

# KEEP LEFT

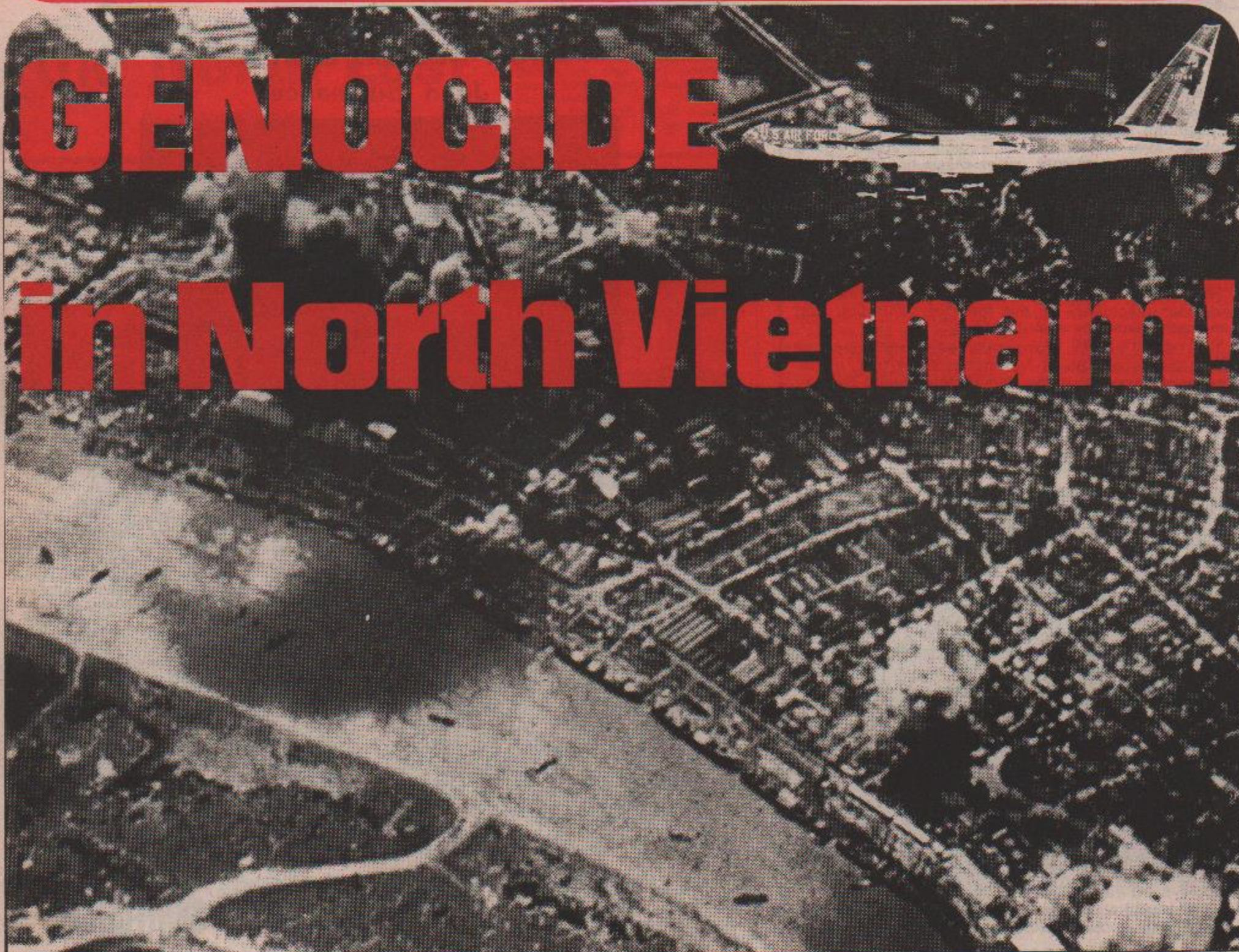
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OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

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THIS WEEK  
New series  
'Heroes of the  
Russian  
Revolution'

## GENOCIDE

## in North Vietnam!



THE CHRISTMAS 'cease-fire' lasted only 36 hours. After that American B-52 bombers were at it again, devastating crops, hospitals, schools and civilian residences in North Vietnam.

Blanket bombing of the North last week completely destroyed the

town of Bac Giang killing thousands of Vietnamese civilians.

In the week before Christmas US bombers dropped the equivalent of two Hiroshima Atom bombs over Hanoi and Haiphong.

A suburb of Hanoi was described as looking like an earthquake area after

being pounded by American bombs. Debris from B-52s littered the main streets of the capital. Hanoi Radio said the attacks began two and a half hours before midnight and the city once more went through another 'test of fire'.

The North Vietnamese foreign ministry accused

the US of brutal and barbaric attacks aimed at killing civilians and said the bombing surpassed Hitler's war crimes in scope and intensity.

North Vietnam, it added, could never be subdued by force.

The renewed bombing has exposed Nixon's savage plans for Viet-

nam. He had no intention of signing the peace agreement and no amount of pressure would have changed his mind.

There can be no peace in Indo-China until the last American soldier is driven out and all the puppets of imperialism defeated.

## Annual General Meeting

And National Speaking Contest

Saturday January 6, 1973 2.30 pm

East India Hall, East India Dock Rd, London E14

Dance 8 - 11 pm

RAM JOHN HOLDER and 'AVERAGE WHITE BAND'

Tickets 40p each



# TORIES PLAN SINISTER MOVES IN NEW YEAR

THE TORY government is preparing to go on the offensive against the working class as soon as it can in the New Year.

And in anticipation of an early General Election they have made plans for a witch-hunt against militants and left-wing groups in trade unions and the labour movement.

Their aim will be to whip up a blind anti-communist hysteria against trade unions and left wingers. They will do this with the full support and active participation of the country's capitalist Press media—the daily Press and television.

Given such a situation the Tory government hopes to win enough middle-class votes to return to office for another term of vicious anti-union attacks. For a General Election victory under these conditions can only be a launching pad for a new offensive against trade union rights and civil liberties.

The Tories are forced to take this step because they are completely bankrupt. They represent in parliament a ruling class which is unable to maintain its position without dictatorship.

Now they intend to make increasing use of the law-and-order machinery in the form of infiltration and provocation from the secret police.

The use of agents provocateur was amply exposed during the recent Stoke Newington Eight trial. In the course of hearings at the Old Bailey several Special Branch officers were forced to admit that they had been sent to report on political meetings and rallies.

The use of these methods is described by one top Tory minister as the 'last card in the pack'. Pre-election stunts against the left are to be expected. They will be used to create confusion in order to prepare the way for further dictatorial legislation.

The Tories know that repeated attacks against trade unions and standards of living have made this government one of the most hated ones in parliamentary history.

Entry into the Common Market on January 1 cannot solve the huge economic crisis which the employers find themselves in. They can only do that by imposing the most ruthless form of corporate state legislation.

The Tories have already drafted Phase Two of the state pay plan. Prices are certain to skyrocket in the Common Market. The same will be true of unemployment which has already acquired record proportions.

All this makes it imperative for the government to 'use the last card in the pack'.

That is why in the New Year the first task on the agenda for the working class is the fight to remove the Tory government from office. Every single day that the Tories remain in power they are able to prepare their sinister plans against the working class.

1973 will see the launching of a nationwide campaign to build the mass revolutionary youth movement. This is essential in order to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

# A NEW YEAR MESSAGE

To all Young Socialists and Keep Left readers from National Secretary John Simmance



THE NEXT four months in 1973 are going to be vital ones in the preparation for launching the revolutionary party. The Young Socialists must be in the vanguard of this task.

We say this with confidence because the past year has been a period of proud achievements and great activity for the Young Socialists in line with the movement of the working class.

1972 saw the most concerted attacks against the basic rights of the working class. Rapid moves towards dictatorship by the Tory government have been met with huge opposition from the working class.

Miners, railwaymen, building workers, dockers and tenants have shown their strength in determined struggles against these attacks on their living standards.

Now the urgent task of building a revolutionary party is at the centre of the fight against this Tory government.

## PROUD

Entry into the Common Market on January 1 will speed up the Tory moves towards dictatorship. It will be accompanied by a huge increase in the cost of living, and further, more vicious, attacks against trade unions.

The Young Socialists have striven to meet the challenge of building an alternative leadership. 1972 has been a proud year for the YS.

The five national Right-to-Work marches were on the road for over five weeks. Only the tremendous support of the work-

ing class sustained the marches.

But we were not protesting with cap in hand. We were fighting for rights won by the working class. We mobilized against the Tory government which has now deprived 64,000 youth of the right to work.

At Empire Pool, Wembley, 8,500 trade unionists and youth welcomed the marchers.

## DOLE QUEUES

Capitalism works for the sake of making profit. It condemns youth and workers to exploitation. And when they are not needed it leaves people to rot on the dole queues.

We rejected reformist leaders who said that pressure on the Tory government would make it change its mind.

Capitalism is in an economic crisis which it cannot solve. Only socialism based on nationalization under workers' control can plan production according to the needs of the people.

Our 12th annual conference of the YS in Scarborough was the biggest ever. Over 2,000 youth voted to go forward to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

It was with this perspective and as part of our preparation that Keep Left became a weekly paper. The first issue was printed on May 13 after a series of rallies and meetings throughout the country in support of the paper.

Keep Left is the weekly weapon for building the mass YS. It fights to prepare youth—apprentices, students, unemployed and young workers—for the fight against the Tory government.

At our Summer Camp this year YS members and supporters

came together for a two-week study of philosophy, economics and the history of the working class.

At the annual conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance YS members again took part with adult workers in the vital decision to launch the revolutionary party.

The YS immediately went into action, rallies were held throughout the country, demonstrations against price increases organized and Councils of Action established.

Support came from all sections. The first conference of the Young Socialists Students Society was attended by students from colleges and universities throughout Britain.

In the London region two huge rallies and pop concerts have been attended by over 900 youth at each.

## CONFERENCE

Now we prepare for the next period and the 13th annual conference to be held in Blackpool on April 14 and 15. The main policy resolution is now out in the branches and it should be carefully studied by every YS member.

Again we intend to mobilize the thousands of workers and youth to Wembley Pool on Sunday March 11. The Socialist Labour League is presenting a pageant of the history of the British working class entitled 'Road to Workers' Power'.

1973 is going to be a full year. The Young Socialists branches have no time to lose, starting with the Keep Left Annual General meeting on January 6 we have important tasks immediately ahead.

## Build Keep Left!

Can we top our weekly £30 fund?

LAST WEEK'S total was £30.32. Thank you. Let's go all out for next week's effort.

Post your donation to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

Start the New Year with a subscription to Keep Left



## Get your Keep Left by post!

An eight-page socialist youth paper every week with plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now! Yearly subscription £2.75. Get bulk copies for your factory, college or university.

Write off to 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

NAME .....

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# Common Market on January 1

## means more jobless in the North East

By our correspondent

UNEMPLOYMENT and redundancies continue to steam roll the north east coast of Britain into an area of complete destitution.

Next month—as Britain enters the Common Market—the long list of threatened and announced factory closures is likely to increase at a fast pace.

Earlier this month trade union leaders said they were expecting about 8,000 jobs to disappear by the middle of next year. The crunch, they said, would come in the shipbuilding and heavy engi-

neering industries due to the fall in orders.

This will add to the enormous jobless problems that already exist in the north east. Last month's government figures showed a total of over 81,000 out of work in the area. But these figures were distorted by the Department of Employment's 'new' method of counting the jobless.

The deliberate fiddling of the unemployment figures was exposed last month when the 1971 Census showed that 1,365,775 people throughout the country said they were out of work in April 1971. According to government figures there were only 773,800 on the dole.

This is also true about the north east where a continuous string of factory closures over the past year has made it one of the hardest hit areas in the present slump.

Arthur Scott, president of the Technical and Supervisory Staffs section of the engineers' union said last month that a total of about 16,000 jobs could be lost in the next few months.

'Apart from the 8,000 men employed directly in the two industries (shipbuilding and engineering), as many jobs again in related and sub-contracting fields would also be axed,' he said.

As a union, he added, TASS faced the biggest unemployment crisis since the 1930s.

'In the past few weeks virtually every major firm in the region has notified my union that redundancies are imminent.

'In the first two months of next year about 400 TASS members are threatened with redundancy. We are always first in the firing line, the first department to feel the draught of a fall-off in orders.'

The cut back in employment of technicians and draughtsmen in industry is a serious sign of the times.

It reflects the slump in industry in general and the drastic fall in investment as Britain enters into the Common Market.

A number of companies in Britain have already made plans to move their capital into some parts of the Common Market where they hope to make more profit. Recent moves into Spain by companies such as Lucas CAV and Ford are typical.

Employers want to use the Common Market to create huge unemployment in Britain in order to weaken the trade unions.

They intend to make the maximum use of labour in countries like Spain where trade unions are illegal and the working class has no political rights.

Leaders of TASS say they have paid out nearly £500,000 in unemployment benefit to members in the last 20 months. This is an increase of almost 2½ per cent.

And as Arthur Scott said: 'The inevitable consequences of a cut-back in technical staff is a cut-back in production. If 400 of our members' jobs are in jeopardy, then on the ratio of 19 to one the jobs of nearly 8,000 manual workers would be axed.'

## Oval 4 Defence Committee



Sterling Christie Winston Trew Constantine Boucher George Griffiths

## will fight 'mugging' charge

By a Keep Left Reporter

INCREASING anger is being expressed among black youth in South London over a recent case when four 'muggers' were sent away for two years jail.

A defence committee is being formed to help relatives and friends of the 'Oval 4' fight against what many youth allege were trumped-up charges.

The four are members of 'Fasimbas', a black organization in South London. They were sentenced to two years imprisonment on Wednesday November 6 by Judge Edward Cussens on charges of attempted theft and assault on police.

Winston Trew, 21, Constantine Boucher, 25, Stirling Christie, 21 and George Griffiths, 20 were told by the judge:

'You must know that interference with the citizens using the underground system will not be tolerated by the courts.'

### Courtroom

'You must be dealt with in such a way as will indicate to others the seriousness with which the courts must regard matters of this kind.'

The four denied all charges. As one of them was taken away from the courtroom after the sentence he shouted: 'These atrocities will be repaid when we come out.'

They were supported by similar outbursts from the public

gallery by people who knew the four and had followed the case.

According to a number of black militants the four were victims of an attack by the underground police.

'Grassroots', a black community paper, described the incident like this: '(On March 16) the four brothers took the tube arriving at Oval at around a few minutes to eleven.

### Police

'They got off and moved towards the exit. At the top of the escalator, they were set upon by a group of white thugs who appeared to be drunk.'

'When the uniformed police finally arrived the brothers found that the gang of drunken thugs were in fact "muggers" (police) employed by London Transport as Transport Police.'

The gang of underground police, says the paper, 'jumped on the Oval 4, shouted racial abuse and began to beat the youths.'

'The four were dragged into the mess room. Brother Christie got away but was later recaptured by a police albatross that bit him badly in the face.'

During the court case, Mrs O'Connor, a white woman who passing by when the incident happened was given three months suspended sentence for assault.

She had apparently seen the attack on the four youths and tried to intervene on their side. The judge told her that she

would have been better off if she had minded her own business.

Three of the 'Oval 4' have no previous convictions. They were all members of 'Fasimbas', a sort of self-help organization which provides supplementary schools for children and helps people in hospitals, mental homes giving 'comfort and reassurance to those who may consider themselves destitute and forgotten.'

Winston Trew's brother, Clement, is an active member of the Young Socialists in South London.

The case of the 'Oval 4' once again highlights the tense relations which exist in many parts of London between black youth and the police.

Earlier this year the National Council of Civil Liberties published a report accusing police of a 'professional assault technique' against black youth in the area.

### Provoke

The report written by the council's South East London group said there had been a total breakdown of communication between police and black youth. A number of police activities were designed to 'provoke conflict with blacks' and were blatant infringements of police powers.

The report accused police of treating everyone severely and using excessive force when problems arose.



Unemployed youth in the north east: Common Market will bring more problems.

Have you joined the Young Socialists yet?

### WRITE OFF TODAY!

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

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....



WE have lowered into the grave... did more than anybody to organiz... tory. Now that Soviet power is spr... knowledge is rapidly gaining ground... Soviets, is struggling to put its idea... sentative of the proletariat who set an...

Millions of proletarians will repe... Comrade Sverdlov. At his gravesid... for the overthrow of capital and fo... complete emancipation of the workin...  
Speech by V. I. Lenin, at the funeral of Yakov Sver

HEROES OF THE

In this new series of articles Keep Left Party who carried out the revolution in Ru... less so. Many of them were framed by S... Some of the articles are translations from... figure in the Bolshevik Party next to Leni... Others will be newly written for the serie... which could lead a successful revolution... articles show, they carried on their work... less police oppression of the Tsarist aut... years in deportation in desolate parts of... their knowledge of Marxism and perfected

An important role in 1917 was played by Yakov Mikhailovich Sverdlov, one of the Bolshevik Party's most trusted organizers, today almost forgotten. Born of an artisan family in Nizhni-Novgorod, he was trained as a pharmacist and joined the Russian Social Democratic Party in 1901 at the age of 16. When the party split took place he joined the Bolshevik faction and became an underground organizer. He was soon arrested by the Tsarist police and condemned to two-and-a-half years' imprisonment in a fortress, then to four years' exile in a barren and ice-bound region. He took part in a prisoners' demonstration and was confined under the most rigorous conditions. He twice escaped but was re-arrested.

In 1912 he returned to St Petersburg and took charge of the party's illegal work, in this, one of the most highly industrialized cities in Russia at that time. He was betrayed to the police by an agent in the party, named Malinovsky, who was not to be exposed until after the Revolution. Once again he was exiled to a remote region inside the Arctic Circle where he remained until the overthrow of Tsardom in February, 1917. He then made a 5,000 kilometres sledge journey to Krasnoyarsk where he took part in the work of the local Soviet, helping to turn it in a Bolshevik direction.

Sverdlov was called to Petrograd as a member of the Central Committee to which he had been co-opted in 1913. His main task was to organize the party's forces, in which his years of experience in the underground held him in good stead. When the Constituent Assembly was called by the Provisional Government Sverdlov opened its first session. He called on it to adopt a 'Declaration of the Rights of the Labouring and Exploited Masses' drawn up by Lenin. The majority refused any discussion. In the months leading up to the insurrection of November 1917 Sverdlov was one of Lenin's closest collaborators. He was often to be seen at Lenin's side at meetings.

Sverdlov came into public view when he became chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of the Soviets, an office which made him titular head of state. He drew up the draft constitution for the Russian Federative Soviet Republic which began with the 'Declaration of the Rights of the Exploited and Labouring People' turned down by the Constituent Assembly in 1917. In March 1919 Sverdlov died of tuberculosis contracted during his life in prison and in exile.

COMRADES, today, when the workers of all countries are honouring the memory of the heroic rise and tragic end of the Paris Commune we have to inter the remains of Yakov Mikhailovich Sverdlov.

In the course of our revolution, and in its victories, Comrade Sverdlov succeeded in expressing more fully and integrally than anybody else the chief and most important features of the proletarian revolution, and this, even more than his boundless devotion to the cause of the revolution, made him significant as a leader of the proletarian revolution.

Comrades, people who judge by what they see on the surface, the numerous enemies of our revolution, and those who to this day vacillate between the revolution and its opponents, consider the most striking feature of our revolution to be the determined and relentlessly firm way it has dealt with the exploiters and the enemies of the working people.

There is no doubt that without this, without revolutionary violence, the proletariat could not have triumphed.

Nor can there be any doubt that revolutionary violence was a necessary and legitimate weapon of the revolution only at definite stages of its development, only under definite and special conditions, and that a far more profound and permanent feature of this revolution and condition of its victory was, and remains, the organization of the proletarian masses, the organization of the working people.

VICTORY

And it is the organization of millions of working people that constitutes the best stimulant for the revolution, its deepest source of victory. And it is the feature of the proletarian revolution which, in the course of the struggle, brought to the fore those leaders who best expressed that specific feature of our revolution that was never seen in revolutions before, namely, the organization of the masses.

This feature of the proletarian revolution also brought to the fore Yakov Sverdlov, a man who was first and foremost an organizer.

Comrades, we Russian revolutionaries, particularly in the stern days of the prolonged, sometimes painful and excessively long period of preparation for the revolution, suffered because of the gulf be-

tween theory, principle and programme and our practical work. We suffered most of all from a too deep engrossment in theory divorced from direct action.

The history of the Russian revolutionary movement over a period of many decades contains a list of martyrs who were devoted to the revolutionary cause, but who had no opportunity to put their revolutionary ideals into practice. In this respect, the proletarian revolution, for the first time, provided these formerly isolated heroes of the revolutionary struggle with real ground, a real basis, a real environment, a real audience, and a real proletarian army in which they could display their talents.

And in this respect, the most outstanding leaders are those who, as practical, efficient organizers, have succeeded in winning for themselves an exceptionally prominent place such as Yakov Sverdlov won for himself and rightly occupied.

If we survey the life of this leader of the proletarian revolution we see that his wonderful organizing talents developed in the course of long struggle. We see that this leader of the proletarian revolution himself cultivated every one of his wonderful gifts as a great revolutionary who had passed through and experienced different epochs in the severest

conditions of revolutionary activity.

He dedicated himself entirely to the revolution in the very first period of his activities, when still a youth who had barely acquired political consciousness. In that period, at the very beginning of the 20th century, Comrade Sverdlov stood before us as the most perfect type of professional revolutionary, a man who had entirely given up his family and all the comforts and habits of the old bourgeois society, a man who devoted himself heart and soul to the revolution, and who for many years, even decades passing from prison to exile and from exile to prison, cultivated those characteristics which steered revolutionaries for many, many years.

ILLEGAL

However, this professional revolutionary never, not even for a moment, lost contact with the masses. Although the condition of Tsarism condemned him, like all the revolutionaries of those days, mainly to underground, illegal activities, even then, even in those underground and illegal activities, Sverdlov always marched shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand with the advanced workers who, at the beginning of the 20th century, began to take the place of the



Long li... mem... Com... YAI... SVER

Speech by V. I. Lenin in... at a special session o... Executive Committee of t



En route (x) with party including Kamenev and Stalin to exile



With his family



Opening Moscow workers' club

the remains of a proletarian leader who led the working class and to ensure victory throughout the world and the example of how the proletariat, organized in mass action, can be put into effect, we are burying a representative example of how to fight for these ideas. In our words: 'Long live the memory of Comrade Sverdlov, we solemnly vow to fight still harder for the interests of the working people.'

Sverdlov, March 18, 1919 (Newspaper Report)



Sverdlov on his deathbed

**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION — 1**

will publish profiles of the leading members of the Bolshevik Party in October, 1917. Some of them are well known, others less so. In the purges of the 1930s and liquidated on his orders. In the writings of Leon Trotsky who, as the most prominent leader, worked with them politically and knew them personally. The Bolsheviks built a party of a new type, the only kind of party so their stories contain many lessons for today. As the revolution unfolded under enormous difficulties, under the shadow of a relentless counter-revolution. They knew the inside of the Tsar's prisons, spent years in Russia or were driven into exile. All the time they deepened their methods, ready for the decisive struggles of 1917.



**Long live the memory of Comrade Sverdlov**

memory of Y. M. Sverdlov, Chairman of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee of the Soviets, March 18, 1919.

earlier generation of revolutionary intellectuals.

It was at this time that scores and hundreds of advanced workers took up activities and acquired that steel-like hardness in the revolutionary struggle which, together with the closest contact with the masses, made it possible to bring about a successful proletarian revolution in Russia.

**MASSES**

It is precisely this long period of illegal activity that most of all characterizes the man who was constantly in the fight, who never lost contact with the masses, who never left Russia, who always worked in conjunction with the best of the workers, and who, in spite of the isolation from general life to which persecution condemned the revolutionary, succeeded in becoming not only a beloved leader of the workers, not only a leader who was most familiar with practical work, but also an organizer of the advanced proletarians.

Some people were of the opinion—and this applies mostly to our opponents, or to the waverers—that this complete absorption in illegal activities, this specific feature of the professional revolutionary, cut him off from the masses.

But the revolutionary activities of Yakov Sverdlov prove to us how utterly mistaken this opinion was; that, on the contrary, this boundless devotion to the revolutionary cause, which is typical of the lives of people who had seen the inside of many prisons and had been in exile in the remotest regions of Siberia, produced such leaders, the flower of our proletariat. And when this was combined with a knowledge of

men and organizational ability, it produced great organizers.

The illegal circles revolutionary underground work, the illegal Party, which nobody personified or expressed so integrally as Yakov Sverdlov—this was the practical school through which he passed, and the only school that could have enabled him to reach the position of the first man in the first socialist Soviet Republic, the position of the first organizer of the broad proletarian masses.

Comrades, all those who, like myself, have had occasion to work with Comrade Sverdlov day after day, had it vividly brought home to them that it was the exceptional organizing talent of this man which gave us that which we have been so proud of, so justly proud of, up to now.

He made it possible for us to carry on concerted, efficient, really organized activities, activities worthy of the organized proletarian masses, and answering to the requirements of the proletarian revolution—those concerted, organized activities without which we could not have achieved a single success, without which we could not have overcome any one of the innumerable difficulties which we have had to face, and without which we would not have been able to stand up to any one of the severe trials we experienced in the past, and are experiencing at the present time.

**PRESTIGE**

In that seething struggle that is revolution, at that special post which every revolutionary occupies, at a time when the work of even a small body of men takes the form of deliberations, of enormous importance is high moral prestige won in the course of the struggle, unquestionable and unchallenged prestige the roots of which lie, of course, not in abstract morals, but in the morals of the revolutionary fighter, the morals of the rank and file of the revolutionary masses.

The fact that for over a year we have been able to bear the incredible burdens that have fallen to the lot of a narrow circle of devoted revolutionaries, the fact that the leading groups could so firmly, quickly,

and unanimously decide the most difficult problems, is due entirely to the prominent place among them occupied by such an exceptionally talented organizer as Yakov Sverdlov.

He alone managed to acquire an amazing knowledge of the leading men of the proletarian movement, he alone, in the course of the long years of struggle—to which I can refer here only very briefly—succeeded in acquiring the wonderful intuition of the practical worker, the wonderful talent of an organizer, an absolutely unchallenged prestige, thanks to which he was able to take sole charge of some of the largest branches of the work of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee which only a group of ordinary people could cope with.

**PRACTICAL**

He alone succeeded in winning for himself such a position that on a large number of extremely big and important practical questions of organization, his mere word was sufficient to secure an unchallenged and final settlement, without conferences, without a formal vote; and everybody felt convinced that the questions had been settled on the basis of such profound practical knowledge and organizing intuition that not only hundreds and thousands of advanced workers, but also the masses would accept that settlement as final.

History long ago proved that in the course of the struggle great revolutions bring great men to the forefront and develop talents that had previously seemed impossible. Nobody would have believed that the school of the illegal study circle and underground activities, the school of the small, persecuted Party, the school of Turukhansk prison could produce this organizer who won absolutely unchallenged prestige, the organizer of Soviet power throughout Russia, the man, unique in his knowledge, who organized the work of the Party which created the Soviets and established the Soviet government which is now making its arduous, painful, bloody but triumphant advance to all nations, to all countries throughout the world.

We shall never be able to

replace this man who had cultivated such an exceptional organizing talent, if by replacement we mean finding one man, one comrade, with all these qualities. Nobody who has been close to Yakov Sverdlov and has watched him constantly at work can have any doubt that in this respect he is irreplaceable.

The work he performed as an organizer, in choosing men and appointing them to responsible posts in all the various whole groups of men to handle the different major departments that he had sole charge of, and if these men, following in his footsteps, come near to doing what this one man did alone.

But the proletarian revolution is strong precisely because its roots run deep. We know that it promotes new men to take the place of those who devotedly sacrificed their lives in the struggle, they are perhaps less experienced, possess less knowledge, and are at first less trained, but they are men who have broad contacts with the masses and who are capable of promoting from their ranks groups of men to take the place of the departed geniuses, to continue their cause, to continue along the road they pursued and to complete what they had begun.

**TALENT**

In this respect we are fully convinced that the proletarian revolution in Russia and all over the world will promote group after group of men, numerous sections of the proletariat and of the working peasantry, which will possess that practical knowledge of life, that organizing talent, collective if not individual, without which the million-strong army of the proletariat cannot achieve victory.

The memory of Comrade Yakov Sverdlov will serve not only as a permanent symbol of the revolutionary's devotion to his cause and as the model of how to combine a practical sober mind, practical skill, close contact with the masses and ability to guide them; it is also a pledge that ever-growing numbers of proletarians, guided by these examples, will march forward to the complete victory of the world communist revolution.



With Lenin at unveiling of Marx-Engels memorial



Soviet congress chairman, Sverdlov (x), declares end of war

# FUMBLE the group with the 1950s sound

FUMBLE played for the first time to a large audience of youth at the Young Socialists pop concert at Bethnal Green last year and again at Acton Town Hall two weeks ago. Although their kind of music was new to most of the audience, they scored as one of the great attractions of the evening.

A young group, they first came together five years ago, and found out that all four liked rock 'n roll. This was at a time when the pop scene was dominated by progressive, heavy rock and reggae music.

All of them had just left school or college, and had no jobs. Playing rock 'n roll was for them a way of enjoying themselves, and travelling all through Europe as well as behind the iron curtain.

But debts mounted up, and their manager said they should start becoming serious about their music.

'We are not trying to bring back the old songs, or to put the clock back. It was that people like hearing the old songs.

## A Keep Left interview

'Fumble' is completely old songs. We wanted to get the feeling from that music. We wanted to make people stop thinking, and being afraid of what the person next to them is doing.

'There are not many groups providing that sort of feeling. When we are on stage playing the old songs, we hope we are bringing about this "do anything that you want feeling".'

'Although we see ourselves as a band on stage playing our own music—for fun!—our music has been taken very seriously.

'After the Beatles, people began to take music very seriously. People studied the music. But perhaps the simple songs will survive longer than this kind of music. It's like seeing some of the films which depend on an intellectual response and analysis.

'When rock 'n roll came along, it was aimed at the older crowd of youths who had money and time for the first time in history. All music today can be traced back to that early rock 'n roll. A whole era has grown up with those youth.

'But new generations of youth have grown up with nothing like that for them. They found themselves in the middle of a progression from one kind of music to another—that is where the name "progressive" music came from.

'They wanted something to enjoy themselves with. Our music is not based on nostalgia—it is also for people who don't remember the old rock 'n roll at all.'

Mario Ferrari, Fumble's bass guitarist said, 'rock 'n roll is simple to listen to but it is hard to play. People said there is nothing to it, but like a Picasso cartoon, there is an enormous amount of skill in it.'

'Fumble' want to make a kind of music which does not appeal just to a narrow kind of 'in' crowd, but which everyone can enjoy.

Sean Mayes, who is the pianist in the group, thought the 1970s marked a new stage in history. 'Britain's role has completely changed from being one of the most important countries in the



world, to taking a back seat.'

The country is threatening to tear itself apart. It's like a crumbling cake. It requires strong leadership to put this right.

'Communism has done an incredible amount for countries in Eastern Europe which we have toured in, compared to what they were before. I am very interested in what is going on in China, in the kind of system where everyone works together.

'But we would not be able to play our music there, which pre-

sents a big problem.'

'I think we are living in a crucial time,' said Des Henley. 'The Common Market will create even more problems, and it is diabolical that we had no choice at all about it. I don't think there is in any of the parties a man who is capable of leading the country.'

'People tend to see only the two parties in politics. The Young Socialists need to be known much more,' said Mario Ferrari.



## POST BAG



### Common Market and basic rights

WITHIN the next few days Britain—together with Ireland—will be joining the European community, better known to millions of people as the Common Market.

This decision was taken by the Heath government without the consent of the British working people.

This decision by the Tories has been carried out undemocratically on behalf of the capitalist class. It is the beginnings of Tory dictatorship over the working class and middle class of this country.

What then was the reason given by the Tories for joining?

Basically they have said this. In the EEC sources of economic wealth have grown by 70 per cent within ten years, whereas in Britain it has reached a mere 35 per cent.

They have also noted that industrial production has grown and increased to 90 per cent, whereas in Britain it reached 40 per cent.

They also estimate that it has an unrestricted market of 300 million people.

Other advantages would comprise of Britain joining large-scale operations such as

the European coal and steel community.

Another reason given for joining is that Britain can compete agriculturally.

What does all this propaganda preached by the Tories really mean? The Heath government has taken the working class into a movement that will only benefit the capitalists and the big bosses of industry.

Britain has joined the Common Market for the sole purpose of making more profit.

Do people in Britain want to join the Common Market when food prices go up day by day, rents go up and the wages are frozen? Do they want factories and industries to close down and unemployment figures reaching the multi-million mark?

Does the working class want to lose all its basic and essential trade union rights?

No! The working class does not want unhappiness and oppression. We are opposed to the Common Market which is moving more and more to the right.

The working class can unite itself and fight back on the basis of a Marxist understanding.

We can learn by analysing the present day political situation and fighting to remove the Tories from office. This way we can go forward to a government pledged to carry out socialist policies.

Diane Coelho  
N. Paddington YS.

The fight against adventurism and mere protest manifested by the International Socialist and the International Marxist groups is an important part of building a revolutionary movement.

However, the letter dealing with the visit of Patrick Wall to Portsmouth must surely give the wrong impression about the policies of the YSSS in relation to such racialist and anti-working class politicians.

It is true that the IS and IMG often indulge in ill-prepared adventures on the occasion of such visits but this is no reason why the YSSS should ignore semi-fascist forces and thus allow them to build up their strength.

Often the racialists and reactionaries try to organize for their meetings to be broken up so they can claim the right to 'freedom of speech' and thus gain support from the liberals.

In such cases it can be effective enough for the YSSS to organize boycotts to defeat such schemes.

But the YSSS must make it clear that this is not the only method we are prepared to use to fight the racialists. Properly prepared, with leaflets and political explanations about what 'freedom of speech' really means in a capitalist society, it is possible to organize to drive out those who are opening the way to fascism.

The Tories are already well on the road to dictatorship. We must show that the YSSS is preparing to organize seriously and in a class way against the forces that support further attacks on workers' organizations and democratic rights.

We do not need to engage in adventures. To do this, but with proper preparation and the gathering of support, we can prevent the operation of pro-fascist forces.

In this way we can concretely build a revolutionary organization while at the same time seriously opposing trends to fascism and dictatorship.

Michael Nolan.

## BOOKS



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### YSSS and adventurism

THE letter from Portsmouth Polytechnic in a previous week's Keep Left makes it clear that the struggle for principled and independent politics is being carried out there by the Young Socialists Students Society.

# spotlight on students

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE YSSS**  
Mechanical Engineering Dept  
Room 320, 1 p.m.  
Every Friday.

**SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY YSSS**  
Meets every Tuesday  
TV Room, 1.00 p.m.  
Book Stall  
every day 12 to 2 p.m.  
near Porters Lodge

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY YSSS**  
Meets every Monday  
Jesus College  
Seminar Room 'A'  
8.00 p.m.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON YSSS**  
Meets every Thursday 1 p.m.

**LEEDS UNIVERSITY YSSS BRANCH MEETINGS**  
Every Wednesday, 1 p.m.

**BRADFORD YSSS**  
Meeting every Friday  
Bradford Art College  
Room 11  
2.30 p.m.

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS YSSS**  
branch meetings every Monday  
1 p.m. Room S 400

**LEICESTER UNIVERSITY YSSS**  
Branch meetings every Thursday 1.00 pm  
Union Lecture Room,  
Percy Gee Bookstall  
every Friday lunchtime,  
Concourse in Percy Gee House

**BRADFORD UNIVERSITY YSSS**  
Spring Term Programme  
Branch meetings every Thursday at 1.00 p.m. in Room E22.  
Wednesday January 17 'Workers Press' film  
Wednesday January 24 'The way forward for students'  
Wednesday January 30-31 'Two-day film festival' 'Right-to-Work' film

## Tory rationalization policy means: Economy drive in higher education

By our correspondent

THE DIVISION of higher education into two broad areas of universities and polytechnics together with colleges of education is rapidly becoming a device to openly attack students.

The system enables the Tory government to push through severe rationalization plans under the guise of innovation and responsibilities to keep up with new requirements of industry.

Students in many colleges and polytechnics throughout the country will be faced with this attack when they return for the new term.

The James Report on higher education proposes the establishment of either pass degrees or Diplomas of Higher Education, both of which would consist of two-year courses as opposed to the present three or four years.

Only those students gaining

high marks in these two-year courses would be eligible for further degree work.

Students in polytechnics are particularly vulnerable. Very often these colleges are spread over a substantial area of large cities, making effective student organization difficult.

Student unions in polytechnics are also generally in more financial difficulties than in universities.

Together with the problem of different sites these financial problems tend to mean that students are directly hindered by the administration and government departments.

The newly-appointed director of Middlesex Polytechnic, Dr Rickett, has recently issued proposals concerning the use of various college sites.

These proposals are in effect a massive rationalization with huge cut-backs.

In his report he says: 'In

order to make the most economic use of facilities, there will have to be a considerable rationalization of courses throughout the polytechnic.'

The report endorses the James Report and the next step, presumably, would be to go even further and introduce the use of internal television systems and possibly link up with the Open University.

This concept of lectures via closed-circuit TV to over 500 students is indeed a grim prospect. As the crisis of capitalism becomes worse higher education comes under more and more direct attack.

The situation is one where even those whom the capitalist class has chosen as its ideologists are under attack.

The capitalist class cannot even permit proper training to proceed under its own methods. It has become too expensive.

## Japanese government witch-hunts students

THE Japanese government is again considering tough permanent laws against left-wing student activists in the country's universities.

Four times before, when the government considered introducing laws, it abandoned its plans after encountering stiff opposition inside and outside parliament.

This time, however, the government is moving in on the basis of renewed demands for action against 'extremists' after the death of a young student in an alleged 'revolutionary faction lynching'.

The current campus emergency control law, introduced during the nationwide student demonstrations in 1969, runs out in two years' time.

It gives the Education Minister the power to close any university or college if it fails to solve student-administration conflicts within a year.

But now the authorities are spurred on to new attacks on left-wing students by reports that although nearly one-third of Japan's university student self-government bodies are controlled by a handful of left-wing students, their strength has been declining after constant conflicts with riot police.

Recent unconfirmed rumours say that nearly 1,000 students have been subjected to beatings at Tokyo's Waseda University at courts set up by members of the 'revolutionary Marxist faction', Kakumaru.

Then in November it was reported that 20-year-old Daisaburo Kawaguchi, accused of spying for a rival faction, was tortured to death in an all-night trial.

This aroused the right-wing in the college. The self-governing organization in Waseda—controlled by Kakumaru—was ordered to stop functioning and after a month of campus debate, the Kakumaru leadership was removed.

It is on the basis of the defeat of the Kakumaru leadership at Waseda University that the authorities are now preparing to go forward and tackle other left-wing controlled student bodies throughout the country.

At the same time the authorities are claiming that student funds are being diverted 'to the revolutionary cause'.

## Police occupy Heidelberg university

OVER 1,000 police erected steel fences and shut off the university precinct in the centre of the German city of Heidelberg early this month.

Minister of Culture, Hahn, claimed these measures were necessary to stop a trouble-making assembly of students. The city, he said, had to prevent 'terrorist groups from destroying the university'.

A day later about 5,000 students decided to strike for five days. The Ministry began a permanent 'crisis council' which was to take measures to fight the left's guerrilla tactics.

In addition to banning 12 students from lectures lecturers were to be guarded by police and 'unruly' elements removed.



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These volumes provide an invaluable addition to the literature of Marxism which we strongly recommend to readers of Keep Left.

# Hospital workers want better wages and conditions

A Keep Left interview

**HOSPITAL WORKERS** throughout Britain are furious. They want better pay and working conditions but have been directly affected by the Tory government's 'freeze'.

Earlier this month hospital ancillary workers became the first group of workers to strike against the government's state pay laws.

They represent some of the lowest paid workers in Britain. Due to the Tory anti-inflation measures their strikes have been political ones against the government.

## Underpaid

Pat Ford is an 18-year-old physiotherapist in Plaistow Hospital, East London. He is also a shop steward representing about 550 workers.

Hospital workers, he says deserve the increase because 'our conditions are poor and our pay is very low—everyone knows how underpaid nurses are.

'The whole struggle is against the Tory government as far as I am concerned as a shop steward. It is against the wage freeze and anti-union laws.'

Workers in hospitals organized by the National Union of Public Employees include sweepers, ward cleaners, kitchen staff, domestic staff, porters, ward clerks and laundry staff.

## Machinery

Union members at Plaistow Hospital feel they need more machinery and staff. Pat says that the physiotherapy equipment is poor and in many cases outdated.

Laundry workers do an average of 14 hours work a day for a take home pay of about £19. Porters work a seven-day week and taken home about £20. This is in spite of a union agreement with the hospital authorities that they should work a five day week.

A porter's job includes lifting patients and assisting at autopsies when they are paid 25p per body.

Pat says: 'Recently we came into conflict with the management when they tried to get the cleaning staff to clean the windows, which meant putting window cleaners out of work. We wouldn't have it. We have a corridor cleaner who is 60 years old and takes home £12.'

During the one-day stoppages two weeks ago there was total chaos in the hospital. The sisters and doctors did not like it but full support for the strike came from the nurses, the X-ray staff and the laboratory staff.

## Strike

'Even the electricians, carpenters and engineers threatened to strike in our support and they had to completely close down the hospital.'

Pat was very impressed by the demonstrations of hospital workers in London. All the strikers were chanting 'Tories Out' and demanding a Labour government. 'In a few weeks we are planning more action. We can only win by forcing the government out—not by pleading before it.'



## WHAT'S ON WHERE

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

**AVENHAM YS**  
Youth Club  
every Monday  
7.30-10.00 p.m.  
Foxton Youth Centre  
Adm: 5p Records

**BLACKPOOL YS**  
meets every Tuesday  
Boys' Club  
Laycock Gate  
off Devonshire Road  
Blackpool  
7.00 pm

**CLAPHAM YS**  
Youth Club  
Every Thursday  
Coronation Hall  
Springfield Estate  
Union Road, SW8  
8 pm adm. 10p  
Sports, records, discussion  
groups

**KINGSTON YS**  
meets every Tuesday  
The Three Compasses  
Eden Street  
(opp Post Office)  
Kingston  
8 p.m.

**SWANSEA YS**  
Discotheque  
every Wednesday  
St Phillips Church Hall  
7.30 p.m.

**HIGHFIELDS YS**  
meets every Thursday  
Discotheque every  
Saturday  
Queen Victoria  
(Near 'Leicester Mercury'  
offices)  
7.30 pm to 10.30 pm  
Adm: 10p

**OXFORD YS**  
Discotheques  
Friday January 12  
Friday January 19  
Cowley Community Centre  
7.30 p.m.  
Admission: 15p

Socialist Labour League  
North West Rally

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Vicars Road  
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**REGIONAL SPEAKERS'  
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Starts 6.00 p.m.  
Adm. 10p

### Middlesex

Sunday December 31  
St Mathew's Church Hall  
Rosebury Road  
Fulham SW6

'Right to Work' film  
Starts: 7.00 p.m.  
Adm. 10p

### Southern

Thursday January 4  
St Adam's Church Hall  
Boston Road  
(nr Canterbury Road)  
West Croydon

'Right to Work' film  
Starts: 2 p.m.  
Adm. 10p

### Kent

Sunday December 31  
St Peter's Church Hall  
Trafalgar Street  
Gillingham

Special showing of  
'Right to Work' film  
Regional Speakers'  
Contest  
Starts: 6.00 p.m.  
Adm. 10p

### Garforth

Garforth Young  
Socialists  
New Year's Eve  
Discotheque  
Sunday December 31  
St Mary's Church Hall  
Garforth  
Starts: 7.30 p.m.

### Hull

Hull Young Socialists  
New Year Party  
Tuesday January 2  
Room 8, YPI  
George Street  
7.30 p.m.