

YOUNG SOCIALIST

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS INCORPORATING 'KEEP LEFT' UNITES ALL YOUNG WORKERS, APPRENTICES, UNEMPLOYED, IMMIGRANT AND STUDENT YOUTH

FULL SUPPORT TO THE MINERS!



Miners have given a big 'YES' to their leaders for industrial action to win early retirement at 60. The results of the ballot announced last Wednesday was that 78 per cent of miners want action to win their claim.

The Labour government is resisting their demand for early retirement. In some coalfields the majority for industrial action was much higher than 78 per cent.

In SOUTH WALES and SCOTLAND the vote was 92 per cent, in YORKSHIRE it was 89 per cent and NOTTINGHAMSHIRE the

majority was over three to one.

But Lawrence Daly, NUM General Secretary announcing the result said, 'I cannot speak for the executive, but my personal view is that there is considerable scope for compromise.' He added that he believed the eventual settlement would be within the social contract.

It is clear that the NUM leaders fear the movement of their members and their opposition to the government expressed in the vote and want to organise a climb-down on the retirement claim.

1977—YEAR OF THE CUTS

"We say..."

1977 WILL be the year of the cuts. That was made clear on Wednesday by Chancellor Healey's savage budget measures.

As usual the people he intends should pay for the crisis are the working class and youth. All the measures will sharply affect those worst hit already—pensioners, the unemployed, youth—as well as education, housing, and every other basic service.

- From the New Year there will be 10 per cent more taxes on tobacco and drink—beer will go up 1p a pint, cigarettes 4p for an average pack of 20; wine and spirits will rise between 5p and 31p a bottle.
- Local authority housing programmes will be cut to the tune of £300m.
- Food subsidies will now be phased out in 1977-1978 to save £160m next year and £60m the year after.
- Education spending will be cut by £20m in 1977-1978 and £30m in 1978-1979 on top of slashing attacks already announced. The latest 'economies' will be made in administration of school meals. One suggestion is that teachers will have to pay more for their meals.
- Central and local government building projects on roads, environmental services and school building will be suspended or reduced. This is expected to save £270m next year and £300m the following year.
- There will be further cuts in the civil service amounting to £30m next year and £10m in 1978-1979. A spokesman for the Society of Civil and Public Services commented, 'If the

government believes that significant savings can be made by cutting the civil service it is either fooling itself, or trying to fool the public—or both.' A member of the Civil Service Union said the cuts could only be carried out by a reduction in services and a lot of people would suffer.

- Gas prices will go up from April next year. This comes on top of a 12 per cent average rise in gas prices only two months ago. Government financing for nationalised industries would be reduced by £110m and £130m in the next two years.
- Yet private industry will get another £80m hand-out each year for two years.
- There is a proposed handout of £120m in the next 12 months to reduce unemployment. But Healey warned, 'I do not see a prospect of a fall in unemployment. Indeed, I fear there is likely to be some further rise, but smaller than would have been the case without the adjustments I have described.'
- Healey opened his Budget saying forecasts for public sector borrowing requirements of £10.5 billion next year and £11.5 billion for 1978-1979 were 'unacceptably high'. The immediate effect of his measures, he said, is to reduce public sector borrowing to £8.7 billion next year and to about £8.6 billion the following year.
- It is obvious then that Healey's measures are no short-term attacks. And the cuts he intends to implement for 1978-1979 are worse than those for next year.
- So the Labour government intends to make the working class pay and then pay even more heavily to meet the demands of the international bankers for their four billion dollar loan.

These budget plans are the greatest verification of the fight of the Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party—that for the working class to defend its right to a future it has no alternative but to drive this government out.



Healey

This Labour Cabinet has proved again that it is nothing more than a front for Tory policies, and for the plans of the international banks. It has no mandate from Labour voters for these attacks. It must go!

The Young Socialists will step up our campaign against this government. We are now preparing for our Annual General Meeting of Young Socialist. Our answer to Healey will be to mobilise the biggest numbers of youth we have ever done to launch an all-out battle for a general election on socialist policies. No to the Tory plans for a comeback!

Central to this fight are the sales of Young Socialist—our weekly youth paper. We must organise to take our policies to hundreds and thousands of young people throughout the country—we must build and strengthen the revolutionary youth movement. We will make 1977 the year of revolutionary struggle against this rump and treacherous government and its Tory masters who wait in the wings.

POST BAG

Send letters and articles to:
YS, 21b Old Town,
Clapham, London,
SW40JT

Declining health care for workers

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HAVING worked as a nurse in the National Health Service for the past five years, I have seen the deterioration of the health care provided for the working class and the build up of privileged medicine for the rich.

This deterioration has accelerated in the past year and will continue to do so at an ever increasing pace.

In the Hounslow district, where I am now employed as cheap labour under the pretext of being trained for three years for State Registration, there are cuts to be made of £3.5m by 1978.

This will mean the closure of three local and very valuable hospitals which provide skilled care to mostly geriatric, that is people over 65, patients who have no one to care for them, and if sent home—which they will be if these cuts are allowed to be implemented—will die in the most horrific circumstances.

In the West Middlesex, which is the district general hospital, I have witnessed patients being discharged prematurely with stitches still in and quite unable to cope at home. Whilst they were patients they have had to tolerate poor care and inedible food due to lack of staff and facilities.

This is just the start of the abolition of the NHS by this

Labour government. The future prospects are even more terrifying. When cuts of £13m are made in this district it will mean the closure of a district general hospital such as the West Middlesex which will mean the loss of 900 beds.

These cuts are a direct attack on the standard of living of the working class, and will particularly affect the old age pensioners who could not and should not be expected to pay for health care. Young people, who, if thinking of taking up a future in the NHS, will not be able to do so due to the cutbacks in student nurses, medical student intake and other health service training.

Implemented

If these cuts are allowed to be implemented, we are opening the door to private medicine, where the rich will be healthy and the poor will be sick.

This is just one reason why this Labour government must be forced out and hospitals placed under workers' control so that we can inject funds into it and build up an adequate health care system for the working class.

Lynn Roberts,
Student Nurse

Police corruption

AS FAR as the question 'Why did you join the Young Socialists' goes, the answer is very simple. I joined because I agree with what they are trying to achieve.

I must admit though, when the secretary of our area first came up to me I was a bit dubious. So many people describe the YS as 'commies', but after Julian had explained the policies of the group, I realized it was just a lot of bourgeois nonsense to fight off the working class, who should be fighting for their rights.

They know that when we manage to show people what we really stand for, the imperialist society will cease to exist and they will no longer be able to exploit the working class.

One of the things that I was told about was the case of the Murrays. It sickened me to think that two people could be exterminated, because they don't believe in the way that that the society they live in is run.

The fact that they had to prove their innocence is so ridiculously unreasonable it is really hard to believe.

I always thought that a person was innocent until proven guilty, but it seems that it all depends on what side of the fence you are on.

Also corruption in the ruling

forces was mentioned. I think everybody knows about it: I have seen policemen do such stupid things to provoke people.

I've seen a policeman throw salt over a bloke working on a hot dog stand, because the policeman knew this bloke had a bad temper and he was just waiting for him to retaliate, so he could pull him in.

Trouble

As soon as there is trouble in Woking, this particular bloke gets pulled in, as he did something wrong once. Now they just try and pin anything on him, to get the case cleared up and so they get the credit for it.

I've known them to beat people into making statements. I also know of soldiers interrogating people over in northern Ireland making suspects stand spreadeagled against a wall with no clothes on, and then beating them where it won't even show.

And the troops will use that kind of violence on us when the capitalists realise what a threat we are to their imperialist society. The sooner we over-come this society the better for every working class person in the world.

Wendy Carnell
Woking YS

13-YEAR-OLD GIRL CONVICTED OF ASSAULT ON SPGs

No trial by jury for assault cases

A THIRTEEN year-old girl has been found guilty of assaulting two Special Patrol Group policemen.

She was also convicted of criminal damage. She has been conditionally discharged for a year, fined £4 and ordered to pay £5 compensation.

The girl was cleared of a third charge of assault on police, and one of using threatening language.

The girl was arrested at Peckham, south London, on August 24 along with two boys who had been stopped for questioning by SPG plain-clothes men.

She claimed in court that the had seen two boys, who were her friends, being stopped, and had gone to see if they were alright.

'One of the policemen pushed (...)s arm up until it was almost touching his head and (...) was crying. The policeman was saying to him: "shut up, you black bastard".'

Arguing

The girl claimed that a plain-clothes man told her to 'piss off' and they started arguing.

'I still didn't realise he was a policeman, 'cos I thought it was a gang who'd been beating up black people...'

'Then one of them grabbed me

Complaint lodged after SPG action

and they all rushed me. Then two police vans arrived (it was only at this point I realised they were policemen).'

The SPG officers took the girl to Peckham police station.

The prosecution claimed that she had sworn at the officers, and attacked one of them, ripping his shirt and breaking a neck-chain.

It is understood that an Appeal is to be lodged against the ruling of the Inner London Juvenile Court.

The girl's mother has filed a formal complaint about the incident against the Special Patrol Group. Investigations are still under way in A10, Scotland Yard's complaints department.



Police harassment against black youth is on the increase

YOUNG people framed up on charges of assaulting police may soon find they have no right to trial by jury.

The Law Commission — set up by the Labour government to examine various statutes — has recommended that such cases should be transferred solely to the magistrates courts.

This comes at a time when nearly 2000 cases charged with assaulting police are coming before the courts every year.

Large numbers of them are black youth who experience constant harassment.

- Special Patrol Group 'heavy mobs' have been brought into areas like south London, Birmingham and downtown Liverpool to cope with so-called 'muggings'.

- Well-organized provocations involving hundreds of police — such as the 'riot' at Notting Hill — are becoming commonplace when ever black people get together.

- Cases such as that of Robin Stirling show how black youth are being fixed in court. At the age of 15, Stirling was locked up for assaulting two police at the Brockwell Park fair in Brixton. After six months behind bars, he was proved innocent by Appeal Court judges.

- There are at least five cases in which black youth have been killed in prisons, remand homes or police stations in very suspicious circumstances.

'Assaulting police' is the oldest frame-up charge in the book. If the Labour government stops it being heard before a jury, it will be putting another nail in the coffin of our democratic rights.

THE Law Commission also recommended £1,000 fines for alleged 'soccer hooligans'.

Interesting to remember the 13 Bristol City fans pardoned by the Home Office after being wrongly prosecuted and fined. How many youth will be 'wrongly' prosecuted, and then fined £1,000?

MURDER SQUAD LET LOOSE ON YOUTH

SAS FOR BELFAST

THE British army's terror squad, the Special Air Services, is to widen its operations in the North of Ireland. It will now officially move into big working-class areas in the cities for the first time.

But as the 'Guardian' reported, last week's announcement in the Commons that the SAS would extend its operations beyond South Armagh simply made public a development which started in the summer.

Unionist MPs like William Craig and John Carson are reported to be 'delighted', as no doubt are most reactionary sections of the Tory Party, the civil service and the army officer caste. All these people have been calling for increased repression against the Republican movement.

As the Press Association news service pointed out, 'Effectively the decision represents a step up in military activity which has been constantly demanded by the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, Mr Airey Neave.'

The SAS was first sent into the Six Counties by Harold Wilson on January 7 this year. Since then they have operated mainly in the border area of Armagh putting into practice their terror methods learnt from duty throughout the world.

In August a 12-year-old girl, Majella O'Hare was shot in the village of Ballymoyer, South Armagh. According to the army claims, she was killed in 'cross-fire' but investigations proved this to be a lie. Exactly who was responsible for her cold-blooded murder is not yet known, but it is the sort of job which perhaps only the SAS is capable of.

Now they will have the freedom to pursue their murderous role on a province-wide basis.



Belfast youth stone army post after the funeral of Republican leader Maire Drumm

Join the

YS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I am interested in (Tick where applicable)

Football Meetings

Discos Swimming

Coach Trips Cricket

Post to: YS National Secretary,
21b Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JT



JULY: South London YS members practice for the all-London sports contest



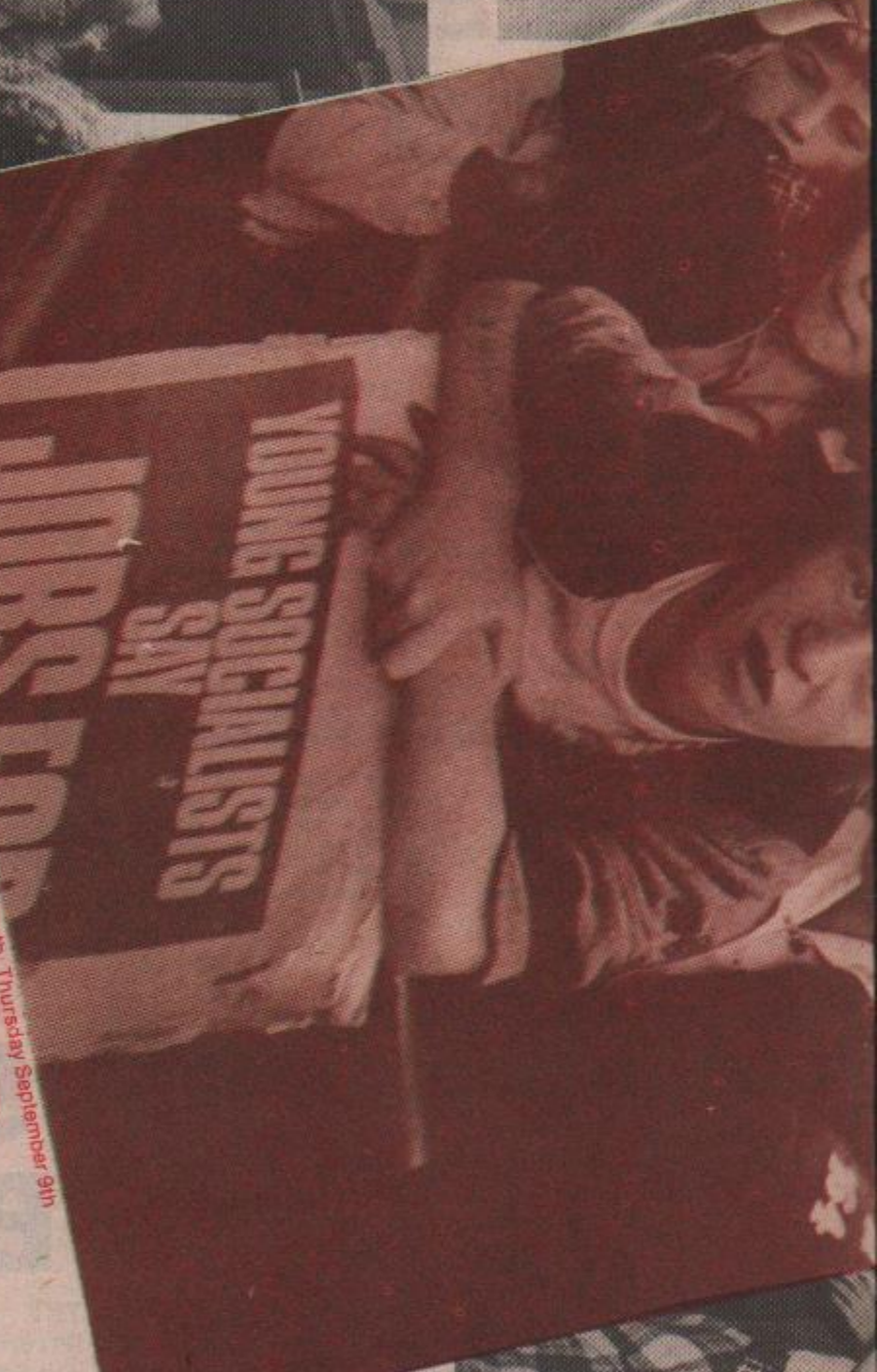
SEPTEMBER: Youth sign up for the Jobs for Youth lobby outside the dole in Widnes, Cheshire



NOVEMBER: Glasgow YS football team read about themselves in the Young Socialist

Young Socialists lobby the Trades Union Congress to demand jobs for youth. Thursday September 9th

YOUNG SOCIALISTS 1976



AUGUST: Hull YS recruited 200 members at this disco, where a rock n roll dancing contest is in progress

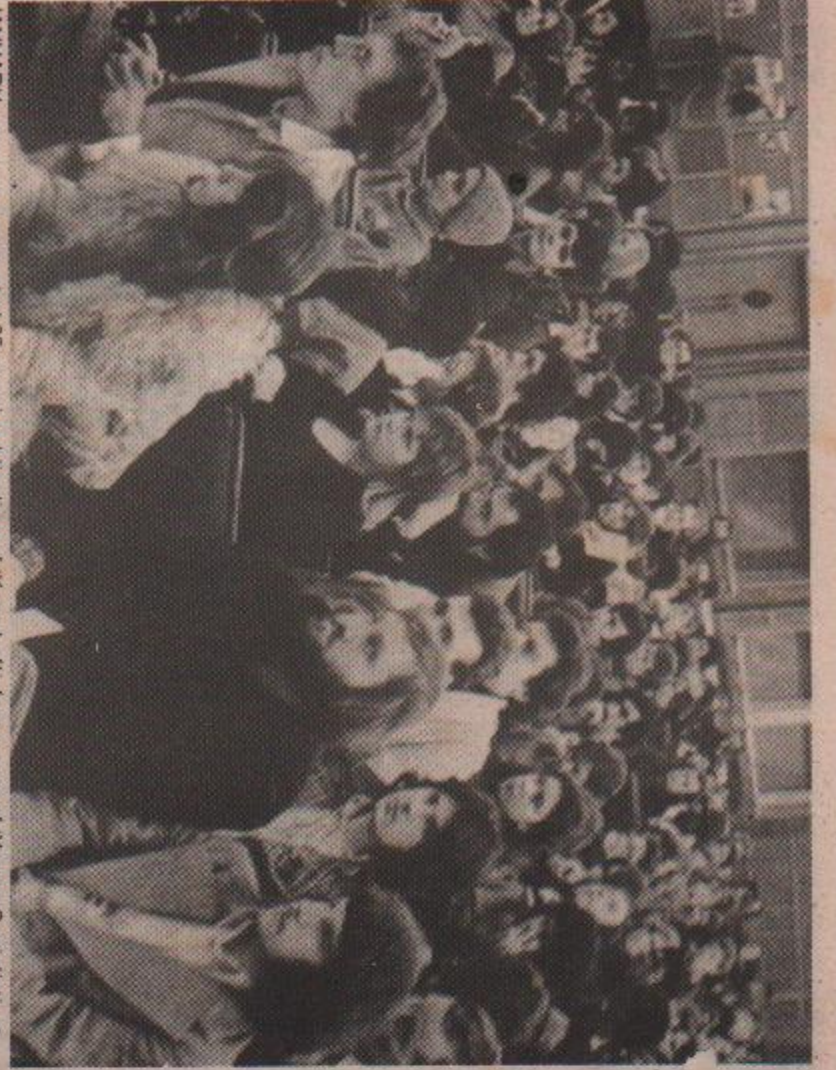


OCTOBER: YS and WRP members march to support the Palestine liberation struggle



NOVEMBER: 2000 trades unionists and youth vote at the Sheffield conference to support the marches of Young Socialists and European youth for jobs next spring

**Now
build
the
YS in
1977!**



JANUARY: we commemorated 25 years' publication of 'Keep Left', forerunner of 'Young Socialist', at its Annual General Meeting



FEBRUARY: London YS members marched against unemployment



MARCH: this German delegation visited the YS 16th Annual Conference at Morecambe



JULY: this dragon amused the kiddies at the YS Fair in East Ham, London



MAY DAY: YS and Workers Revolutionary Party members marched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the General Strike

* WORLD NEWS * * WORLD NEWS * * WORLD NEWS * * WORLD

IRISH YS CONFERENCE

BY OUR OWN
CORRESPONDENT

'DEMAND Jobs for Youth Now! Down with the Coalition government! Build the International Youth Committee of the Fourth International!'

This was the call from the Second Annual conference of the Young Socialists (Ireland), held in Bray, Co. Wicklow. The conference gathered together unemployed school-leavers, young workers, students and Republican youth, and was a major step forward in building the YS.

Devastating

The devastating slump in Ireland has forced thousands of youth out of school and onto the unemployment queues. The coalition government is leading the attacks of the employers on workers' living standards and has strengthened the repressive apparatus with police laws.

The outline of the crisis and the tasks posed for working class youth was put to the conference by Peter Boylan, YS National Secretary.

Stressing the unity between British and Irish workers he said: 'With one half of this country ruled militarily by imperialism and the other half economically, the Irish capitalist class is completely tied to the British ruling class.'

Deportation

'We see now clearly the role of the Labour government in Britain, in the introduction of the latest public spending cuts and the proposed deportation of Philip Agee and Mark Hosenball.

'Their policies are dictated by the International Monetary Fund and bankers. They are splitting and demoralising British workers, and leading them into the arms of the Tories, which could then be the prelude to a military dictatorship.

Confrontation

'Events are now leading rapidly to the final confrontation between the working class and the ruling class.

'The army of occupation in areas such as Belfast and Derry, is being prepared to deal with class conflict in cities like Coventry and Birmingham. The first step was the strike-breaking tactics employed by troops during the Glasgow dust strike last year.'

Speaking about the struggle of the Republican movement and the drive towards police-state government in Eire, Boylan said: 'The unlimited publicity being given in the capitalist press to the "peace" movement shows that British imperialism

has carefully orchestrated this campaign to prepare a full-scale liquidation of the Republican movement.

'The assassination of Maire Drumm by right-wing para-militaries shows the dangers', said Boylan. 'The fight waged by Republican youth, which has constantly regenerated and rejuvenated the Republican movement, must be allied to the fight for jobs, and a decent standard of living.'

Building

His report concluded: 'This means the building of the revolutionary party. We could see at the Labour Party conference in Limerick, which voted to support the Coalition, that the reformists will lead workers into the arms of reaction.

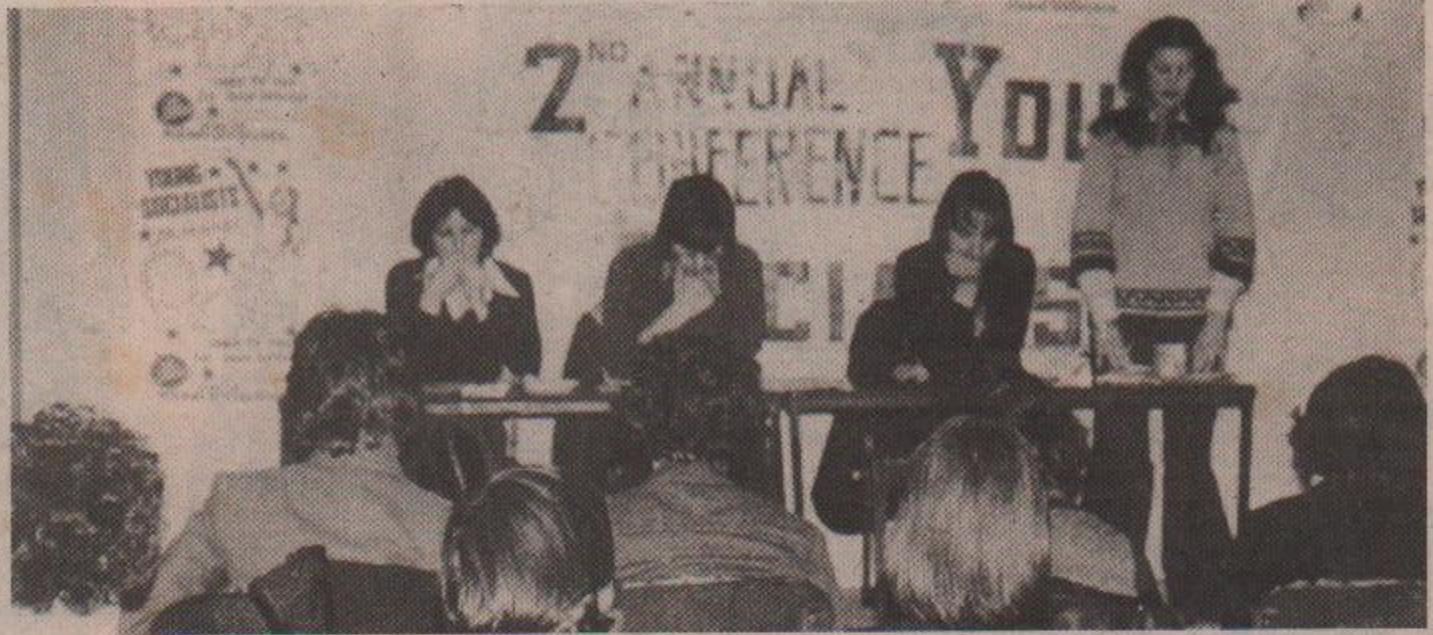
'Conditions all over the world are over-ripe for revolution. We say: Forward to the socialist revolution. Fourth International.'

After the main report there was a full discussion on all aspects of the crisis facing youth, the lack of youth facilities, cuts in education, and public expenditure.

Marches

The policies decided at the conference are now being taken back into the Young Socialist branches, and the fight is now on for the 'Jobs for Youth' marches across Europe proposed by the British YS 'Jobs for Youth' conference in Sheffield.

In the evening a lively and enjoyable disco was held.



Australian youth jobless soars

YOUTH unemployment in Australia could well reach an all-time high this Christmas as thousands of school-leavers are thrown straight onto the dole queue.

The right-wing Tory Fraser government has launched vicious attacks on workers' living standards and jobless figures are rising rapidly. This week we reprint interviews with jobless youth in Australia who are supporting the YS Jobs for Youth campaign.

The present level of unemployment is 'disgusting'. This is the opinion of Susan who has been out of work for three weeks. Before that I was a switchboard operator,' she said.

'I'm looking for a job as a switchboard operator but they've got nothing here. The government could do something about unemployment if they tried but they are not really interested. Every time I come here they tell me they've got nothing at all.'

Campaign

She said the Young Socialists Jobs for Youth march and the campaign to bring down the Liberal government was a good idea.

'If it does any good then I'm all for it. It's not our fault we are unemployed. They are putting young ones off and old ones as well.'

'Like in the chemists. They train them for jobs and then they put new people in that they've trained and finish the old ones. They just keep on doing that.

'Therefore there are more coming out of jobs. They train them, but they train them for nothing.'

'I trained and went to work in a chemist's shop. I was in for six months and then a new lot came in and I got sacked.'

Michelle, her friend, is looking for a job as a shop assistant. She has been unemployed for about four months.

Before that she was working in a shop but left. 'If you're a junior they always put the heavy on you. You do the rotten jobs. I was getting crates chucked at me and everything.'

She has not been offered a job in the four months she has been out of work.

Asked about her opinion of the YS Jobs for Youth campaign she said the Fraser government had made promises which they did not keep.

'They promised there would be a lot of jobs and hardly any people unemployed and there would be better ways of living.'

'I could make those promises and not keep them. They have not



Susan Michelle and friends

kept them. I reckon the next time they vote Labour will win.'

We asked what she would do on an average day: 'Sit around, watch television, come down here (to the unemployment office) and go home. That's all.'

'Some days I go looking for a job. When I get there they say they want an experienced girl.'

'One week I kept trying. I must have spent about \$10 just in bus fares looking for a job.'

'I got so tired I couldn't look any more. I went to about 15 places that week.'

The answer was the same everywhere, she said. 'They wanted more experienced girls.'

Kim has been unemployed for about a year. She was a waitress

before that.

She left that job when she moved to Sydney and since then she has not had another.

'I've only gone for one waitress job since I've been here, but I haven't had any other jobs offered to me.'

Experienced

He said the Commonwealth Employment Service have nothing.

'They just say come back next week and get your form.'

'In some jobs they advertise they say they want experienced people. But how can you get experience if no one will give you a chance?'

Janine has been out of work for 16 months. She worked in a take-away food bar before becoming unemployed.

'They said they had too many people so the ones who didn't have experience got put off.'

'Ever since then I've been trying but they just keep putting everybody off all the time.'

'I've tried for all sorts of jobs. It doesn't worry me just so long as I get something.'

'I've applied for jobs but you need experience — a year of something.'

'In here they just tell you to come back — send you the cheque and that's it.'

The policies of the Fraser government are lies, she said.

POLICE FILES EXPOSE COUP THREATS

POLICE have enough information stored on computers to take care of any resistance to a right-wing coup.

In a television programme on Monday night entitled 'Half Way to 1984' a senior police officer said he was 'frightened' by the amount of data on private individuals that was now held in Britain.

Hugh Hallet, an assistant chief constable and secretary general of the International Police Association told the BBC investigation:

'If you're on the computer and you don't happen to have the same politics as I do, when I come to power I can therefore eradicate you very quickly and that's the sort of situation in which we're speaking.'

Files

Trevor Fisk, a correspondent for 'The Times' newspaper explained that the British army in the North of Ireland has files on practically the whole population. They are so detailed that the army can radio headquarters and get back information in minutes from the

person's reported political beliefs to the colour of furniture in their homes!

And he revealed that this information had been 'leaked' by the authorities to Loyalist right-wing killer squads. He said, 'For the Protestant extremists, such a list is almost an assassination list.'

Information on people is continuously gathered from car licences, employment files, credit systems, school and college reports and even health records.

Hospital consultant Richard Pryer said he and 50 other doctors were refusing to give all the details requested by the authorities when patients leave Aylesbury hospital in Buckinghamshire. The doctors fear that the information could be used by the police and the army via the Ministry of Health for political persecution.

Pryer said that with an extreme right-wing government in power, trade union militants would be hunted down. 'If one is looking for political

identification of people, data is already there to be found on those medical documents.'

The programme, in the 'Horizon' series which will be re-screened this Saturday also showed Sandhurst officers on training exercises dealing with civil war situations. They were based on the precepts of Brigadier Kitson whose book 'Low Intensity Operations' foresees civil war in a situation of mass unemployment and the need to deploy the army in civilian situations.

Exposed

And it exposed the use of special branch police photographers against a Mothers Action Group demonstration in Bletchley demanding more facilities for nursery and primary schools and a protest in Downing Street against the visit of Brazilian dictator Giesel.

The programme is a sharp warning to all young people about the dangers of preparation for dictatorship in Britain. Unlike the reformists and revisionists, the Young Socialists has always pointed out that the police, army and state are preparing counter-revolutionary plots.

Young people will be very sharply affected by these attacks and it is a measure of the urgency of the political situation and the need to build the revolutionary youth leadership in the Young Socialists and expand our paper.

Israeli army fires on students

ISRAELI troops opened fire on demonstrating students in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan last week.

Curfews were imposed in three areas affected by disturbances.

All but a few businesses in the West Bank were closed to protest against the new eight per cent value added tax. A one-day strike was called by mayors, unions and Chambers of Commerce.



Police photographer (top centre window) spotted at the demonstration against the Brazilian dictator Giesel

Punk rock and jobs

BY JULIAN LEACH

THE Tory Press have spent a great deal of energy to create the illusion that the Punk Rockers represent unemployed youth.

The Punks have no such following. Unemployed youth are not demoralised and degenerate.

Young people generally have no truck with their backward, neo-fascist ideas.

The Young Socialists are against the Punks not on a moral basis, but because they make out that young people want to wallow in the degeneration of crisis-ridden capitalism.

In fact the vast majority of youth want to fight this system which is laying their talents, and careers to waste. That's why our 'Jobs for Youth Now' campaign and our 'YS' paper wins a response outside every Employment Exchange.

A letter from Roger Huddle was printed without comment in this week's 'Socialist Worker', the 'International Socialists' paper beginning: 'Punk Rock has surfaced with a torrent of abuse. Its images span the political spectrum but the comment element is anger,

anger of working class kids totally pissed off with the system.'

A feature in the 'Socialist Worker' is sub-headed: 'A lot of the West Ham lads support the National Front...'

The IMG paper, 'Red Weekly' says of the Punks: 'They're also right when they say that this is the music of the dole queue. Because thousands of kids today are fed up with everything they see in the establishment.'

'They quite rightly get angry and show it by kicking other kids at football matches, kicking policemen and kicking shop windows in. They also tend to kick black kids.'

This is a slander on unemployed youth. Nothing more than a small backward element supporting the National Front.

And the racist attacks are made by a few fascist bigots who are encouraged by the press, the police and MPs.

The revisionists of the IS and the IMG show their middle-class contempt for young people by suggesting that racialism is prevalent among them.

The Young socialists base our 'Jobs for Youth Now' campaign on total confidence in working class youth.

Under revolutionary leadership, the youth will be in the vanguard of the movement to overthrow capitalism.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

APPEAL

for the Lebanese workers and the Palestinian refugees

Collect medical aid and clothing



Nineteen months of civil war — more than 40,000 killed — thousands maimed and wounded — families without fathers — children without homes — old people with no food or clothing — hospitals without drugs or bandages — refugee camps without water, electricity or food.

The Young Socialists issue an urgent call to the labour and trade union movement — give to those who have been battered by the artillery, driven out of

their homes and herded into ghettos in Lebanon by the Syrian-backed rightists.

Time is precious — it means lives. Arrange collections of medicine and clothing. Ask your local trade union branches and Constituency Labour Parties for contributions.

For details of the medical aid and clothing appeal. Write to:

National Secretary
Young Socialists
21b Old Town
London SW4 0JT

NUS CONFERENCE REPORT

HATRED FOR TORIES

THE NATIONAL Union of Students conference in Blackpool last weekend opened on Friday night with a display of hatred for the Tories which surprised even the so-called 'left' on the union executive.

When 'Broad Left' President Charles Clarke ironically welcomed Sir Keith Joseph to the conference hundreds of students raised their voices in a unanimous chant, 'Out! Out! Out!'

A few hours earlier in his opening address to the conference, Clarke had warned about the return of the Tories. 'Thatcher's new Shadow Cabinet lurks like a pack of wolves in the wings — ready to destroy the social achievements of 30 years and more.'

And there was the 'brain' behind the 'pack of wolves' sitting in the gallery, having walked into the conference without being invited.

The subsequent events are no news — the capitalist Press raged for a day about attacks on 'free speech' and 'boot boys' who hunted Joseph out of the Winter Gardens in Blackpool to chants of 'Racist, Racist!'

Weakness

Meanwhile the conference went on to discuss government economic policy. It was in this debate that the weakness of the reformist and Communist Party-led executive became clear. They and many delegates denounced the government's cuts in public spending which are leading to the systematic destruction of higher education.

But beyond the denunciations there was no policy to fight the government. For example, one policy put forward said: 'Conference resolves NUS to give full support to all groups of workers fighting the cuts, unemployment, price rises and wage restraint.' That was the policy from the International Socialists who consider themselves the 'left' alternative to the NUS executive.

The leadership's amendment on government policy demanded 'Discriminatory and selective import controls on long and short-term movements of capital: prices should be frozen immediately...'

This policy of import controls was decisively rejected by conference, as it was previously.

No decision

But in the end no decision was taken on government economic policy because the executive successfully schemed to have the IS amendment defeated on a repeat card vote after it had earlier been declared passed.

The next main debate was on grants and cuts. Here again it was obvious that unless students are prepared to fight to defeat the

government there can be no solution to the problems they face.

Sue Slipman, NUS Secretary and Communist Party member, moved the amendment supporting the NUS grants claim — for a 35 per cent increase in the main rate of grant, for an end to discretionary awards, the parental means test and for full grants for all students from 16 upwards.

Savage

But in a period when the international bankers are demanding — and the Labour government is implementing — even more savage cuts in living standards, it is out of the question that it will consider students' demands.

No amount of protest will change the position. That is obvious from the 80,000-strong demonstration against cuts in London on November 17. On the day after thousands of trade unionists marched against the government's policies, the Cabinet announced it would cut the rate support grant, a move that will drive many more public service workers onto the dole queues and smash more services.

The debate on racialism was marked by a vote to return to the union's previous policy of 'No platform for racists and fascists'. In spite of a recommendation by the majority of the executive, conference carried this amendment and rejected pleas that they should allow 'free speech' for fascists and racists.

Derision

There was much derision also for Slipman when she called on the campaign to be united with 'all elements', like vicars, Christians etc. Slipman's supporters declared racism was not a 'class question' at all. But a number of speakers rejected this false claim which is an attempt to appeal to middle-class do-gooders and to bow to the growing numbers of Tories who attended conference.

When conference finally started debating the issues of services — it was clear that many delegates were not satisfied with the lame excuses presented by Clarke and other executive members for their failure to warn students about the

but no policy to fight Labour government's attacks

impending collapse of the union's travel and printing companies.

Speakers pointed furiously to the fact that the capitalist Press had known about the crash before some members of the executive and well before workers in the union's companies. Students had never been informed about the deep financial crisis.

Conference rejected two motions declaring 'no confidence' in the President, which would have meant his resignation, but only after hours of heated debate.

Delegates also agreed with an executive proposal to sell the union's last big remaining service company — Endsleigh Insurance Ltd. This has been forced by a shortage of operating capital and the lack of resources available after the collapse of the two other companies.

Condemned

During the final session on Monday morning conference overwhelmingly condemned the government's latest attacks on poor students with its proposal to cut off social security payments during the Christmas and Easter holidays.

But, as during other debates, many delegates felt that the programme for fighting the measures did not go far enough.

Students next year will face additional hardships of rising prices, higher fees, more



Sue Slipman with Charles Clarke

education cuts. They will have only one way of fighting for their rights — by uniting with the thousands of workers who are now joining battle against the Labour government.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YOUNG SOCIALIST

Incorporating 25 years of 'Keep Left'

Sunday January 16
Walthamstow Assembly Hall

Forest Road,
Walthamstow, E.17

Starts 2p.m.

Tickets 75p

followed by

Young Socialists National
Speakers Contest

in the evening

DANCE
to live group and sound

RALLIES

South London Region
Young Socialists

RALLY & SPEAKERS
CONTEST

Sunday January 9
Waterloo Action Centre
14 Baylis Road, London
SE1
(behind Waterloo Station)

RALLY 5p.m.; DANCE
7.30p.m.
Tickets 40p

West London Region
Young Socialists

5-a-side Football Tournament
followed by

RALLY & SPEAKERS
CONTEST

Sunday January 9
Acklam Hall, Acklam Road
(off Ladbroke Grove)
London W.10

followed by DANCE
Tickets 30p

YOUNG SOCIALISTS XMAS BAZAARS

LONDON

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 18

Doors open 12 noon
East India Hall,
East India Dock Rd. E14
XMAS DANCE IN
EVENING

Bottle draw: Boutique:
Sideshow: Bingo: Gifts:
Bargains Galore!

LEEDS

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 18

Doors open 12 noon
Corn Exchange
Leeds

LONDON AREA YOUNG SOCIALISTS

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Saturday December 18

East India Hall,
East India Dock Road,
Poplar, E 14

Dance to fabulous live group PUNCTURE and
SOUNDS.... LIGHTS....

Starts: 8.00 p.m. Licensed Bar..... Tickets: 50p

£200 fund

Comrades,
As we go to press we have only received £71.07 for the fund this month — we have another £128.93 to go. We urge all YS branches to make enormous sacrifices and raise big collections in the next few days.
We want to have every penny of the fund in before

Christmas — that's just another week to raise our £200 total. Every branch and area can make collections at their Christmas events. Post all donations straight away to:
Young Socialist Fund,
21b Old Town, Clapham,
London SW4 0JT.

There will be no Young Socialist next week on Christmas Eve. The next issue of our paper will be on January 1 1977. We wish the season's greetings to all our readers and supporters.