circulating at their original price are of course blatantly servile to the fascist cause of the regime. The law is designed to make it impossible for any paper with an independent view to survive.

FRENCH Trotskyist workers and students launched a campaign at the beginning of December to demand a trial of the right-wing Gaullist thugs who attacked a 23-year-old printer last April, just before the referendum which defeated de Gaulle.

The victim, Jean-Pierre Speller, was beaten with iron bars and attacked by a police dog.

As a result he has now lost the sight of one eye and can no longer continue his work. Members of the Alliance des

Jeunes pour le Socialisme, sister organization of the Young Socialists, have told how they have been threatened by Communist Party members while working on this campaign.

The French CP has refused to add its voice to the many sections of the French working class who are demanding justice for their comrade.

A YEAR of violent student repression in Ethiopia, during which at least 10 students have been killed and several hundred injured by the police, culminated at the end of December 1969 in bitter clashes in Addis Ababa.

Three more students were shot dead as police and troops surrounded demonstrators in the university grounds.

They were protesting at the murder of their union leader, shot from a passing car the previous night.

Two thousand students have been sent to concentration camps in Ethiopia during the past year. Many more are tortured in jail or suffer long sentences after trumped-up trials.

Ethiopia is ruled by a semi-feudal aristocracy—this means that all land tenants are still compelled to hand over 75 per cent of their crop to the landlord.

The wealth of the country is eaten away by the extravagance

of the ruling class, who try to salvage a rapidly increasing trade deficit by attacks on the living standards of workers, peasants and students.

American big business interests in the country only serve to intensify the exploitation of the mass of the Ethiopian people.

ONE thing which has become very clear in the events of recent weeks in the Middle East is the complete inadequacy of the Arab leadership.

The Arab summit conference held recently in Morocco broke up without even a communiqué being issued.

This, at a time when it becomes clear that imperialist pressure on the Arabs is mounting.

Naval gunboats are not sold by accident and their sale to the Zionists indicates that French imperialism will be giving more support to the Zionist cause in the future.

The present Arab leadership is disunited because it represents only the employers of its own individual countries and imperialism can only be defeated by mobilizing the Arab peasants and workers in a united struggle.

The leadership fears such a struggle reaching beyond national interests because its own continued existence is at stake.

YS NOTICE BOARD

London YS prepare for 1970

THREE hundred and fifty members of the Young Socialists attended three successful rallies held recently by the London, Middlesex and Southern Regions.

The London and Middlesex rallies took place on Sunday, December 21 and the Southern region rally on Sunday, December 28.

Central to the whole theme of the rallies was the preparation of the campaign to build up the YS in 1970, in commemoration of the year of Lenin and Trotsky.

First on the agenda at the London and Middlesex rallies was five-a-side football. This proved to be a great success and both rallies saw some very hard fought games.

In particular, the London region final at Coram Fields between Canterbury and South West London 'A' team was a very exciting match with both teams playing amazingly fast games after a series of four matches each.

Canterbury won with a score of two goals and two corners to South West's score of one goal and three corners.

Southern region started off their rally by showing two films—a Charlie Chaplin film, entitled 'My Prehistoric Past' and a Yugoslav comedy film.

Second on the agenda at all the rallies there was the New Members' Speaking Contest.

This was in preparation for the National Speaking Contest held at the Annual General Meeting of Keep Left, on January 10 and 11 at East India Hall, East India Dock Road, E.14.

The winners were, for London region, Margaret Nevin representing South West London; for Middlesex, Resham Sandhu from Southall YS and for Southern region Cila Emmerston, Thornton Heath YS.

These speakers will now go forward to represent their regions at the National Speaking Contest.

Afterwards, National Secretary, Sheila Torrance and Assistant National Secretary, John Simmance spoke on the

theme, 'The Young Socialists in 1970.'

'We aim to celebrate 1970, by making it the biggest year ever for the Young Socialists,' said Sheila Torrance speaking at the Middlesex rally.

John Simmance called on everyone to campaign widely to make this year's Keep Left AGM the most successful ever.

At the London region rally, a vote taken on the policies of the Young Socialists with regard to the Vietnam campaign showed overwhelming support for the campaign against Wilson's visit to Nixon.

Only three people out of 200 voted against the proposal that everyone at the rally who supported the struggle of the Vietnamese peoples would go out and convince other young people to come to the demonstration and to the Keep Left Rally.

All three rallies finished off with Christmas parties.

BY
SARAH HANNIGAN

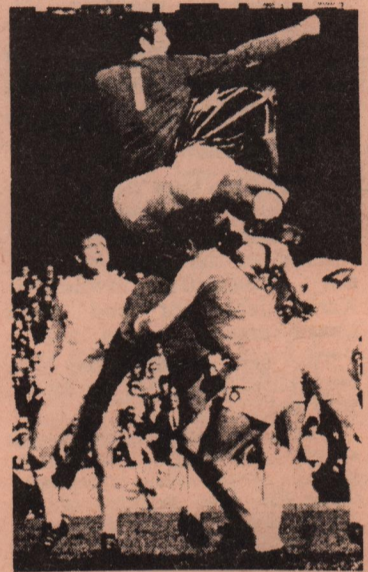
SPORTING CORNER

AFTER three months the football leagues in London are picking up once again after a brief decline in the early part of December.

Most areas now have regular football teams. A lot of the players attended the Keep Left Weekend Rally and Young Socialists in many branches have been given a boost through the campaign for football.

The cup has produced some big surprises with two of London's best teams, South and South West, defeated.

The winners could be the new team which has just been formed in Croydon.



A TWO-EDGED WEAPON

THE LABOUR government's decision to lower the age of majority from 21 to 18 on January 1 this year has enabled two million youth in that age group to 'own and dispose of houses' and other property, 'marry without consent', 'bring and defend legal actions in a court of law' and enter into hire purchase contracts without needing an older person as a guarantor.

This measure shows that

BY LEE REID

Wilson has desperately scraped the reformist barrel for some window-dressing for the next general election.

But any hopes he may have had in dragging in extra votes through such an 'attractive' reform and through the ballot box via 'votes at 18' must have been dashed by the disinterestedness of youth in these last dregs of the reformists' programme.

Of what possible use is it to be able to buy, let alone sell houses at 18 when it would take most workers

half a lifetime to save up the deposit?

On top of this, the soaring interest rates are fast putting house-buying out of the reach of those earning even well above average wages.

Two-edged

Allowing young people to enter into contracts for buying and selling goods without a guarantor is itself a two-edged weapon, because contracts now become legally enforceable from 18 onwards whereas they were not before.

Perhaps the most bizarre result of lowering the age of majority is the new right to make a will at 18!

Does an apprentice really have to worry about the fate of the property he has accumulated after three years of miserable wages?

Presumably this provision was incidental, but one wonders what sinister intentions went through the mind of the civil servant who drafted this part of the Bill.

And what of the change which enables youth to 'bring and defend legal actions in a court of law'.

Union law

Is this part of preparations for anti-union legislation?

Certainly the Tories, having seen the militancy of the young strikers at BSR in East Kilbride and elsewhere, will want all possible legal powers to make anti-union legislation effective.

Although giving political rights at 18 is correct, Wilson undoubtedly had his own reasons for doing this—after all this age group will swell the electoral register.

Having had their leaders expelled from the Labour Party in 1964, the Young Socialists know that it was not done to encourage politi-

SOUTH LONDON

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
South West	7	5	1	1	52	22	11
South	4	2	1	1	20	13	5
N. Croydon	4	1	3	0	13	25	2
South East	4	1	3	0	3	7	2
Kingston	2	1	1	0	3	22	2
S. Croydon	1	0	1	0	0	2	0

NORTH LONDON

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
West	4	3	1	0	11	6	6
Acton	5	2	3	0	15	20	6
Willesden	5	2	3	0	21	12	4
Watford	2	1	1	0	2	2	2
Southall	2	0	2	0	1	10	0

EAST LONDON

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Poplar	5	4	1	0	34	11	8
N. Kent.	5	3	2	0	25	23	6
Dagenham.	5	2	3	0	12	16	4
East Ham.	2	1	1	0	2	2	2
Tottenham.	4	1	3	0	5	13	2
Canning Town.	3	1	2	0	4	17	2

Second Round Cup

Willesden 7 Southall 4.
Kingston 6 South London 1
Tottenham 2 Canning Town 0
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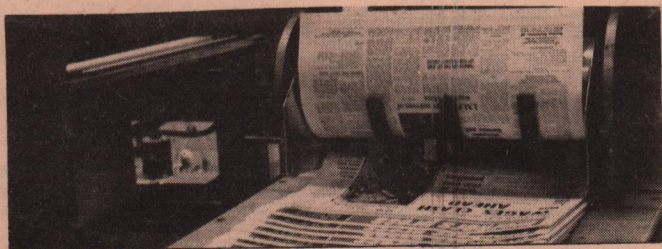
paper of l'Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme.

Annual Subscription: One year 35 francs, approximately £3

Write to:

'JEUNE REVOLUTIONNAIRE' 18 Rue de l'Echiquier, Paris 10

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(National Secretary of Socialist Labour League)

Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Paper of the Workers' League USA
NOW WEEKLY



Speech to the
Petrograd
Soviet

by Leon Trotsky
KARL LIEBKNECHT AND
ROSA LUXEMBURG

THERE has never been a full edition of Leon Trotsky's writings. The publication of his 'Collected Works' was suspended and finally banned by Stalin after the expulsion of the Left Opposition from the Bolshevik Party in the Soviet Union in 1927.

The Stalinist censoring of the writings of Trotsky and other Left Opposition leaders was one of the most reactionary blows dealt by the bureaucracy against Marxism and the international workers' movement.

But today the Trotskyist movement, fighting to build the revolutionary leadership of the working class, has its own daily paper in Britain.

Trotsky's Fourth International, founded in 1938, lives on today in the struggle of the Young Socialists and Keep Left to build a mass revolutionary youth movement which will train its cadres to lead the working class to take power.

In carrying forward this struggle against the counter-revolutionary forces of Stalinism, the Young Socialists fight for the continuation of

Marxist theory and its development within the workers' movement.

The study of Marxist theory and the fight to relate it to the struggle of the working class against capitalism and the necessity to expose before the working masses the treacherous and national-reformist nature of social democracy and Stalinism, were Trotsky's main concern the whole of his political life.

It is fitting therefore that at the beginning of 1970, 'The Year of Lenin and Trotsky' (when we politically commemorate 100 years since the birth of Lenin and 30 years since Trotsky's murder at the hands of a Stalinist assassin), that we publish a translation from the Russian edition of extracts of Trotsky's writings.

The first in the series is part of Trotsky's speech at the session of the Petrograd Soviet on January 18, 1919, following the brutal murder of the leading German revolutionaries Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg at the orders of the German army General Staff.

WE HAVE suffered two heavy losses at once which merge into one enormous bereavement.

There have been struck down from our ranks two leaders whose names will be for ever entered in the great book of the proletarian revolution: Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

They have perished. They have been killed. They are no longer with us!

Karl Liebknecht's name, though already known, immediately gained world-wide significance from the first months of the ghastly European slaughter.

It rang out like the name of revolutionary honour, like a pledge of the victory to come.

In those first weeks when German militarism celebrated its first orgies and feted its first demonic triumphs: In those weeks when the German forces stormed through Belgium sweeping aside the Belgian forts like cardboard houses: When the German 420 millimetre cannon seemed to threaten to enslave and bend all Europe to Wilhelm: In those days and weeks when official German social-democracy headed by its Scheidemann and its Ebert bent its patriotic knee before German militarism to which everything it at least seemed would submit: both the outside world—trampled Belgium and France with its northern part seized by the Germans—and the domestic world; not only the German junkerdom, not only the German bourgeoisie, not only the chauvinist middle-class; in those black, terrible and foul days there broke forth in Germany a rebellious voice of protest, of anger and imprecation: this was the voice of Karl Liebknecht.

And it resounded through the whole world!

Warning

In France where the mood of the broad masses then found itself under the heel of the German onslaught; where the ruling party of French social-patriots declared to the proletariat the necessity to fight not for life but for their death—and how else when the 'whole people' of Germany are craving to seize Paris!—even in France Liebknecht's voice rang out warning and sobering, blowing up the barricades of lies, slander and panic.

It could be sensed that Liebknecht alone reflected the stifled masses.

In fact however even then he was not alone as there came forward hand in hand with him from the first day of the war the courageous, unswerving and heroic Rosa Luxemburg.

The lawlessness of German bourgeois parliamentarism did not give her the possibility of launching her protest from the tribune of parliament as Liebknecht did and thus she was less heard.

But her part in the awakening of the best elements of the German working class was in no way less than that of her comrade in struggle and in death, Karl Liebknecht.

These two fighters, so different



warriors of the world proletariat

unbending towards a common goal, met death together and enter history side by side.

Karl Liebknecht represented the genuine and finished incarnation of an intransigent revolutionary. In the last days and months of his life there have been created around his name innumerable legends: senselessly vicious ones in the bourgeois press, heroic ones on the lips of the working masses.

In his private life Karl Liebknecht was—alas! already he merely was—the epitome of goodness, simplicity and brotherhood. I first met him more than 15 years ago.

He was a charming man, attentive and sympathetic. It could be said that an almost feminine tenderness, in the best sense of this word, was typical of his character.

And side by side with this feminine tenderness he was distinguished by the exceptional heat of a revolutionary will able to fight to the last drop of blood in the name of what he considered to be right and true.

Defend

His spiritual independence appeared already in his youth when he ventured more than once to defend his opinion against the incontestable authority of Bebel.

His work amongst the youth and his struggle against the Hohenzollern military machine was marked by great courage. Finally he discovered his full measure when he raised his voice against the serried war-mongering bourgeoisie and the treacher-

whole atmosphere was saturated with miasmas of chauvinism.

He discovered the full measure of his personality when as a soldier he raised the banner of open insurrection against the bourgeoisie and its militarism on Berlin's Potsdam Square.

Liebknecht was arrested. Prison and hard labour did not break his spirit. He waited in his cell and predicted with certainty.

Determined

Freed by the revolution in November last year, Liebknecht at once stood at the head of the best and most determined elements of the German working class.

Spartacus found himself in the ranks of the Spartacists and perished with their banner in his hands.

Rosa Luxemburg's name is less well-known in other countries than it is to us in Russia. But one can say with all certainty that she was in no way a lesser figure than Karl Liebknecht.

Short in height, fragile, sick, with a streak of nobility in her face, beautiful eyes and a radiant mind she struck one with the bravery of her thought.

She had mastered the Marxist method like the organs of her body. One could say that Marxism ran in her blood stream.

I have said that these two leaders, so different in nature, complemented each other. I would like to emphasize and explain this.

If the intransigent revolutionary Liebknecht was characterized by a feminine tenderness in his personal ways then this fragile

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht



Ferdinand Lassalle once spoke of the physical strength of thought, of the commanding power of its tension when it seemingly overcomes material obstacles in its path.

That is just the impression you received talking to Rosa, reading her articles or listening to her when she spoke from the tribune against her enemies.

And she had many enemies! I remember how at a congress (parteitag) at Jena I think, her voice, tense like a wire cut through the wild protests of opportunists from Bavaria, Baden and elsewhere.

How they hated her! And how she despised them!

Force

Small and fragilely built she mounted the platform of the congress as the personification of the proletarian revolution.

By the force of her logic and the power of her sarcasm she silenced her most sworn opponents. Rosa knew how to hate the enemies of the proletariat and just because of this she knew how to arouse their hate for her. She had been spotted by them early on.

Rosa Luxemburg launched a campaign against chauvinism, against patriotic lechery, against the wavering of Kautsky and Haase and against the centrists' formlessness for the revolutionary independence of the proletariat, for internationalism and for the proletarian revolution.

Yes, they complemented one another!

By dint of the strength of her theoretical thought and her ability to generalize Rosa Luxemburg was a whole head above not only her opponents but also her comrades.

She was a woman of genius. Her style, tense, precise, brilliant and merciless, will remain for ever a true mirror of her thought.

Liebknecht was not a theoretician. He was a man of direct action. Impulsive and passionate by nature he possessed an exceptional political intuition, a fine awareness of the masses and of the situation and finally an unrivalled courage of revolutionary initiative.

An analysis of the internal and international situation in which Germany found herself after November 9, 1918 as well as a revolutionary prognosis could and had to be expected first of all from Rosa Luxemburg.

Reaction

A summons to immediate action and, at a given moment, to armed uprising would most probably come from Liebknecht. They, these two fighters, could not have complemented each other better.

Scarcely had Luxemburg and Liebknecht left prison when they took each other hand in hand, this inexhaustible revolutionary man and this intransigent revolutionary woman and set out together at the head of the best elements of the German working class to meet the new battles and trials of the proletarian revolution.

And on the first steps along this road a treacherous blow has on one day, struck both of them down.

Treachery

To be sure reaction could not have chosen more worthy victims. What a sure blow! And small wonder: reaction and revolution knew each other well as in this case reaction was personified in the guise of the former leaders of the former party of the working class, Scheidemann and Ebert whose names will be for ever inscribed in the black book of history as the shameful names of the chief organizers of this treacherous murder.

It is true that we have received the official German report which depicts the murder of Liebknecht and Luxemburg as a street 'misunderstanding' occasioned possibly by the guard's insufficient vigilance in the face of a frenzied crowd.

A judicial investigation has been fixed in this connection. But you and I know too well how reaction lays on this sort of spontaneous outrage against revolutionary leaders; we well remember the July days that we



Rosa Luxemburg

lived through here within the walls of Petrograd; we remember too well how the Black Hundred bands, summoned by Kerensky and Tsereteli to the fight against the Bolsheviks systematically terrorized the workers, massacred their leaders and set upon individual workers in the streets.

The name of the worker Voinov, killed in the course of a 'misunderstanding' will be remembered by the majority of you.

If we had saved Lenin at that time then it was only because he did not fall into the hands of frenzied Black Hundred bands.

At that time there were well-meaning people amongst the Mensheviks and the Social Revolutionaries who were disturbed by the fact that Lenin and Zinoviev, against whom it had been accused that they were German spies, did not appear at court to refute the slander.

They were blamed for this specially. But at what court? At that court along the road which Lenin would be forced to 'flee' as Liebknecht was and if Lenin was shot or stabbed the official report by Kerensky and Tsereteli would state that the leader of the Bolsheviks was killed by the guard while attempting to escape.

No, after the terrible experience in Berlin we have ten times more reason to be satisfied that Lenin did not present himself to the phoney trial and yet more to violence without trial.

Summons

But Rosa and Karl did not go into hiding. The enemy's hand grasped them firmly. And this hand choked them. What a blow! What grief! And what treachery!

The best leaders of the German Communist Party are no more—our great comrades are no longer amongst the living. And their murderers stand under the banner of the Social-Democratic party having the brazenness to claim their birthright from no other than Karl Marx!

What a perversion! What a mockery! Just think, comrades, that 'Marxist' German Social Democracy, mother of the Second International, also that party which betrayed the interests of the working class from the first days of the war, which supported the unbridled German militarism in the days of the rout of Belgium and the seizure of the northern provinces of France; that party which betrayed the October Revolution to German militarism during the Brest peace; that it the party whose leaders, Scheidemann and Ebert, now organize black bands to murder the heroes of the International, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg!

What a monstrous historical perversion! Glancing back through the ages you can find a certain parallel with the historical destiny of Christianity.

The evangelical teaching of the slaves, the fishermen, the toilers, the oppressed and all those crushed to the ground by slave society, this poor people's doctrine which had historically arisen was then seized upon by the monopolists of wealth, the kings, aristocrats, archbishops, usurers, patriarchs, bankers and the Pope of Rome, and it became a cover for their crimes.

No, there is no doubt, however that between the teaching of primitive Christianity as it emerged from the consciousness of the plebeians and the official catholicism or orthodoxy there still does not exist that gulf as there is between Marx's teaching which is the nub of revolutionary thinking and revolutionary will and those contemptible leftovers of bourgeois ideas which the Scheidemanns and Eberts of all countries live by and peddle.

Cover

Through the intermediary of the leaders of social-democracy the bourgeoisie has made an attempt to plunder the spiritual possessions of the proletariat and to turn up its handiwork with

AT THE HEAD OF THE GERMAN WORKING CLASS



Armed workers and soldiers at the Brandenburg Gate during the revolution of November 1918

But it must be hoped, comrades, that this foul crime will be the last to be charged to the Scheidemanns and the Eberts.

The proletariat of Germany has suffered a great deal at the hands of those who have been placed at its head; but this fact will not pass without trace. The blood of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg cries out.

This blood will force the pavements of Berlin, and the stones of that very Potsdam Square on which Liebknecht first raised the banner of insurrection against war and capital to speak up.

And one day sooner or later barricades will be erected out of these stones on the streets of Berlin against the servile grovelers and running dogs of bourgeois society, against the Scheidemanns and the Eberts!

Butchers

In Berlin the butchers have now crushed the Spartacists' movement: the German communists.

They have killed the two finest inspirers of this movement and today they are maybe celebrating a victory. But there is no real victory here because there has not been yet a straight, open and full fight: there has not been yet an uprising of the German proletariat in the name of the conquest of political power.

There has been only a mighty reconnoitering, a deep intelligence mission into the camp of the enemies' dispositions. The scouting precedes the conflict but it is still not the conflict.

This thorough scouting was necessary for the German proletariat as it was necessary for us in the July days.

The misfortune is that two of the best commanders have fallen in the scouting expedition. This is a cruel loss but it is not a defeat. The battle is still ahead.

The meaning of what is happening in Germany will be better understood if we look at our own yesterday. You remember the course of events and their internal logic.

At the end of February, according to the old style, the popular masses threw out the Tsarist throne.

In the first weeks the feeling was as if the main task had been already accomplished. New men who came forward from the opposition parties and who had never held power here took advantage at first of the trust or half-trust of the popular masses.

But this trust soon began to break to splinters. Petrograd found itself in the second stage of the revolution at the head as indeed it had to be. In July as in February it was the vanguard of the revolution which had gone out far in front.



Spartacist guards during the Berlin uprising January 1919, days before Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered.

summoned the popular masses to open struggle against the bourgeoisie and the compromisers paid a heavy price for the deep reconnoitering it carried out.

In the July Days the Petersburg vanguard broke from Kerensky's government. This was not yet an insurrection as we carried through in October. This was a vanguard clash whose historical meaning the broad masses in the provinces still did not appreciate.

In this collision the workers of Petrograd revealed before the popular masses not only of Russia but of all countries that behind Kerensky there was no independent army; and that those forces which stood behind him were the forces of the bourgeoisie, the White Guard, the counter-revolution.

Hiding

Then in July we suffered a defeat. Comrade Lenin had to go into hiding. Some of us landed prison. Our papers were suppressed. The Petrograd Soviet was clamped down.

The party and Soviet printshops were wrecked, everywhere the revelry of the Black Hundreds reigned.

In other words there took place now in the streets of Berlin.

And nevertheless none of the genuine revolutionaries had at that time any shadow of doubt that the July Days were merely the prelude to our triumph.

A similar situation has developed in recent days in Germany too. As Petrograd did with us, Berlin has gone out

as with us, all the enemies of the German proletariat are howling: 'we cannot remain under the dictatorship of Berlin; Spartacist Berlin is isolated; we must call a constituent assembly and move it from red Berlin deprived by the propaganda of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg to a healthier provincial city in Germany!'

Malicious

Everything that our enemies did to us, all that malicious agitation and all that vile slander which we heard here, all this translated into German was fabricated and spread round Germany directed against the Berlin proletariat and its leaders, Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

To be sure the Berlin proletariat's scouting mission developed more broadly and deeply than it did with us in July, and that there are more victims and the losses more considerable there, is true.

But this can be explained by the fact that the Germans were making history which we had made once already; their bourgeoisie and military machine had absorbed our July and October experience.

And most important, class relations over there are incomparably more defined than here; the possessing classes incomparably more solid, cleverer, more active and that means more merciless too.

Comrades, here there passed four months between the February revolution and the July days; the Petrograd proletariat needed a quarter of a year in



Karl Liebknecht

necessity to come out on the street and attempt to shake the columns on which Kerensky's and Tsereteli's temple of state rested.

After the defeat of the July days four months again passed during which the heavy reserve forces from the provinces drew themselves up behind Petrograd and we were able, with the certainty of victory, to declare a direct offensive against the bastions of private property in October 1917.

In Germany, where the first revolution which toppled the monarchy was played out only at the beginning of November, our July days are already taking place at the beginning of January.

Does this not signify that the German proletariat is living in its revolution according to a shortened calendar?

Where we needed four months it needs two. And let us hope that this schedule will be kept up. Perhaps from the German July days to the German October not four months will pass as with us, but less—possibly two months will turn out sufficient or even less.

Echo

But however events proceed, one thing alone is beyond doubt: those shots which were sent into Karl Liebknecht's back have resounded with a mighty echo throughout Germany.

And this echo has rung a funeral note in the ears of the Scheidemanns and the Eberts, both in Germany and elsewhere.

So here then we have sung a requiem to Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. The leaders have perished. We shall never again see them alive.

But, comrades, have many of you ever at any time seen them alive? A tiny minority. And yet during these last months and years Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg have lived constantly among us.

At meetings and at congresses you have elected Karl Liebknecht honorary president. He himself has not been here—he did not manage to get to Russia—and all the same he was present in your midst, he sat at your table like an honoured guest like your own kith and kin—for his name had become more than the mere title of a particular man, it had become for us the designation of all that is best, courageous, and noble in the working class.

When any one of us has to imagine a man selflessly devoted to the oppressed, tempered from head to foot, a man who never sloped his banner before the enemy, we at once name Karl Liebknecht.

He has entered the consciousness and memory of the peoples as the heroism of action. In our enemies' frenzied camp when triumphant militarism had trampled down and crushed everything, when everyone whose duty it was to protest, fell silent, when it seemed there was nowhere an air-hole, he, Karl Liebknecht raised his fighter's voice.

He said: you, ruling tyrants, military butchers, plunderers, you, toady lackies, compromisers, you trample on Belgium, you terrorize France, you want to crush the whole world, and you think that you cannot be called to justice but I declare to you: we, the few, are not afraid of you, we are declaring war on you and having aroused the masses we shall carry through this war to the end!

Heroism

Here is that valour of determination, here is that heroism of action which makes the figure of Liebknecht unforgettable to the world proletariat.

And at his side stands Rosa, a warrior of the world proletariat equal to him in spirit.

Their tragic death at their combat positions couples their names with a special, eternally unbreakable link.

YS IN THE SIXTIES

INTO 1964 and full steam ahead for the lobby of parliament on February 11.

The lobby was a huge success—2,000 youth marching through London.

This was year number 13 for Keep Left and the board announced technical improvements which could be made since the printers had acquired a two-colour printing machine.

The Fourth YS Conference in Brighton (see right) showed the seriousness of the members in facing up to the problems within the working class with socialist policies on nationalization, conscription, unemployment, the United Nations and the witch-hunt by the right wing.

'Hands off Keep Left' said our paper in May as the right-wing prepared another attack. We published national youth officer Reg Underhill's secret conference report to Transport House.

Summer saw the Labour right wing bring its hatchet out in desperate haste to get rid of all opposition before the forthcoming general election in October.

The first meeting of the National Committee was closed down after it had passed a resolution protesting against the suspension of Streatham YS branch.

Police dogs were called by the right wing to the Streatham General Management Committee to prevent YS members picketing. Five of the YS branch committee were expelled.

The YS also lobbied the NEC of the Labour Party to demand reasons why the expulsions were taking place. This time Transport House officials called the police. Keep Left published a call in the summer calling on 'Mods and Rockers' to join in the fight against capitalism.

The Stalinist bureaucrats in the Communist Party took a leaf out of Transport House's book and expelled a number of Young Communist League members who had fought for changes in policy.

The YS National Committee made a call for a massive anti-Tory rally in London at the end of September. In the same month Keep Left introduced the new Manifesto 'Forward with the Young Socialists'.

Three thousand youth marched on the YS demonstration (right) and the NC declared that the next step would be a national conference.

The YS went forward to a

successful apprentices' conference in Manchester in October.

Keep Left ended the year with the announcement that for the first time since 1962 it would hold its annual general meeting.

KEEP LEFT kicked off 1965 with its lively annual general meeting of 450 readers who elected Aileen Jennings as the paper's editor and voted for an editorial board.

The Young Socialists took up the plight of the Old Age Pensioners in February with a demonstration in London to demand that their increase be backdated to November 1964. Keep Left pointed out that this was the first Labour betrayal.

At its fifth annual conference the YS adopted Keep Left as its official paper and voted for a YS programme and constitution. There were 500 delegates and 500 visitors present. One Old Age Pensioner who spoke (see below) got a standing ovation.

In March the YS marched through London with the Indian Workers' Association to protest against the imprisonment of Indian Communists.

On May Day the YS marched independently for the first time.

The Apprentices National Committee lobbied the Amalgamated Engineering Union on wages and hours for young workers.

Summer activities included YS participation in: the victorious Foyles strike, Keep Left summer camp, a demonstration against US imperialism in Vietnam, and the meeting to commemorate the assassination of Leon Trotsky at the Caxton Hall on August 20.

At Blackpool on the eve of the Labour Party conference 2,000 Young Socialists and adult trade unionists marched to demand: 'Labour has betrayed — Wilson must go!'

The Young Socialists welcomed the stand of the Lambeth Trades Council in December in launching the campaign against the government's anti-trade union laws. Keep Left's end of year message to its readers was: 'Prepare for a big advance in 1966.'

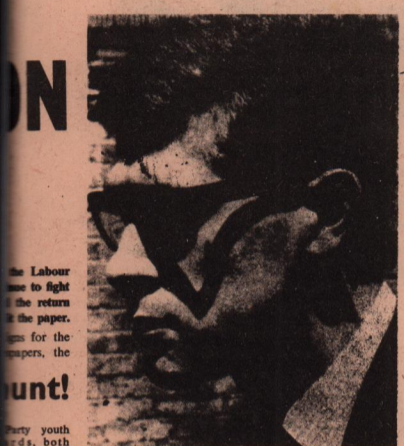


1964

1965



WHAT WE SAID IN DECEMBER 1960



role to play in the struggle for such a government and it has therefore been in the forefront of the campaign to first establish the Young Socialists and then maintain it and see it grow into a strong, mass movement.

This paper
has doubted in the last...
To make Keep Left the best on the Left, we need to build up a regular team of contributors— young reporters, photographers and cartoonists throughout the country. In this way we can give the best and most up-to-date reports of what is going on in the Labour movement. So keep your pens, pencils and cameras ready. If you think you can help, drop the editor a line.
Ignore the witch-hunters' ban. Write for the paper—your name will be safeguarded. Keep Left can become the best of all socialist papers. There's up to you. We need your help NOW to keep us going and strengthen the paper.
You want to fight for socialism? You want to defeat the Right wing? Good—Keep Left is the paper for you.

The great ideals

The Young Socialists therefore constituted a real danger to the plans of the Party leaders to move away from the great ideals upon which the movement was founded and turn it into a reformist Party which would work within the framework of capitalist welfare-statism.

Get to grips

It is clearly necessary for the Right wing to get to grips with the militants in the Young Socialists and either tame them or get rid of them altogether.
It is time for the rank and file to call a halt. The movement must say decisively, in

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Young Socialists in their fight against unemployment. On January 12, following a call by the Merseyside Federation, a march of 1,000 started from Transport House in Smith Square.

On the same weekend the YS National Committee met and four of its members resigned in disgust at the expulsion of three of their fellow members.

The right wing closed down the Merseyside and Leicestershire Federations for the part they played in organizing the demonstration.

Hugh Gaitskell died and his successor Harold Wilson took over the leadership from where his predecessor had left off.

Left used this opportunity to show its readers just how the ruling class lives. The paper called on Wilson to take action to bring down the Tory government.

In July London YS held a rally as part of the campaign to expose the Rachman - Profumo Tory government.

Unemployed youth lobbied the Trades Union Congress when it met in December demanding that action be taken against rising unemployment. (There were then 60,357 school-leavers unemployed.) (See left.)

In the secret session of the Labour Party conference the YS expulsions were the subject of the report given by Bessie Brad-dock MP, in which she admitted that no charges had been presented to the three expelled YS National Committee members.

The year ended with the Labour Party NEC's final agreement to a demonstration and lobby against unemployment in 1964. Keep Left and its supporters issued a call to make it the



YS IN THE SIXTIES

'JANUARY 26 must be a day for action', said Keep Left's first 1966 issue in the year that saw the first anti-trade union legislation demonstration. (See below.) Our front page featured a statement on the urgency to fight for the lobby of parliament on January 26 and reported the witch-hunting of the Lambeth Trades Council (the body which called the demonstration) by the Trades Union Congress.

The January Keep Left Annual General Meeting sharply posed the building of alternative leadership as the main challenge for the Young Socialists in 1966 with the campaign against trade union legislation being the most urgent issue for the working class.

At the YS Sixth Annual Conference in Morecambe the message to the youth was: 'We are ready to fight for socialism NOW!'

May was an active month for the Young Socialists with May Day marches in all the major cities and a lobby of parliament against the anti-union laws, in which they were joined by dockers and striking seamen.

An open letter to the Trades Union Congress from the Keep Left in September declared YS opposition to the growth of unemployment.

October 15 was an historic occasion for the YS when 500 members travelled to Liege in Belgium to participate with the French comrades in a demonstration against Imperialism and NATO and to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution.

In November a public meeting to commemorate the revolution was held in London. Guest speaker was Pierre Lambert, secretary of the French Trotskyist organization.



Above: French comrades carry banner at Liege. Below: Delegates to the International Assembly vote for the main resolution.



1967 WAS commemoration year for the Young Socialists of the Russian Revolution in 1917. 1,600 attended the anniversary exhibition and rally at Camden Town Hall London on November 5 and this year's May Day demonstration gave the history of the workers' revolutionary movement over 100 years.

From participation in the Liege demonstration the Young Socialists went forward with their French comrades to the International Assembly of Revolutionary Youth in August (see next page right).

The big question at the Seventh Annual Conference was both internationalism (the work towards the International Assembly of Revolutionary Youth) and the growing support for YS policies amongst adult trade unionists.

At the end of 1967 the Young Socialists National Committee issued its statement calling on the labour movement to force the left MPs to call for the resignation of the Wilson leadership. Explaining that Wilson's policies had led Labour to the brink of disaster, the National Committee declared that the Labour Party needed a new leadership.

Dockers in London and Liverpool came out on strike in November against the implementation of the Devlin modernization scheme. Liverpool men stayed out for eight weeks whilst the London men returned before them, split from their Liverpool brothers by the policies of the Communist Party.

Young Socialists suffered a tragic loss at the death of founder member Peter Archer after a motor accident on October 18.

THIS year marked a turning point for the whole world Trotskyist movement. It was the year of the daily paper campaign with the YS out in front fighting might and main to raise a £25,000 fund.

Keep Left's annual meeting reported an increase in circulation to 18,000. Preparation for the Eighth YS Annual Conference went ahead at the same time as the Labour government introduced vicious anti-working-class budget measures. Young Socialists marched through London demanding nationalization of the banks under workers' control.

The conference itself declared: 'We won't sit back and see the Tories return' and pledged to fight against Labour's betrayal which opened the door for the Tories return.

Delegates voted to stand a candidate in the Swindon by-election as the first steps in election work by the YS to pose a socialist alternative to Wilson.

May and June saw the general strike of French workers against the Gaullist regime. In Britain it was the Young Socialists who organized the first demonstration in solidarity with the strike (see opposite) and raised a £1,000 fund for their comrades in France.

Alongside these events engineers in Britain prepared to come out on national strike for their wage demand. They were sold out by their leaders with the collusion of the Stalinists who had played the same role in France.

Young Socialists marched through Swindon in July to launch their campaign to stand trade unionist Frank Willis as candidate in the Swindon by-election.

Czechoslovakia was invaded by Soviet troops in August and the Young Socialists were the only movement to demonstrate against both the Soviet and Czech Stalinist bureaucracies for the victory of the Czech working class.

YS student work expanded in October with the launching of the





1969 WAS a year of constant political campaigning by the Young Socialists.

The year began with a reply in Keep Left by Robert Black to the slanders against Trotskyism in Monty Johnstone's article published in 'Cogito', discussion journal of the Young Communist League.

Northern Ireland erupted into struggle and fierce battles raged in Derry and Belfast throughout the whole of the year.

The Young Socialists called for the unity of Catholic and Protestant workers against the ruling class.

The middle class tried a 'confrontation' with authority at the London School of Economics and 13 students were arrested.

The Young Socialists demanded no victimization and also explained that such adventures could not really halt the government's offensive against students.

The National Apprentices and Young Workers Action Committee combined with the All Trades Unions Alliance and the Young Socialists for a demonstration in London on February 23 in which 3,000 took part.

The meeting in the Porchester Hall, Paddington passed a resolution calling for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act and pledging full support to the apprentice's charter.

Between January and March, through constant correspondence, we tried to challenge the Young Communist League to a debate on Trotskyism and Stalinism, but they would not take it up.

London Young Socialists marched through Dagenham in March in support of the Ford workers' pay claim.

The May issue of the Keep Left was our first 16-page issue. It featured reports on the massive May Day demonstration in London (see right), the highly successful film school in Hastings attended by guest film directors and producers, and the Ninth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists.

May was the month in which workers all over the country took part in a mass political strike against the government.

At the Porchester Hall meeting following our May Day demonstration of 2,500 the £25,000 target for the daily paper was topped by £216 18s. 3d.

Young Socialists joined the All Trades Unions Alliance on June 5 in a demonstration outside the emergency meeting of union executives in Croydon to demand the calling of a general strike against the government's anti-union laws and the calling of an emergency Labour Party conference.

Throughout the summer months the Young Socialists campaigned up and down the country to recruit new members to the branches.

From London teams of young people went to Swindon to canvass every weekend for support for their candidate Frank Willis.

September and the publication of the world's first Trotskyist daily paper Workers Press. Young Socialists and adult trade unionists greeted the daily at a demonstration and rally in Brighton on the eve of the Labour Party conference on September 27.

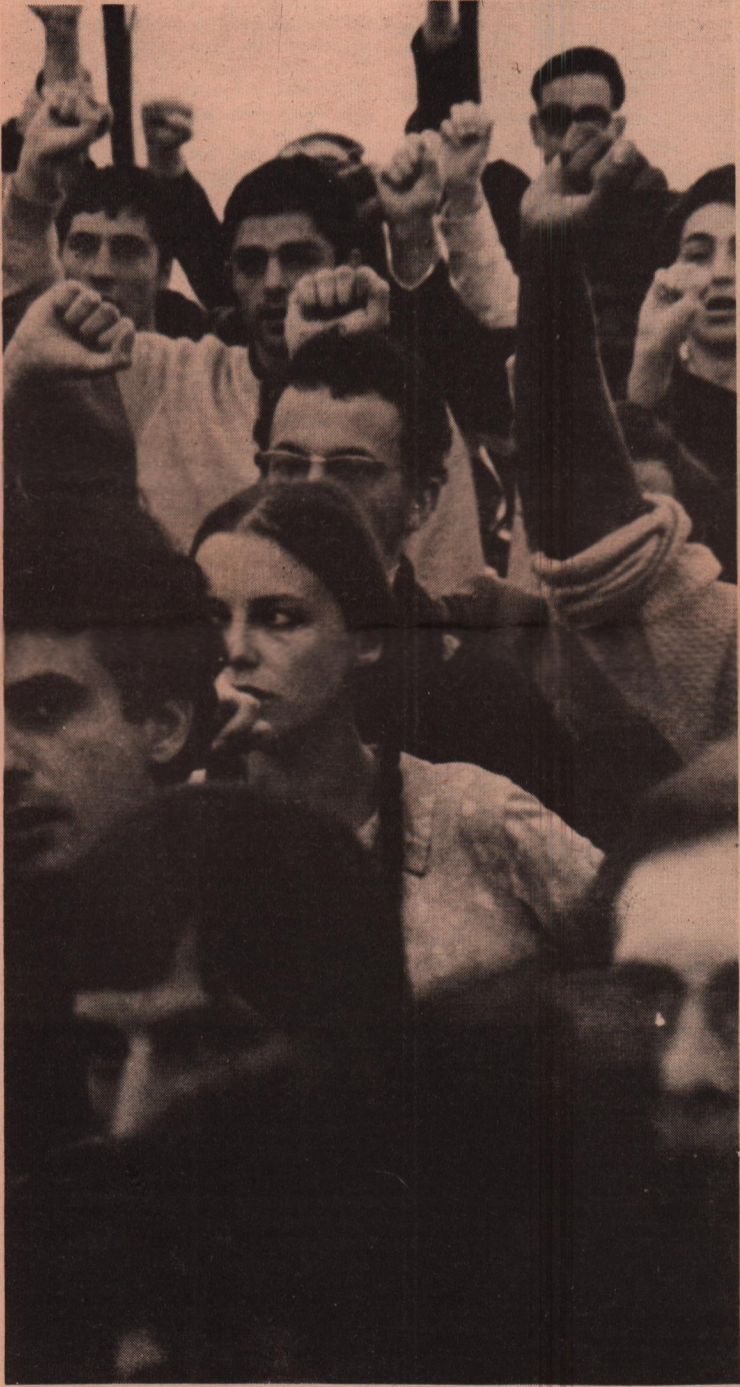
This was a really great event for the YS whose members had fought so hard to make it possible.

On October 30 YS candidate Frank Willis (see top right picture) polled 446 votes in the Swindon by-election. This reflected a truly magnificent political fight on the part of the Young Socialists and their supporters in Swindon.

From 1969 the Young Socialists move into the 1970s armed with a daily paper which meets with a growing response from the working class (see bottom right).

In 1969 wider and wider sections of workers moved into battle against the government on the wages front.

On this basis the Young Socialists go forward with confidence from the 1960s to build the mass



Special report by Hilary Horrocks

'WE WILL never arrive at the 21st century' was the verdict given by Dr Steven Rose* at the end of a lecture on chemical and biological warfare at the Council for Education in World Citizenship's sixth-form conference at Westminster early this month.

The theme of the conference was 'The Promise and Perils of the Twenty-First Century'.

Dr Rose told the audience, 1,200 pupils from Britain and France, that the War Office in 1956 made a top-secret request to the Porton research centre for a 'really effective' riot-control gas.

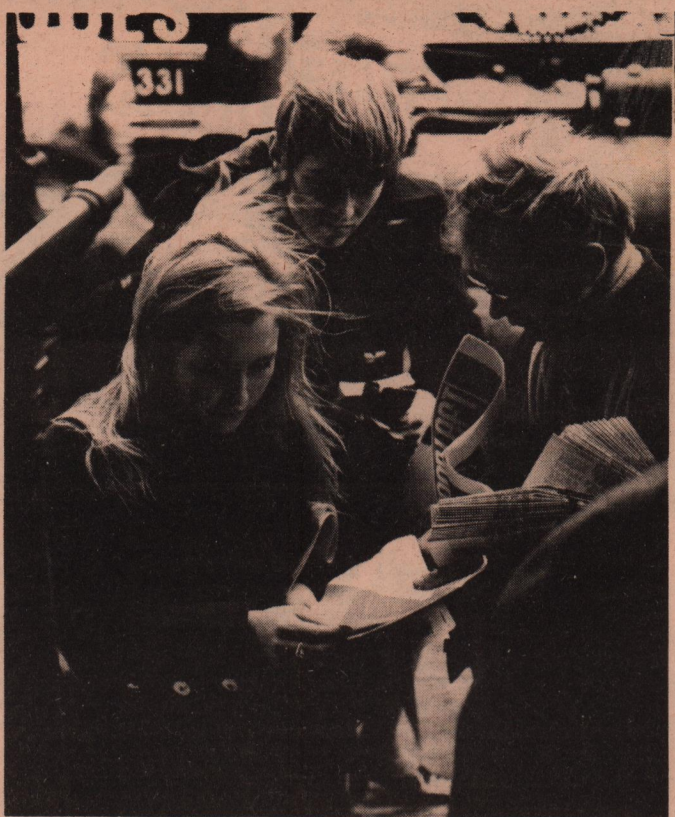
The result, several years later, was the notorious CS gas, used today by troops and police against demonstrators in Northern Ireland and France.

In Vietnam, said Dr Rose, American troops use CS for 'flushing out' Vietcong from underground tunnels in such concentration that its effect is lethal—despite claims by US military experts that the gas is harmless and 'much more humane' than conventional war weapons.

Sixth-formers at the conference told Keep Left that they were much more impressed by Dr Rose's lecture than by the woolly idealism of the other speakers—but they disagreed with his pessimistic view of the future.

They thought that young people today could change society. Yet they were not sure how, or what to put in its place.

* Dr Rose is Professor of Biology at the Open University. His books include 'Chemical and Biological Warfare' and 'Science and Public Opinion'.



Sixth-formers sign the Young Socialists' petition: 'Stop Wilson Going to Washington'.

Sixth formers reject conference pessimism

The conference offered no solutions.

The reason put forward by the platform for the violence of modern society was that mankind had become 'too materialistic' and that if idealism could be encouraged in the young generation all would be well—if men of different races could be educated in each other's culture, then mutual tolerance and world peace would follow.

The Young Socialists say, on the contrary, that men's ideas are determined by the society in which he lives.

Only Marxism, which struggles to understand the material basis for ideas such as racialism and nationalism, can ever hope to change them.

Wars and repressions are a product of class society, and will only end with the victory of socialism.

They will not be swept away by a United Nations 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights'—much vaunted at this UN-sponsored conference.

The United Nations has, in fact, acted as an accomplice in the wars and repressions carried out by American imperialism.

Many of the audience at the conference strongly opposed the British government's support for the American policy of genocide in Vietnam and signed the Young Socialists' petition to stop Wilson's visit to Washington.

SCHOOLS

No response to the 'short cut' theory

THE SCHOOLS Acton Union (SAU), formed in 1969, is, above all, another in the very long line of British protest movements.

Its formation comes at a time when the movement of the working class throughout Europe into massive class actions has rendered the protesters politically bankrupt.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has to struggle to raise a coach-load of supporters while anti-apartheid relies on the militant bishopry for leadership.

So short

The short cuts to socialism promised by the Vietnam Solidarity campaigners of yesterday have been so short they never even got started.

Not surprisingly the SAU, being one of the last refuges for the protesters, attracted members of all the revisionist and anarchist groups.

Only 40 people attended the National Conference on December 20 and 21, 1969.

The SAU claims to fight for student rights and waxes eloquently for freedom of speech and assembly for school students, freedom from compulsory religion, physical education and pre-fects.

Diversion

But if the struggle for the rights of any group is not conducted as an integral part of the struggle of the working class to overthrow capitalism, it must inevitably be a reformist diversion and blind alley.

The fate of the Black Panther leaders in the United

By a KEEP LEFT Correspondent

States dramatically verifies this.

In the case of the SAU, the demand for rights is very much the cry of the anguished middle class, trapped in the jaws of the capitalist crisis and looking for some peaceful, democratic way out.

Its call for 'effective democratic control' of schools and colleges is part of the reformist illusion—now being rapidly exposed—that there can be some way of preventing massive cuts in education when the working class as a whole is under attack.

All the SAU demands—for an 'independent student voice', for 'progressive struggle'—raise this central question.

Platonic

The politics of the SAU means that its intentions to 'participate in working-class struggles' must remain at the level of platonic sympathy, of passive support from the sidelines.

The only way to join this fight and the only way to combat the coming education cuts is through the struggle to build the revolutionary alternative—the task the Young Socialists have pledged themselves to achieve.

On this basis we appeal to all youth still at school to join the ranks of the Young Socialists and take up a serious political fight for socialism.

Liebknecht and Luxemburg

From page seven

Henceforth they will be always named together: Karl and Rosa, Liebknecht and Luxemburg!

Do you know what the legends about saints and their eternal lives are based upon? On the need of the people to preserve the memory of those who stood at their head and who guided them in one way or another; on the striving to immortalize the personality of the leaders with the halo of sanctity.

We, comrades, have no need of legends, nor do we need to transform our heroes into saints. The reality in which we are living now is sufficient for us, because this reality is in itself legendary.

It is awakening miraculous forces in the spirit of the masses and their leaders, it is creating magnificent figures who tower over all humanity.

Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg are such eternal figures. We are aware of their presence amongst us with a striking, almost physical immediacy.

At this tragic hour we are joined in spirit with the best workers of Germany and the whole world who have received this news with sorrow and mourning.

Here we experience the sharpness and bitterness of the blow equally with our German brothers.

We are internationalists in our sorrow and mourning just as much as we are in all our struggle.

For us Liebknecht was not just a German leader. For us Rosa Luxemburg was not just a Polish socialist who stood at the head of the German workers.

No, they are both kindred of the world proletariat and we are all tied to them with an indissoluble spiritual link. Till their

FILM REVIEW

'THE MAGIC CHRISTIAN' With Peter Sellers and Ringo Starr

Directed by Joseph McGrath

Distributed by

Commonwealth United
Entertainments (UK) Ltd

Reviewed by Martin Mayer
BRITISH films have undoubtedly reached a new low with 'The Magic Christian'.

It is not just that the film is, to put it charitably, mediocre. What it really shows is all the 'new' developments in British films during the 1960s—meagre enough—turning sour.

Where films like 'The Knack' tried to use fast cutting and unusual camera angles to give a feeling of youthful exuberance, 'The Magic Christian' uses an eclectic mish-mash of styles merely to give an impression . . . of quite pointless confusion.

The relative freshness of these earlier films has now turned into its opposite—a nauseating lyricism.

The one clear theme to emerge from this ridiculously diffuse and confused film is that everyone has his price;



Ringo Starr and Peter Sellers as they appear in 'The Magic Christian'

of people demeaning themselves in various ways at the rustle of a wad of tenners.

Nauseating is scarcely an adequate word to describe the last scene but one, in which crowds of people swim about in a pool of blood and urine to retrieve 'free' money floated on it by the central character, Sir Guy Grand (Peter Sellers).

pioneer capitalist firmly fixed in his class.

Sellers, however, becomes the hero of the film version—a 'lovable' eccentric—removed from his class context.

In line with the rest of the film, the acting is really 'ham'—on the same level as the Beatles' amateurish 'Magical Mystery Tour'.

The film's 'humour' plumbs

spot last year.

At the root of this is an overriding hopelessness which pervades the film and reduces everything—destroying works of art or wallowing in urine—to the same level.

As a whole the film achieves a uniquely stomach-turning blend of reactionary, dead-end idealism with almost

BOOK REVIEW

I should have written the letter I am writing you today a long time ago, on that day when the Sixteen were massacred in the cellars of the Lubianka on the orders of the 'Father of the People'.

I kept quiet then and I did not raise my voice at the murders that followed, and as a result I bear a heavy responsibility. My guilt is grave, but I will try to repair it, to repair it promptly and thus ease my conscience . . .

What is needed today is a fight without mercy against Stalinism! The class struggle and not the popular front, workers' intervention in the Spanish revolution as opposed to the action of committees . . .

I intend to devote my feeble forces to the cause of Lenin. I want to continue the fight, for only our victory—that of the proletarian revolution—will free humanity of capitalism and the USSR of Stalinism.

Forward to new struggles! For the Fourth International!

PS. In 1928 I was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for services to the proletarian revolution. I am enclosing the decoration. It would be beneath my dignity to wear an order also worn by the executioners of the best men of the working class in Russia.

THE above are extracts from a letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the last political testimony of Ignace Reiss, a high official of the NKVD who, at the height of the 1937 purges, broke completely with the Stalinist bureaucracy and declared for the Fourth International.

Barely two weeks after he wrote this letter he was murdered in Switzerland, by Stalinist agents, emigré Russian White Guards specially hired because of their hatred of the Russian Revolution and Bolshevism.

This book written by his widow, is the story of Reiss (Ludwik) and his friends, Fedia Willy, Brun and Misha Uriansky and Walter (Krivitsky) who grew up in a small town in Galicia, became communists after the Russian Revolution and dedicated their lives to socialism.

They became part of that generation of communists that was wiped out by the counter-revolutionary Stalinist bureaucracy.

Their story will be of interest to all those young workers who today are coming into the Young Socialists.

Fedia was the oldest and as a young student spent much time in Vienna where he joined the socialist movement. During the summer holidays he returned home where he would tell friends about the working class movement in various countries and about Russia where the world socialist revolution would begin.

When the First World War broke out most of the friends made their way to Vienna where they became members of the illegal socialist youth movement.

In 1919 Poland, egged on by Churchill, invaded the Soviet Union and Ludwik joined the Polish CP.

The Party, of course, stood for the victory of the Soviet Union and Ludwik took part in attempts to win over railway workers for the sabotage of troop trains, collected intelligence in Polish troop movements, and organized sabotage behind the Polish lines.

DANGEROUS

This was very dangerous work as leafletting was punishable by the firing squad.

With the defeat of the Red Army on the banks of the Vishtula and the defeat of the Bavarian and Hungarian workers, the Soviet Union was isolated and endangered.

To defend the Soviet Union Ludwik and his friends joined the intelligence section of the Red Army until the day a new upsurge in the workers' movement would end the isolation of the Soviet Union and enable them to work in their own party.

While engaging in espionage Ludwik was caught and jailed for five years but managed to escape after 18 months.

He rejoined his friends in February 1923. His task was to collect arms for the coming German revolution.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of leadership from the Comintern this revolution was defeated bringing tremendous consequences for the international working class movement.



Our own people

by Elisabeth K. Poretsky

Published by Oxford University Press

Price 42s.

Reviewed by P. O'Regan

almost exhausted from struggle, and which was industrially backward, remained isolated from the advanced West.

The bureaucracy which was developing in the Soviet Union because of these factors became much stronger and more self confident.

The intelligence services began to reflect its interests.

In 1926 Fedia was posted to fascist Italy where the workers' movement was being destroyed.

'It was quite easy to do espionage work against Great Britain from Italy. In 1926 the Soviet Union and fascist Italy were on excellent terms. The Soviet agents frequented the Soviet Embassy quite openly and Fedia told us that Mussolini himself had issued orders to the OVRA not to disturb the Soviet operators as long as the espionage was directed against the British. In exchange the Soviets shared some of their information with the Italians. But Fedia was disgusted with such work' (p. 108).

In 1929 Ludwik was recalled to the Soviet Union. There the bureaucrats' policy of socialism in one country, which had led to the defeat of the General Strike in Britain and of the Chinese Revolution, was bearing bitter fruit.

Foodstuffs and clothing, except for the high bureaucrats, were scarce. The housing situation was desperate.

In the Ukraine there was famine with bloated corpses in the streets. The kulaks who had been encouraged by the bureaucracy to enrich themselves had

grain and demanding price increases.

The bureaucracy swung to the left in a campaign against the kulaks.

'By 1932 the situation in the country had become worse and worse. Everyone knew about the desperate peasant uprisings, about the Young Communist brigades sent into the countryside to help with the grain collection campaign many of whom never came back. The mood in the party was dangerous. Programmes calling for the removal of Stalin were circulating in the party cells and there was a feeling of tense expectation. Some people began to hope for a miracle. But Stalin's grip on the apparatus was much stronger than anyone had realised.

'The Left Oppositionists including those who had capitulated earlier began to be arrested. Then it was the turn of the Right Opposition. Even those who had never been in opposition were being arrested' (pp. 119-120).

The bureaucracy was arresting all communists who could become the leaders of working class opposition to its rule. Ludwik's department was also being purged and it was suggested that for his own safety he should move to the Comintern. He refused.

ARRESTED

'He knew it would mean involvement in the inner-party struggles that were then tearing the International Communist

THE LIFE OF IGNACE REISS

disagreed with Trotsky, but like all old party members he could not conceive of a communist movement without Trotsky . . . when Ludwik left Holland for Moscow in 1929 there had still been hope that the situation might change. But by the summer of 1932 there was no hope left and Ludwik and Fedia agreed that they were living in full counter-revolution' (pp. 120-121).

Finally to get posted abroad Ludwik transferred from the Fourth Department to the NKVD.

In August 1936 the trial and execution of the 16 old Bolsheviks took place. Ludwik wanted to make a complete political break with Stalin in protest against the executions but was finally persuaded to wait by Krivitsky.

VISIT

In 1937 after much pressure by the bureaucracy his wife visited the Soviet Union. She arrived at the height of the terror. All the friends were waiting to be purged.

Fedia told her: 'The terror will not ease up; it will get worse as long as there is anyone left who was around in October' (p. 201).

When she was leaving for Europe he told her: 'Never come back, not under any circumstances. Perhaps one of you will live to tell about us' (p. 205).

When one of their colleagues was recalled to the USSR and could not be persuaded to disobey orders, he told them: 'They will kill here just as easily. They can do it. You may not know this but I know how powerful they are. There are some White officers here who do the job for them. They know how to do it. They betray their own people and they will enjoy killing a Communist' (p. 214).

Paris was the centre for the remnants of the White Guards who had been driven out of the Soviet Union by the Red Army.

They were infiltrated by Soviet agents and their centre, 'The Union for the Repatriation of Russians Abroad', was financed by Stalinist money. 'All of them approved of Stalin's liquidation of the Revolution' (p. 237).

YOUNG

'A few knew whom they were serving and what was expected of them. The others did not manifest too much curiosity especially as they were not asked to render active service. It was the younger set the Soviets needed, men who could use women to get into French circles, who would trace Communists suspected of turning against the Soviets, break into apartments where the Soviets suspected there was evidence that might incriminate them, who would kill' (p. 238).

It was a gang from this 'set' that finally killed Ludwik.

In 1937 hundreds of communists were being recalled to the Soviet Union, to their deaths.

'The terror had seized everybody, even those who had only a remote idea of what their obligations towards the Soviet Union were. Foreign Communists or sympathisers, who had never been to Moscow and hadn't an inkling of what organization they were working for, but had had

the misfortune to lend their services in one capacity or another, paid or—as the case with occasional couriers or letter-boxes—unpaid, were suddenly confronted with an order to go "home". Most of them could have refused and Moscow would not have bothered about them, but they too were terrified and put up no resistance.

'They went, and those few who might still be useful abroad were allowed to go on leading a miserable existence. The others disappeared in Siberian camps or, if they were Germans, were handed over to the Nazis after the Soviet-Nazi friendship pact, and perished in concentration camps' (p. 217).

When Tukhachevsky was put on trial in 1937 Ludwik decided that he had to break with Stalin or betray socialism. Krivitsky refused to break with him so he broke on his own. He wrote his letter to the Central Committee and was tracked down by the NKVD and murdered.

In her book Mrs Poretsky also shows that there was an NKVD agent in the Fourth International in Paris, one Etienne (Mark Zborowski, now resident in the USA), who was responsible for the death of Trotsky's son Sedov and quite a few other Trotskyists.

She also discloses the role of Victor Serge, now also living in the West. 'I didn't know Serge well . . . but I knew enough about him to be cautious.' It was Serge who first introduced Etienne to Reiss's widow in Paris.

MACHINE

This book should be read by all Young Socialists. It shows the Stalinist murder machine in action killing communists.

Ignace Reiss's remarkable political testament shows that he went over to Trotskyism without any reservations and if he had lived would have devoted all his energies to the building of the Fourth International.

He was right. Stalinism will be tried for its crimes by the international working class. Nothing has been forgotten or forgiven.

Not only will Stalin be judged but the Kosygin and Brezhnev and their lieutenants the Duclos, the Gollans and the Johnstones will be judged by the working class.

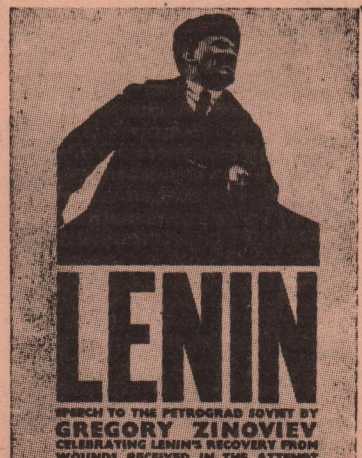
We are no longer living in the late twenties and thirties when the bureaucracy was able to hold down a working class exhausted from struggle and isolated from the western workers who had suffered grave defeats many of them caused by the bureaucracy.

BURY

Today a new generation of communists undaunted by the threats and menaces of the bureaucracy and determined to avenge the crimes and betrayals of the Stalin—and the post-Stalin—era is coming forward in the Soviet Union.

Together with the working class of Europe, Asia and America they will help bury Stalinism and imperialism for ever.

In this struggle they will be inspired by the sublime example of Reiss's life and death so carefully and eloquently chronicled in this biography. Yes indeed, Ignace Reiss did not die in vain.



LENIN: Speech to the Petrograd Soviet, 1918
3s. 0d.

By G. Zinoviev

Illustrated with many photographs, this was a speech delivered by one of Lenin's closest associates on the occasion of his recovery from wounds received in an attempt on his life. It gives a remarkably clear picture of Lenin and what is required to be a revolutionaries.

The Traffic Dilemma

CAPITALISM'S unplanned nature is probably nowhere more evident than in the growing traffic chaos of its major cities.

The development of the supersonic jet aircraft has made it possible to cross the Atlantic in a time not much greater than that required to cross London during the rush-hour.

Whereas many advances have been made in inter-city and inter-continental transport systems, we are likely to be saddled with the internal combustion engine motor vehicle, as the main means of urban transport for some time to come, despite its inefficiency, noise and fumes.

The international motor monopolies are now stepping up the battle for markets and the right to pour millions of vehicles on to already congested roads.

The development of the economic crisis has meant big cuts in road-building programmes which, in any case, were only feeble attempts to paper over the most obvious cracks in the transport 'system'.

However, there is certainly no lack of schemes for dealing with transport problems and even though capitalism will consign most of them to the wastepaper basket, it is worthwhile examining some of them in order to gain a glimpse of the possibilities opened up by the latest technological advance.

Study group

A government study group is to look into new forms of inter-city transport, including high-speed passenger trains, hover trains and vertical take-off aircraft.

A recent report on tracked hovercraft suggests that, in addition to the M1 and British Rail's electrified system, the Ministry of Transport should consider the hovercraft as a third means of travelling from London to Birmingham by the late 1970s.

The system comprises 'an air-cushion-supported, air-cushion-guided, linear-motor-propelled vehicle, with fully automatic control systems, running astride a concrete beamway at speeds of up to 250 m.p.h.'

Estimated construction cost is £750,000 per mile of twin track, which compares favourably with the cost of motorway construction.

A similar scheme, costing between £32 million and £38 million, has been put forward for a 'flying train' between central London and Foulness, the possible site of London's third airport.

Each train would whisk passengers to and from Foulness, 100 at a time, in 25 minutes at a speed of 250 mph.

The use of hovercraft up till now has been mainly on Channel crossings and has met with little success.

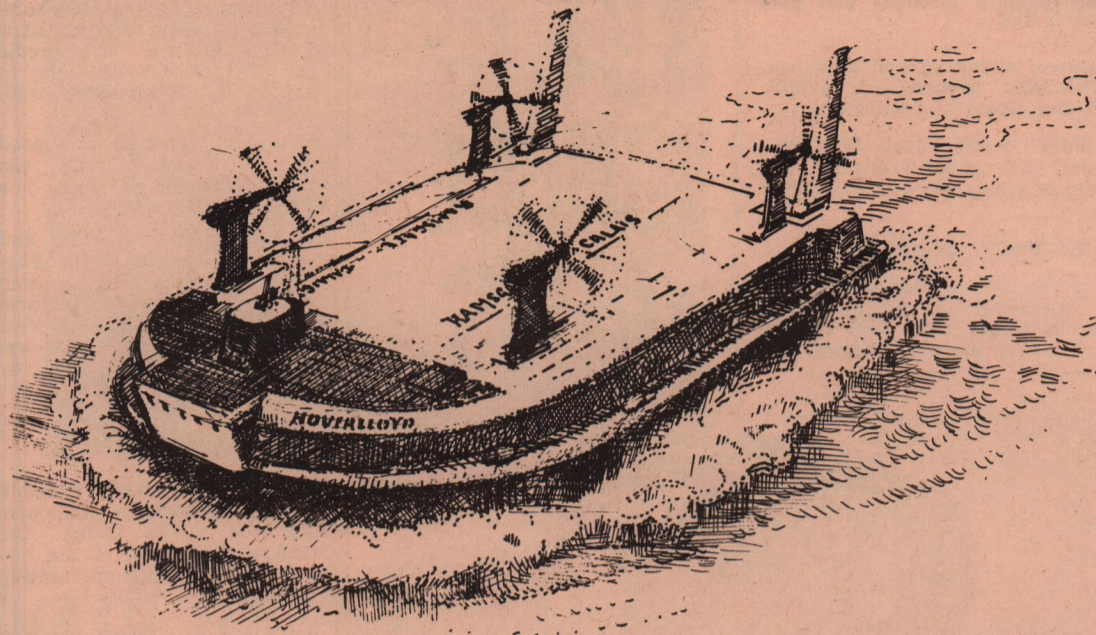
Hover loss

The Swedish Hoverlloyd company has stated that technical troubles have caused the cancellation of one trip in four and resulted in a financial loss of about £250,000 in the first year.

Just in case anyone was likely to think otherwise, the company chairman made the position clear:

'We remain confident of the success of the hovercraft provided the necessary effort is put into getting it right, but the continuation of our service depends entirely on the rate of return on our investment.'

In the field of inter-continental transport, the race is now on to market the first



By KEEP LEFT CORRESPONDENT

The Russian TU 144, capable of carrying 135 passengers at 1,550 m.p.h., is at an advanced stage of development, followed by the Anglo-French Concorde.

The decision of the Americans to proceed with their Boeing 2707 now threatens to cut the Concorde's sales, even though the Boeing will not be in service before 1978.

The American aircraft will carry 250-300 passengers at 1,800 mph and will cost £20 million each.

The costs are so large that only the largest airlines will be able to operate supersonically and will further strengthen the grip of a few giant companies in this field.

With the development of massive aircraft of this type, it is now estimated that the use of atomic engines as power plants will soon be feasible.

Previously, the weight factor has been prohibitive because of the heavy shielding that is necessary for such an engine.

Although the lack of large quantities of inflammable fuel will greatly reduce fire hazards, the main problem will be preventing the release of radioactive material if a crash should take place.

The cost of long-distance-transport systems are, by their very nature, extremely expensive.

Yet the cost is tiny when compared with the astronomi-

cal amounts which would be necessary to eliminate the traffic chaos in major cities to make them places fit for human beings, rather than machines.

Professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have worked out a plan for dealing with the increasing problem of traffic congestion.

They suggest a system of raised roadways along which private cars would travel electrically.

Whatever additional noise, dirt and darkness this might add to city streets would, they claim, be more than offset by the absence of carbon monoxide fumes, honking horns and the frustration of traffic jams.

Their system would put most traffic policemen out of work and would be feasible by 1975 (!)

Feasible

The elevated highways, called guideways, are pre-fabricated and are built on the major routes running through cities.

A concealed rail along the sides of the guideway provides electric power and automated control to steer the car along the correct route.

The cars themselves can be operated manually on ordinary city streets and present cars can be converted at reasonable cost.

Apart from the lack of air pollution, the cars can travel at a steady 60 miles per hour on the guideway with only 10 feet between them. Accidents are impossible (unless someone decides to jump out of his car!)

Drivers can read or sleep until the vehicle reaches the chosen exit point, but cars will be rejected by the system if they are mechanically defective.

The guideway takes up only a fifth of the space necessary for a four-lane highway, but has twice the capacity.

Possibly the first commercial use of such 'guideway' systems will be for the transport of people, mail and cargo in big industrial complexes, universities, shopping centres and congested central-city areas.

Airport transit

W. L. Alden, an American engineer, is already working out proposals for the Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts.

He has developed an automated personal rapid transit (PRT) system, computer-controlled and carrying cars for six persons.

This will be used to transport passengers from parking fields to passenger terminals and to move baggage and cargo from terminals to runways.

He estimates that PRT would have the capacity of moving as many as 27,000 passengers an hour if used as a means of commuter transport.

Undoubtedly, Alden's PRT system will find certain limited applications, but the professor's dream of ending traffic chaos will remain a dream under capitalism.

Worsening situation in N. East Scotland

BY YOUNG SOCIALISTS REPORTING TEAM

THE DECLINE of British capitalism has particularly affected the North-East of Scotland, where there has been a total lack of industrial development.

This year's closure of the Railway Workshops near Aberdeen and the sacking of 400 workers shows how the situation is worsening.

Every year thousands of young workers leave this area for jobs in the South—increasing numbers of them return, bitterly disillusioned.

Others find jobs in the steel works of Corby or the car factories of Vauxhalls and Fords, who make special recruiting drives in this area, in a search for young workers accustomed to low wages and poor organization.

This continual migration, which draws away many of the male youth, enables the employers to keep down wages and worsen conditions.

Many of those who remain find work in the woollen mills. Here wages are low. Many women can earn only £10 for a 40 hour week.

tightening up on discipline. One young worker at a mill in Aberdeen told us how the management had employed seven foremen in his department to keep 21 young workers hard at work.

He also told us how the employers gave some company houses at cheap rents which they then threatened to take away if the workers living in them made any wage demands.

The local union leaders keep down wages by playing off the more conservative married women workers against the more militant young workers who are demanding more wages.

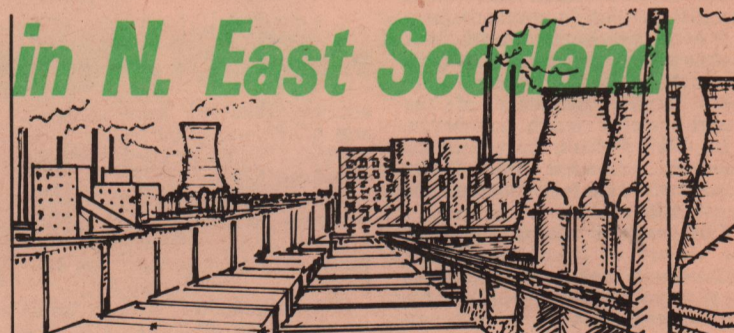
ACCIDENTS

Accidents are common in the mills.

Last year a man lost his arm in a machine and subsequently died. A woman also had an arm ripped off by a similar machine.

These accidents happen when workers try to clean the machine whilst it is still in use.

If they were to stop the machine then this would mean committing the 'crime' of stopping production.



particularly young girls, are employed in the fish houses, gutting fish. Most of them earn between £5 and £10 each week.

For this they have to work hard in very cold and wet conditions. They have to wear wellingtons, standing all day in pools of water.

Employers in the fishing industry make big profits. Earlier this year they did suffer a blow however when Aberdeen trawlermen struck for a £1-a-week wage rise.

The employers were forced to meet their demand, but the union leaders performed their usual services of foisting on the men a cut in manning and a disciplinary contract.

The biggest factories in Aberdeen are the paper mills owned by larger firms such as Wiggins Teape.

Here, as in other factories in the area, many young people work on a three-shift system which constantly disrupts their lives.

workers has naturally had its effect in Aberdeen. There have been strikes by engineers in the paper mills, and by shipyard workers.

The shipyard workers were against an attempt by the employers to sack a militant shop steward.

The Young Socialists must expand in this area by recruiting from amongst these largely unorganized young workers.

NEW BRANCH

In Dundee, where a new YS branch is to be established at the beginning of 1970, support will be worked for amongst another section of low paid young workers—in the jute mills.

Only in this way can youth here see themselves, not as part of a deprived separate area, but as part of the whole working class in the struggle for better conditions and higher wages through a fight against the employers and the

LONDON
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2 DEC 68

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Craven Betrayal

THE RECENT revelations of US imperialism's brutal Vietnamese genocide waged in the holy name of bourgeois 'democracy', have starkly exposed the craven betrayals of so-called Labour and trade union 'lefts'.

'Pinkville' and the many other atrocities have aroused, besides the customary 'horror and indignation' of the middle class, much sympathy from the international working class.

The 'lefts' have been forced to adapt to this move in the working class and thus provide a suitable cover both for themselves and for the right wing in the labour movement.

On the one hand these 'lefts' can protest about the brutality of imperialism's attacks on the Vietnamese workers and peasants, while on the other hand they openly betray British workers through productivity deals.

These betrayals represent a victory for international capital and a direct blow against the workers and peasants of Vietnam.

The Young Socialists must fight for the building of a revolutionary leadership, capable of leading the British working class against the employers and against all traitors in the workers' movement, as the only way of ensuring the victory of the Vietnamese revolution.

Graham Falken, Ilford YS.

Welcome to Workers' Press

I RECENTLY attended a meeting in Canterbury organized for the 'Workers Press'.

In the discussion which followed YS National Secretary Sheila Torrance's speech, a worker from the Constructional Engineering Union from Dungeness Nuclear Power Station gave his welcome to the new daily.

Sheila Torrance had stressed the urgency of the campaign to prevent Wilson's visit to Nixon in January.

She told the audience of workers, youth and students that the experience in the Labour Party of the Labour 'lefts' was enough, that the idea that Wilson would be able to 'pressurize' Nixon into pulling out of Vietnam was just a vague hope.

Mass class action led by a resolute leadership was the only effective force to stop support for the war in Vietnam.

There was a sharp exchange in the meeting between the workers and students over the role of the paper 'Workers Press' as a decisive weapon for the working class.

One objector said it was 'preferable' to have maximum 'left' unity with all sections of society, even larger than that seen on October 27, 1968.

This suggestion did not conceal the real issue at stake which was the question of revolutionary leadership.

Another constructional worker told the meeting that to oppose what the 'Workers Press' stood for was to support the betrayal of the working class.

Young workers from the branch of which I am a mem-

the construction workers.

It was clear from the meeting that the 'Workers Press' as an organizer will be a decisive force in the class struggle, especially to answer and utterly expose the counter-revolutionary nature of the anarchist and reformist groupings which today find their home in the middle class.

Steph Spooner
Ramsgate YS.

Entertainment and the entertainer

THE GENERAL public these days tends to revere and admire pop singers and entertainers, little realizing that in the interest of big business it pays to invest the entertainer with a certain aura or charisma.

This is especially true of so-called top-rank stars.

In the interest of image-building a person is very often taught to act, speak and dress in a certain way.

Often a conflict will develop between private life and public image which can lead to fatal consequences. Marilyn Monroe was a case in point.

It could be argued that you could take virtually anybody and build them into a celebrity or star just as you can take any commodity you care to name, advertise it well enough on television and you will sell it. (If there is at first no need, you create a need and then sell it.)

It would be foolish to deny real and genuine talent and ability.

Henry Irving was considered by the majority to be the greatest actor of his age, but had he lived today he would be laughed at and called a ham.

When J. S. Bach composed the St. Matthew Passion it was considered a scandalous piece of work. Now it is considered one of the sublime works of man.

Can you imagine a Victorian audience clamouring for Mick Jagger's autograph? They would be bewildered to say the least.

Talent cannot exist by itself, it is only given life and the chance to grow by society.

Sometimes our likes and dislikes are foisted upon us in a more blatant form.

Agents and managers play a great role in this—the 'useless brotherhood' as they are affectionately termed by the more enlightened members of the profession.

And everybody must have

Destroy the poison

THE emergence in public of the National Front in a recent demonstration through Southall can only be understood from a class point of view.

As Marxists we must analyse such movements in line with the growing economic and political crisis of the capitalist system.

It reflects the intensification of the crisis in which the Labour leaders have decided to solve, or try to solve, the problems of the bourgeoisie by attacking the working class.

It is this very attack by the Labour government, together with the rise of Powellism in the Tory Party, which has given extremist tendencies like the National Front the go-ahead to come out of hiding and demonstrate in the open. But despite this, it was obvious from the march that the demonstrators were frightened to face the public.

The fact that the march was not given the slightest publicity beforehand was presumably to give no opportunity for any counter-demonstration to be organized.

No local youth or adults joined the demonstration and in fact there was a great deal of hostility from by-standers.

However the local press gave

it coverage and even went so far as to proclaim the National Front as a 'party that cares about Britain'.

The tendency amongst the leadership of the local labour movement has been to regard opposition to the National Front from a moral point of view. (This position has of course received active support from the Communist Party.)

But referring the National Front to the Race Relations Committee is not going to solve the question of such groups. Powell's supporters inside the Tory Party have declared their position on immigration and their hatred for the trade unions.

They have been directly assisted by the Labour government, which itself strengthened the Immigration Act in February 1968 in the midst of massive hysteria built up by the Tory press about the influx of Kenya Asians to this country.

In mid-1967 the Kenya government, led by Jomo Kenyatta introduced what was called the 'work permit system'. This was aimed against thousands of Afro-Asians who had acquired British passports during the colonial era of East Africa.

The law required every British subject to obtain a work-permit in order to get a job. In most cases these permits were issued for a maximum

heard the music hall gag about the actor who is going to have 10 per cent of his ashes thrown in his agent's face when he is cremated.

Entertainers today are exploited in the interest of maintaining the status quo and big business. And coloured ones are super-exploited.

Show-biz does more to perpetrate the white myth than anything I know.

Not by what is said, but by what is not said.

We rarely see a coloured person portrayed on television or film unless the part is labelled coloured. And only a few years ago in that very popular programme 'Emergency Ward 10' there were no black people at all, when a very high percentage of our hospital staff were black. And when we go out and look at the advertising hoardings it is the great white god we see smoking cigarettes.

Marx referred to religion as 'the opium of the people'. You could say that about the entertainment business today. It is used to subjugate millions of people, and perpetrate the class system.

John Lennon had a point when he said a few years ago of the Beatles: 'We are more

important than Jesus Christ'.

A few months ago we had the gospel according to Mick Jagger loud and clear in Hyde Park and at the Isle of Wight we had the spectre of another Jesus Christ soothing the masses.

'How many times must a man kill a man?' sings Bob Dylan. It's a very good question. He then proceeds to give us the answer. The answer he tells us 'is blowing in the wind'.

The answer is staring us in the face every minute of every hour of every day of our working lives.

Doesn't Mr Dylan know there is a class war going on with its roots sinking right down to the very day capitalism came into existence?

Yes, religion is the opium of the masses and Christ after 2,000 years is wearing a bit thin.

Religion has served to subject man for thousands of

period of six months and the holders were told to leave the country on their expiry.

This naturally led to a flow of so-called immigrants into Britain. In February 1968, when the flow increased as a result of the Kenyan government's actions, the emergency Bill was introduced into the Commons and within one week the Immigration Bill 1968 had become law.

Under this act the British citizens overseas were alienated. For thousands of Kenyans their British passports—which 'allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary'—became just pieces of paper.

This was imperialism stripped of all its guises and naked in the peep show was the Labour government.

We cannot get rid of racialism without getting rid of its origin—the ruling class, because racialism, like all other ideas of capitalist society, is part and parcel of the system. To destroy the poison bred by such ideas we have to destroy the profit-motive system.

Racialism is in fact the outcry of the petty bourgeois, the middle class, joined in unison by the backward elements of the working class. It is used by the ruling class to attack the trade unions in order that it may survive.

The only way to fight Powellism and other right-wing elements is to mobilize the organized strength of the working class in a revolutionary struggle.

There is no future for the working class in the moral superficiality presented by the Communist Party and the dangerous reformism of the 'lefts'.

The Young Socialists know from their own experience that the only way to smash reaction is to unite immigrant and white youth in building the Young Socialists to keep the Tories out of power, to replace Wilson with a socialist leadership and to fight for the repeal of the Immigration Act.

Gary Gurmeet
Southall YS.

years. Unless checked it could go on ad nauseam.

If you were to get rid of all the priests, popes, capitalists, kings, queens, and people in high places, put them all into a sack and drop them into the sea, you would still not get rid of the system.

Thousands of others would rise up and step on to the golden treadmill.

It is only by a proletarian revolution where millions of workers are thrown into struggle to smash the system and give birth to a new one which will produce the classless society where people are not divided and brainwashed by mass media in the interests of big business.

People have the right to work and entertain and the entertainer will be relegated to his fitting place in society—that of a working entertainer enlightening humanity, serving the community, and not living off it.

Entertainer

Stop Wilson

WE start 1970 with the capitalist class in even bigger crisis than ever before.

The impending liquidity crisis in America and the crisis of leadership that faces the American ruling class in the shape of Johnson's revelations on US television on Saturday, December 27 are only two more indications of the dilemma that faces the ruling class internationally.

For how long can they sustain the myth of the infallibility of the capitalist system?

For how long can their allies, the social democrats and the Stalinists, help to sustain that myth?

This is the question that faces the only serious leadership in the working class movement today.

The Young Socialists' and the Socialist Labour League's campaign against Wilson's visit to Nixon is part of the prepara-

once and for all the capitalist class and its system.

When we say in our petition that 'the British labour movement can no more support US imperialism's genocide in Vietnam than it could support the massacres carried out by the Nazi SS', we raise the question of the defence of the Vietnamese revolution.

It is linked today with the fight of the British and American working class for wages and against rocketing price increases.

The brutal aggression of the Vietnamese people is only another side of the policy of the Nixon administration.

In this campaign therefore we defend the Vietnamese revolution by mounting the attack on the capitalist class and their lackeys, the social democrats, and by refusing the support of the labour movement in their connivance with US imperialism's attacks on the Viet-

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IT WAS A GREAT WEEKEND



Continued from page one

Meeting itself—a weekend event this year—at which several hundred Young Socialists voted, after a lively discussion, unanimously to increase the size of the paper to 16 pages every month for 6d and, with a film festival devoted to films made by federations and branches in the local areas, prepared to broaden their propaganda work still further.

Plans were also announced for a mass youth rally at Alexandra Palace, London, on July 5.

Unions

'Since 1964', Comrade Jennings explained, 'we've turned in our work to the trade unions to fight against the

Labour government's anti-trade union legislation proposals; to fight to develop within the trade union movement a struggle against the policies of the Labour leadership.'

'The seriousness and determination with which the Young Socialists fought has enabled us to mobilize important and growing support from the adult workers.'

Comrade Jennings also stressed the leading role played by the Young Socialists in launching the Workers Press.

Work in the British labour movement—whose political relations with the capitalist class were on the surface slow-moving—required the most painstaking and patient effort from the Young Socialists, she explained.

The fight for Marxist principles was decisive here.

In the campaign to stop Wilson's visit to Nixon, this problem had been sharply posed.

Connections

'Socialist internationalism consists of fighting to raise the political understanding of the working class in a way in which the working class of this country will see the connections between their own problems and the fight against US imperialism in Vietnam.'

It was in this internationalist spirit that the meeting received fraternal greetings from the Northern Ireland Young Socialists, the Workers' Internationalist League of Greece, the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme (France) as well as from the Socialist Labour League.

'We are now entering an entirely new period,' Socialist Labour League national secretary Gerry Healy told the meeting.

'The working class has had to contend, over the last period, with enormous increases in the cost of living. There has never been a period of history since the 1920s, in our knowledge, when the cost of living has risen so sharply as at the present time.'

'Does anyone here imagine that the working class are going to tolerate the enormous increases now under way?'

1969 had seen a growing wages movement. But it would be dangerous and wrong to worship militancy for militancy's sake.

What was above all necessary was the building of the revolutionary party and that was the purpose of all the printing machines, newspapers and film propaganda put out by the movement.

Big expansion of this work was necessary.

Film-making, the development of revolutionary film clubs with a perspective of producing national newsreels which would tell the truth about the struggles of the working class and education through films all had to be seriously undertaken.

'If the writers are forthcoming, if the comrades build up the areas and sell the paper,' Comrade Healy also stressed, 'the technical production of a weekly "Keep Left" is a relatively small operation.'

This would have to be seriously considered along with plans for expanding and improving the Workers Press, both technically and in terms of coverage.

John McGee, from Belfast, spoke of the great upsurges that had taken place in 1969 in Ulster as a result of the first tightenings of the belt of British imperialism.

'British troops had to be taken over,' he said, 'because for the first time in 50 years Catholic and Protestant workers began to stand together in defence committees at their homes and at their jobs.'

These troops, he stressed, were now preparing to take on the Ulster working class not piecemeal, but as one class.

The Northern Ireland Young Socialists were now struggling to build their own paper in a situation where the workers urgently required a Marxist leadership.

Sketching the history of the Greek Trotskyist movement, a representative from the Workers' Internationalist League of Greece stressed that militancy alone was not enough to defeat the capitalist class and the treacherous role of Stalinism and social-democracy in his country.

The Greek comrades had already established their own paper and outlined plans for its expansion in 1970.

'Great struggles are ahead of us,' stressed a representative of the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme.

'But for them to be victorious we have to build a political force capable of leadership and of preventing the betrayals of the Stalinists and the reformists.'

Speakers from both the Young Socialists and the AJS stressed that in 1970—the year of Lenin and Trotsky—as both organizations have commonly decided to call it—they would go forward together in preparing an international conference of revolutionary youth towards the end of the year.

Winners of the National Speaking contest

First: Ken Clarke—West Midlands

Second: June Cobb—South Yorkshire

Letter to Wilson

THE following letter, signed by Young Socialists' National Secretary Sheila Torrance, was handed in at 10 Downing Street by a delegation from the demonstration:

This mass demonstration today of trade unionists, youth and students declares its complete opposition to the genocidal war of United States imperialism in Vietnam; denounces in the strongest terms the systematic massacre of the Vietnamese civilian population by US armed forces; defends the right to unconditional independence and unification of the Vietnamese people and stands completely for their victory over US imperialism; condemns the Paris 'peace' talks as an imperialist fraud; recognizes that the support given to this war by the Labour government through the interest payments on IMF loans and support for NATO, is directly linked to the attacks against the trade unions in Britain.

'Stop Wilson'

Continued from page one

against the imperialist war in Vietnam and discuss immediately—in every factory and trade union organization—actions to oppose Wilson's visit.

As Comrade Healy explained:

'Every discussion on Vietnam in the factories is worth a thousand signatures on petitions.'

'We must talk Vietnam the same as we talk wages and prices.'

'We must explain that Wilson, in putting up the cost of living, is paying the Ameri-



Top left: The audience of YS members from all parts of the country. Top centre: Guest artist Long John Baldry makes a special appearance at the dance on Saturday night. Bottom centre: Film director Jack Gold (his most recent film is 'The Reckoning') presents first prize to Peter Sylveire of London at the Classic Cinema, Hampstead, on the Sunday morning for his winning entry in the National Film Competition.

and his visit, all those factories influenced by this campaign should begin to discuss, mass meetings, departmental meetings, one-hour token strikes, half-day and one-day token strikes.

'The Communist Party wasn't present this afternoon and, as far as I know, the Young Communist League. That's no surprise to anyone here.'

'The Stalinists always sit on the fence on basic class issues and then they come down and stab you in the back. That's Stalinism!'

that despite the efforts of the most advanced capitalist country in the world, the Vietnamese people had remained undefeated.

'If there is any effort to repeat what happened at Geneva in 1954,' he warned, 'when, under the pressure of the Soviet bureaucracy, the Vietnamese were forced to pull back their forces, accept the parallel imposed in their country and an imperialist government in South Vietnam we must be prepared for it.'

'We want to oppose this war by declaring our solidarity with the National Liberation

their right or "left" variants—to go and talk to the war-criminals in Washington.'

'I HAVE never been so moved, so emotionally disturbed as by the revelations of the US atrocities in Vietnam,' deputy senior motor industry steward ALAN THORNETT told the meeting.

'The only way to end wars is to end capitalism and that is not an emotional, but a scientific, job.'

'But Vietnam is not an emotional question.'

'Only to the extent that we take Marxism into the trade

to lead the working class to power in Europe can we meet this challenge.'

THE wage freeze, unemployment, racialism and the witch-hunt were all now weapons that the Labour leaders and the Tories were increasingly starting to use in an effort to split the working class, said railway workshops steward FRANK WILLIS.

SO-CALLED working-class leaders had tried to find an avenue of escape rather than face up to the demand that Wilson cancel his visit, car components shop steward