

**REPORT OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
YOUNG SOCIALISTS**

No H-Bombs!

Gaitskell Must Go!

A KEEP LEFT PAMPHLET

PRICE: SIXPENCE

Against the Tories and Their Bomb' said the headline of the Keep Left being sold at Beaver Hall, London, at Easter 1961. The 360 delegates assembled for this first National Conference of the Young Socialists proved this true. Over two days of vigorous and sometimes violent debate, a programme for the building of of a socialist youth movement was hammered out.

It was a lively conference. Speaker after speaker was greeted with applause, boos or catcalls. Delegates were not slow to express themselves but continually rose to their feet to cheer a point with which they agreed or to boo an opposing viewpoint. This was no quiet, respectful conference, but a conference brimming over with a desire to express its ideas and to act on them.

These Young Socialists wanted to do serious battle with the Tories and the employers. "Fight the Tories" and "Reject Gaitskell's policies" was the order of the day. This came out in the debates on the Health Service charges, nationalization and disarmament.

Quit NATO!

The issue of unilateral nuclear disarmament provoked the longest and stormiest debate of the conference. The decisions adopted by the 1960 Scarborough conference

of the Labour Party were endorsed enthusiastically by Labour's youth movement. By 222 to 97 conference voted to cease manufacture of nuclear weapons, to close rocket bases, to withdraw from NATO and to seek peace through co-operation with Labour movements throughout the world.

This resolution presented a decisive break with Tory war strategy. It did not appeal to Tory Macmillan or call for summit talks of statesmen. Young Socialists have demanded that British Labour completely oppose all nuclear war preparations by the British government and rely on the strength of the international Labour movement to prevent war.

The Vote at Eighteen

Conference expressed concern over the many problems that affect young people. Delegates went on to propose answers and actions on these problems. Improvements in the apprenticeship system, the vote at 18 and better educational facilities were demanded. Such demands are the basis for approaching young people at school and in industry in order to recruit them to the Young Socialists.

Labour youth are determined to obtain democratic rights in the struggle for socialism. One of the main grievances over the past months has been the gag placed on discussion of political resolutions at Federation level. Delegates de-

manded the right to discuss political resolutions at all levels.

Implement Clause IV!

Two composite resolutions on nationalization were presented to delegates. One, moved by Liverpool, Walton, C. L. P., stated that the 1961 Labour Party Conference should instruct the National Executive Committee to prepare immediately a plan for the public ownership, under workers and consumers control, of the banks, insurance companies, the land, chemical, building and engineering industries and the 500 companies which control the overwhelming part of the economy in Britain.

The other resolution, moved by Barking C.L.P., pledged full support to workers in nationalized industries who defended their industries against Tory plans to return them to private enterprise. It resolved to campaign for the implementation of Clause IV and called for a programme of the nationalization of engineering, aircraft, shipbuilding, chemicals, banks, insurance companies and the land.

In this debate, the delegate from Barking spoke of the recent struggles of the Sunpak girls, young seamen, engineering apprentices and A.A. clerical workers for better working conditions. He went on "These young workers have seen the real face of the Tories and if we go out to win them on the basis

of a programme of socialist nationalization, then we can recruit thousands to the Young Socialists." Conference endorsed this view by passing both resolutions by an overwhelming majority.

Resign, Mr. Gaitskell!

The delegate from the Bury and Radcliffe Young Socialists had great difficulty in making himself heard when he proposed his resolution on the Scarborough decisions and Mr. Gaitskell. Opponents of the Scarborough decisions constantly interrupted him with slow handclaps and jeers. Left wing delegates eventually effectively stopped these interruptions by drowning them with applause.

The resolution endorsed the decisions of the Labour Party Conference at Scarborough on Defence and Nationalization. It urged the National Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Labour Party to accept these decisions and called upon the new National Committee of the Young Socialists to meet the National Executive Committee to plan a campaign to popularise this programme amongst youth.

The resolution concluded—"Conference has no confidence in a leader of the Party who persists in an undemocratic fight against Conference decisions and, therefore, calls for the resignation of Mr. Gaitskell as Leader of the Party."

This led to a lively debate. Conference rose to applaud the delegate from Wembley North when he said, "If Mr. Gaitskell does not resign, then we must give him a one-way ticket to the Tory Party" and laughed at the delegate who said that Mr. Gaitskell was such a clever person he would make a good leader of any party.

The delegate from Ebbw Vale declared his support for the resolution and asked "Where are our decisions made? In a conference of Labour Party members, or over coffee and biscuits in Frogna

Lane?" The representatives of Labour youth gathered in Beaver Hall answered this question by passing the resolution by a large majority.

An emergency motion calling for the re-instatement of Konni Zilliacus to Party membership and the return of the whip to the five M.P.s was carried by 193 votes to 96.

In the discussion on this motion the delegate from Craighton (Glasgow) made the point "We have heard a lot of talk today about Party unity—and about how we would all like to get together. How can we unite in a Party when we have a leadership that opposes Party unity and is going to expel, witch-hunt and withdraw the whip from those who support Conference decisions?"

The Vote on Keep Left

In view of the policy resolutions which were carried, many Young Socialists will be surprised at the voting on Keep Left. This took place on the first day which was almost entirely devoted to organisational matters. Had it taken place at the end of the political discussion there is no doubt that there would have been an overwhelming vote against any ban being placed on the paper.

It is worth noting that many of the outstanding resolutions, which conference approved with large majorities, were moved and seconded by branches which sponsor Keep Left.

These included the resolution on nuclear disarmament, seconded by Hackney Central; on the Scarborough decisions, moved by Bury and Radcliffe; on nationalization, moved by Barking; on the right of Young Socialists to discuss and vote on political resolutions at federation and regional levels, moved by Dagenham and seconded by Finchley; on the need for democratic control of New Advance, seconded by Hendon North; and

the resolution on Konni Zilliacus and the other five M.P.s which was moved by Manchester Gorton.

Confusion in Secret Session

During the secret session on Saturday afternoon many delegates were deliberately confused by the platform on the role of Keep Left.

For several months prior to the conference Right wing agents had been busily propagating Trotskyist scare stories in order to divert the attention of Young Socialists from the fact that the paper was defending the Scarborough conference decisions. Practically every resolution carried at the conference was in line with the policy of Keep Left.

So great was the confusion that if we examine the voting figures it can be seen that at least 29 delegates voted for the Right-wing Leyton resolution against Keep Left as well as for the Wigan composite motion supporting the paper. The total number of votes cast on the Leyton resolution was 317 (201 for, 116 against) and for the composite motion in favour of Keep Left 324 (148 for, 172 against).

A mistake was made in not demanding a recount on this motion. When a narrow vote was taken on another matter a recount was demanded and it was discovered that there was a discrepancy of 50 votes.

We are in no way suggesting that the tellers did not do the job as well as they possibly could. Every delegate appreciates that they had a most difficult task. This makes it even more preferable to have had a recount in order to assist them since the margin of 24 was so small.

Largest Branches Support Paper

The Leyton resolution does not call for a ban on Keep Left or for proscription. It suggests that Keep Left causes disruption.

Every comrade who supports the Scarborough decisions and is associated with our paper knows that this is untrue. Some of the largest Young Socialist branches are ardent supporters of Keep Left. The campaign which our paper has waged among members of Y.C.N.D. has resulted in many recruits being won for the Young Socialists in different parts of the country.

It appears that some delegates were confused by three questions raised by Right-wing member of the N.E.C., Mr. Ray Gunter, when he spoke at the end of the debate.

The Role of UNO

The first of these concerns the United Nations. Mr. Gunter alleged that Keep Left is in opposition to U.N.O. We have had occasion to criticise U.N.O. sharply in relation to its role in the Congo. It was the facilities afforded by airfields under the control of U.N.O. troops that enabled Patrice Lumumba to be transported to the province of Katanga where he was murdered. Several days after Lumumba was arrested by the puppets of Belgian imperialism, the United Nations gave a large sum of money as a loan to the Kasavubu government which was responsible for his arrest.

We are entirely opposed to the United Nations Organisation which we believe to be an agency of imperialism. Mr. Ray Gunter is entitled to his point of view and we would urge all Young Socialists to carefully study the record of this organisation.

Bevan and the H-Bomb

Secondly, Mr. Gunter spoke about our differences with the late Aneurin Bevan. It should be borne in mind that the same Mr. Gunter ardently supported the Gaitskell faction when they were attempting to expel Aneurin Bevan from the

Labour Party in 1955. At that time Keep Left did everything it could to oppose such action and to defend Aneurin Bevan.

We did, however, disagree with Aneurin Bevan when he supported the H-Bomb and spoke against the first unilateralist resolution on behalf of the Right-wing N.E.C. at the 1957 Brighton Conference of the Party. We think that he made a serious mistake. We believe that on this matter we were right and Aneurin Bevan was wrong.

It is nothing more than hypocrisy for Mr. Gunter to now pose as a disciple of Bevan when everyone knows that he opposed him on every occasion when Bevan put forward a policy in favour of the Left.

Campaign for Labour Government

Thirdly, on the question of Parliament, Keep Left will continue to campaign for a Labour government. We think that it is absolutely necessary to participate in Parliamentary activity and use this as effectively as we can in the struggle for socialism in Britain.

The real difficulty about Parliamentary work is created by such people as Ray Gunter and Hugh Gaitskell who think that the Labour Party conference decisions can be ignored by the Parliamentary Labour Party.

We believe that for the effective participation of the Labour movement in Parliament it is necessary for the Parliamentary Party to accept conference decisions. Participation by the Labour Movement in Parliament requires M.P.s to carry out the policy of the party and end the type of disruption which we are at present experiencing from Gunter and Gaitskell.

What Policy for Unity?

During the debate on party unity, several delegates were confused by the statement which called for the

Labour movement "to devote itself to the unification of our party in order to concentrate the maximum effort in securing the return of a Labour government at the earliest possible moment."

We think that such a pious resolution avoids the real issue today. Keep Left and every socialist supports Party unity. But this can only be achieved surely on the basis of the Scarborough conference decisions.

We entirely agree with Mr. Frank Allaun, M.P., when he warned a conference of Lancashire Labour Party members on April 9th against accepting the Crossman draft defence statement. "Reaffirmation of the Scarborough policy," he said, was "the minimum around which party unity can be built."

We think that the resolution which ignored this very important point only added to the confusion which prevails inside the Labour movement.

Editor of New Advance

Keep Left appreciates very much the courageous action of Roger Protz the editor of New Advance who produced a statement outlining his views on the paper for the delegates. He was prevented by Reg Underhill, Assistant National Agent, from speaking at the conference because he was an employee of Transport House.

A Paper Controlled by Members

We appreciate his stand all the more because it coincides with the policy of Keep Left in relation to a socialist youth paper controlled and run by the members. Keep Left is such a paper. As long as New Advance continues to be run by the Press and Publicity Department at Transport House, in other words as

a subsidiary of the Right-wing propaganda machine, it has no future. The real point which Roger

Protz emphasised and with which we agree is that Young Socialists must have their own paper. Keep

Left will continue the struggle for this in the months ahead.

Now Build A Youth Movement!

We feel that the time has now come to go forward to the building of a mass socialist youth movement. Keep Left pledges itself to carry out the political policies decided by conference. We remain convinced that the Right-wing National Ex-

ecutive Committee of the Party will either ignore or shelve these policies. They have no intention of carrying them out.

The only one which they may attempt to put into practice is the attack on Keep Left. We are confident, however, that they will be

defeated if they should try this. Our paper has a solid basis in the ranks of the Young Socialists. It is financed and run entirely by young Socialists. Now that the young Socialists have decided their own policies we will do our best to carry these out.

MEMBERS ELECTED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Northern Region	Michael Ginsberg, Blyth L.L.P.
North-West Region	Elizabeth Thompson, Wigan C.L.P.
North-East Region	Edwin Fraiser, Dinnington L.L.P.
Southern Region	Graham J. Hewitt, Gosport & Fareham C.L.P.
London & Middlesex Region	M. J. Tallantire, Shoreditch & Finsbury C.L.P.
South-West Region	John B. Dickenson, Cheltenham C.L.P.
Eastern Region	Janet Dugdale, Norwich B.L.P.
Wales	Sylvia Ll. Fox, East Flintshire C.L.P.
Scotland	Angus Macdonald, Glasgow, Gorbals C.L.P.
East Midlands Region	A. Mullarkey, Derby B.L.P.
West Midlands Region	Robert Hickman, Walsall South C.L.P.

DISARMAMENT

This Conference, believing that the following steps are a necessary pre-requisite to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, calls upon the Labour Party to campaign for:—

- (a) the cessation of the manufacture, testing and storing of nuclear weapons by Great Britain;
- (b) the removal of all nuclear bases from British soil and the withdrawal from N.A.T.O.
- (c) the discontinuance of Hydrogen Bomber patrol flights over British soil;
- (d) the pursuit of world peace through the co-operation with other genuine Labour Movements throughout the World.

On the acceptance of these, this Conference wishes to send a message of goodwill and solidarity to those people marching from Wethersfield and Aldermaston to London.

Moved by MIDDLETON & PRESTWICH C.L.P. Seconded by HORNCHURCH C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 222 : Against 97

This Conference affirms its support for the decisions of the 1960 Labour Party Annual Conference on nationalisation and defence, and calls for the immediate implementation of these policies.

This Conference declares its support for those Members of Parliament fighting in Parliament for these policies.

Further, Conference has no confidence in a leadership which persists in an undemocratic fight against Conference decisions and therefore calls for the resignation of this leadership.

Moved by HARROW WEST C.L.P. Seconded by HACKNEY CENTRAL C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 210 : Against 114

This Conference considers that in view of the possibility of a return to aggression by the Communist bloc, Labour should support collective defence against any aggression against the free world. The nuclear deterrent should be left to America, but in view of the necessity for multilateral disarmament, Labour should attempt to ease the cold war by opposing all forms of aggression by the Western powers and any military strategy involving nuclear weapons other than as a deterrent against nuclear attack, and should press for the creation of nuclear-free zones in Europe (including Britain but excluding Russia) and the Middle East, on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Moved by MOSS SIDE C.L.P.

DEFEATED—For 93 : Against 207

This Conference believes that disarmament is the most urgent need of mankind today and, to this end, urges the Labour Party to pursue a policy which would ensure that the voice of a British Labour Government would be heard effectively. It believes that such a policy would entail membership of N.A.T.O.

Moved by CLAPHAM C.L.P.

DEFEATED—For 100 : Against 194

PARTY UNITY

This Conference strongly deprecates the acrimonious remarks passed through the media of Press and television between leading figures within the Party and calls upon these persons to recognise the existing means of communication within the Party.

This Conference re-emphasises its belief in the basic principles of Democratic Socialism and reminds itself that the objects of the Labour Movement have not yet been achieved.

Bearing in mind that the need to establish a Socialist society at home and abroad transcends the personal differences of leaders of the Party, it calls upon the whole Labour Movement to dedicate itself to the unification of our Party in order to concentrate the maximum effort to securing the return of a Labour Government at the earliest possible moment. Conference pledges itself to work unceasingly to this end in the knowledge that our victory would bring the necessary power for another great thrust forward, similar to that of 1945, in the interest of the people.

Moved by COATBRIDGE & AIRDRIE C.L.P. Seconded by CREWE C.L.P.

CARRIED

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE DECISIONS

This Conference fully endorses the decisions of the Labour Party Conference at Scarborough on Defence and Nationalisation. It urges the National Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Labour Party to accept and publicise these decisions and calls upon the new National Committee of the Young Socialists to meet the National Executive Committee to plan a campaign to popularise this programme amongst youth.

Further, Conference has no confidence in a leader of the Party who persists in an undemocratic fight against Conference decisions and, therefore, calls for the resignation of Mr. Gaitskell as Leader of the Party.

Moved by BURY AND RADCLIFFE C.L.P.

Seconded by HOLBORN AND ST. PANCRAS SOUTH C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 189 : Against 113

This Conference of Young Socialists believes that Annual Conference is the policy-making body of the Party and that the leadership function is to advocate and, where possible, implement majority decisions. Furthermore, it believes that although party members have the right to oppose majority decisions, they have no right to do this from the position of leadership.

Accordingly, Conference declares that it has no confidence in any person of the leadership who will not advocate and attempt to implement Conference decisions.

Moved by WEMBLEY SOUTH C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 193 : Against 111

This Conference calls upon the National Executive Committee to review the constitution of the Labour Party so that there is a more democratic method of defining policy and that the Parliamentary Labour Party shall pay due regard to Conference decisions.

Moved by FULHAM C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 184 : Against 83

NATIONALISATION

This Conference pledges full support to railway workers, miners and other workers in nationalised industries who defend their industries against Tory plans to return them to private enterprise.

It fully supports the stand taken by the Labour Party and Trade Union Conferences in endorsing Clause IV of the Labour Party Constitution and resolves to campaign within the Labour Movement for the implementation of Clause IV.

Conference, therefore, calls upon the National Executive Committee to campaign for a programme of the nationalisation of engineering, aircraft, shipbuilding, chemicals, banks, insurance companies and the land.

Conference considers that when the jobs of many young workers are becoming involved in disputes, Young Socialists can successfully use this policy for recruitment.

Moved by BARKING C.L.P. Seconded by NOTTINGHAM NORTH.
CARRIED.

This Conference expresses the view that the 1961 Labour Party Conference should instruct the National Executive Committee to prepare immediately a plan for the next Labour Government to implement, namely, a national economic plan for the public ownership, under workers and consumers control, of the banks; insurance companies, the land; chemical, building and engineering industries; and the 500 companies which control the overwhelming part of the economy in Britain. Such proposals shall include State, Municipal, and Co-operative forms of Socialist ownership. It calls on the National Executive Committee to begin now a national campaign on these lines and not to wait until three weeks before the next election.

Moved by LIVERPOOL, WALTON C.L.P.
Seconded by SWANSEA BOROUGH L.P.
CARRIED.

APPRENTICESHIPS

This conference requests the Labour Party to set up a commission to investigate the abuses of the apprenticeship system with regard to:—

- (a) Improvement in wages;
- (b) a reduction in the length of apprenticeships;
- (c) better educational facilities;
- (d) ending of Bound Apprenticeships;
- (e) the removal of any bar to taking and to participating in strike action.

In view of the fact that Government exhortation has failed to produce an increase in the number of apprenticeships available, particularly in small firms, Conference calls upon the Labour Party to demand legislative action to force employers to provide such apprenticeships and Government action to supplement private schemes.

Moved by CHESTERFIELD C.L.P. Seconded by ISLINGTON NORTH C.L.P.
CARRIED.

EXTENSION OF SUFFRAGE RIGHT

This Conference believes that in view of the earlier maturity of young people today, and their being accepted as adults in other spheres, the right of suffrage should be extended to citizens of 18 years and above. This Conference therefore calls upon the Labour Party to make universal suffrage over the age of 18 a major issue in the near future.

Moved by BIRMINGHAM, SELLEY OAK C.L.P.

Seconded by PORTSMOUTH SUTTON C.L.P.

CARRIED.

EDUCATION

This Conference believes that a higher proportion of the national economy should be spent on improving the educational system of this country by extending the comprehensive principle in secondary education, and by incorporating the public schools in the state system. To this latter end, Conference requests that the Labour Party set up a commission to consider the best methods of achieving it.

Moved by BATTERSEA L.P. Seconded by CANNOCK C.L.P.

CARRIED.

This Conference urges the acceptance of the recommendations of the Anderson Report, which should be extended to the 15 to 18 year age groups in full time education. It urges that the Parliamentary Labour Party press for this in the House of Commons.

Moved by MITCHAM C.L.P.

CARRIED.

ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN

This Conference endorses the policy of the Anti-Apartheid Campaign and will do all in its power to urge both members of the Young Socialist Movement and those outside the movement (especially Co-operative Societies) to support the boycott of South African goods until the regime of the South African Government be terminated.

Moved by EAST HAM SOUTH C.L.P.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CAPITAL AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

This Conference requests that the National Executive Committee take steps to demand the abolition of capital and corporal punishment and also considers that our penal institutions are in need of immediate reformation.

Moved by BENFLEET L.L.P.

CARRIED.

AGE LIMITS

This Conference requests the National Executive Committee to amend Clause VI, section (3) of Model Rules set E to read:

'Individual members of the Party, aged between 15 and 30 years shall be organized in branches of the Labour Party Young Socialists, acting in accordance with regulations sanctioned by the National Executive Committee.'

Appropriate amendments to be made to other sets of Model Rules.

Moved by North Lewisham C.L.P.

Seconded by Neath C.L.P.

DEFEATED.

TRAINING OF BRANCH OFFICERS

This Conference is of the opinion that for a Branch of the Young Socialists to function properly, it is essential for the officers of the Group to be qualified.

Conference urgently requests the National Executive Committee to inaugurate intensive training courses for officers. The Officers elected at the Branch Annual General Meeting should attend these courses.

Moved by SUNBURY & WOODBRIDGE C.L.P.

CARRIED.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This Conference deplores the restrictive measures being taken against Young Socialists in the political field, in view of the promises made at Scarborough with regard to Young Socialists' freedom, and demands that in future Young Socialists branches should have full autonomy in relation to the Young Socialists Annual Conference and calls on the National Executive Committee to adjust the Young Socialists' Constitution as follows:—

- (a) That the National Committee of the Young Socialists should fix the date and place of the National Conference;
- (b) that delegates and resolutions shall be solely the responsibility of the Young Socialist branches.

Moved by GLASGOW, WOODSIDE C.L.P.

Seconded by STOKE NEWINGTON AND HACKNEY NORTH C.L.P.

CARRIED.

REPRESENTATION ON THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This Conference believes that it would be to the advantage of the Labour Party to make provision in the Constitution for the election of a representative of the Young Socialists movement to the National Executive Committee.

Such representation to be nominated annually by the National Committee of the Young Socialists.

Moved by WALSALL SOUTH C.L.P. Seconded by NORTHAMPTON C.L.P.

CARRIED.

FEDERATION AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

This Conference deplores the lack of opportunity for moving and voting on political resolutions at federation and regional levels. It feels that the present constitution of the federations and regional committees are inadequate for the direct participation in the political life of the Labour Movement by Young Socialist branches.

Conference directs the National Committee of the Young Socialists to forward to the National Executive Committee for inclusion in the rules and constitution of the Young Socialists the following amendment:—

'To move, discuss and vote on political resolutions which would then be sent to the National Executive Committee'.

Moved by DAGENHAM C.L.P. Seconded by FINCHLEY C.L.P.
CARRIED—For 209 : Against 140

REPRESENTATION AT LABOUR PARTY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This Conference calls upon the Labour Party to accept one official Young Socialist delegate at their Annual Conference from each constituency.

Moved by WOOLWICH WEST C.L.P. Seconded by WALSALL SOUTH C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 171 : Against 146

CONTROL OF YOUNG SOCIALISTS ORGANISATION

This Conference instructs the National Committee of the Young Socialists to draw up a new constitution for all levels of the organisation, which will give more freedom to the Young Socialists with less representation from the adult party on all committees and the abolition of need for ratification of the adult Party to the Young Socialists.

It also believes that:—

- (a) All officers should be elected by the Young Socialists;
- (b) there should be unrestricted publication of independent Young Socialist newspapers and condemns the recent attempts to infringe on these rights with the assistance of official Party machinery;
- (c) that Young Socialists must be free to decide their own policy by means of discussion of policy at any organisational level.

This should be done in the light that the Young Socialists shall remain an integral part of the Labour Party.

Moved by TOXTETH C.L.P. Seconded by CHELSEA C.L.P.
CARRIED.

“ NEW ADVANCE ”

This Conference demands that “New Advance” be democratically controlled by the Young Socialists, otherwise the paper can be of no value to the organisation as a whole. Therefore there must be:—

- (a) An Editorial Board comprising one member elected by each region to meet not less than monthly to decide the contents and policy of the paper within the lines laid down by the National Conference and the National Committee of the Young Socialists;
- (b) An Editor to superintend the carrying out of the decisions of the Editorial Board and appointed by the National Committee of the Young Socialists. The Editor and members of the Editorial Board must be members of the Young Socialists.

Moved by SHOREDITCH & FINSBURY C.L.P.

Seconded by HENDON NORTH C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 180 : Against 130

“ KEEP LEFT ”

This Conference expresses its concern at the activities of the unofficial “Keep Left” movement, and in particular the policies of its paper “Keep Left”.

It believes that the fullest scope for political activities and organisation is to be found in the Constitution of Young Socialists, and knowingly or unknowingly those members who take part in organisations such as that supporting “Keep Left” are acting in a manner that might be calculated to disrupt the present Young Socialists organisation.

Moved by LEYTON C.L.P. Seconded by CHIGWELL C.L.P.

CARRIED—For 201 : Against 116

This Conference deplores the action of the National Executive Committee in banning the publication of the Young Socialist paper “Keep Left”. This paper has consistently fought for the implementation of the Scarborough decisions. Conference believes that the banning of this paper is a deliberate attempt by the leaders of the right-wing to use the party machine against the Labour Party decisions as decided at the Scarborough Conference 1960.

We stand by the principle that Young Socialists should produce what publications they think necessary in the struggle for Socialism.

It demands that no ban be placed on the publication and distribution of “Keep Left”.

Moved by WIGAN C.L.P. Seconded by COVENTRY BOROUGH L.P.

DEFEATED—For 148 : Against 172

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON HEALTH SERVICE CHARGES

That this Conference expresses its deep concern at the recent attacks made on the Health Service and at the increased charges imposed by the Conservative Government.

The hardship that these will cause to thousands of Old Persons and to the lower paid worker with children should be the incentive for the whole movement to move into a spirited attack on the Conservatives.

This Conference pledges itself to use every conceivable method to force the Government to alter its mind on this issue.

Moved by WORKINGTON C.L.P. Seconded by SMETHWICK C.L.P.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EMERGENCY MOTION

We deplore the action of the N.E.C. of the Party in suspending Konni Zilliacus M.P. and demand his immediate re-instatement. We also ask the Parliamentary Labour Party to restore the Whip to the five M.P.'s from whom it was withdrawn.

Moved by MANCHESTER GORTON C.L.P.
CARRIED—For 183 ; Against 96

Statement by Roger Protz editor New Advance

TO DELEGATES TO THE YOUNG SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

FOR the past six months I have been the so-called 'Editor' of New Advance. During that short time I have been the subject of some praise and much criticism; the praise has come from Transport House, the criticism from the Young Socialists.

It is obvious that, although the paper has found favour with the N E C, it has been a tremendous disappointment to YOU—my fellow comrades in the Y S movement.

Why is this? Simply because there are two very fundamental things wrong with it.

1. It is not democratically controlled by its readers.
2. It does not campaign for conference decisions.

As you have been told I am the Editor it is not surprising that you blame me for the paper's failure. It is not surprising that you have heaped abuse on my head.

I have visited many Young Socialist branches and talked to many individual members. Not one in a hundred has had a good word to say for the paper.

I have taken an awful lot of kicks. Well, I'm not prepared to take any more because, quite frankly, I don't deserve them.

The NEC is the Editor of New Advance, not me. I carry out their wishes. They have produced a paper FOR Young Socialists, not OF the Young Socialists. There is a very significant difference.

They don't seem to be interested in producing a paper which will make money. Advance has a small circulation and already the people who hold the purse-strings are complaining about the money it is losing.

If it continues in the same woolly, wishy-washy fashion after this Conference it will soon die.

Advance must not be allowed to die! It is vital that our movement should have its own national organ of opinion. Cannot the NEC see that—that it will have a large circulation and make money. What are they afraid of? Don't they realise that the Young Socialists, if they are to be of any use to the Party, will be naturally Left-wing and militant and will frequently embarrass their elders?

If they are not prepared to accept that fact then we might as well pack up and go home now.

New Advance must have its freedom. It must be run by an elected editorial board and Editor who will base its policy on Conference decisions. I appeal to the NEC to give us this freedom and I wholeheartedly support your resolutions on the paper.

Let me make a couple of facts quite clear:

Firstly, I am not a hypocrite. If I honestly thought that Advance was a good paper and should continue in its present form, I would have the guts to say so. But not being a hypocrite I can't say that.

Secondly, no pressure has been put upon me to make this statement. It was entirely my decision to make it. I decided some time ago that, if it were possible, I should speak at this conference and make my position clear to the delegates.

On the subject of 'Keep Left' I can briefly state my views by paraphrasing the famous remark of a French revolutionary: 'I dislike some of the things you say, but I will defend your right to say them.'

The article on 'Keep Left' which appeared in the March issue of Advance was not written by me and I bitterly opposed its inclusion.

A couple of weeks ago, during the anti-apartheid demonstrations in London, I stood in Trafalgar Square trying to sell New Advance. I was laughed at. I don't like being laughed at for something which is not my fault. I don't intend to be laughed at in future.

New Advance must have its freedom. It must be your paper. It must support Conference decisions. It must be run by an elected editorial board.

My duty is to you. I am in your hands. Give me the chance to prove that, with your guidance, I can produce a paper which will be the pride and the voice of the Young Socialist movement.

April 1, 1961

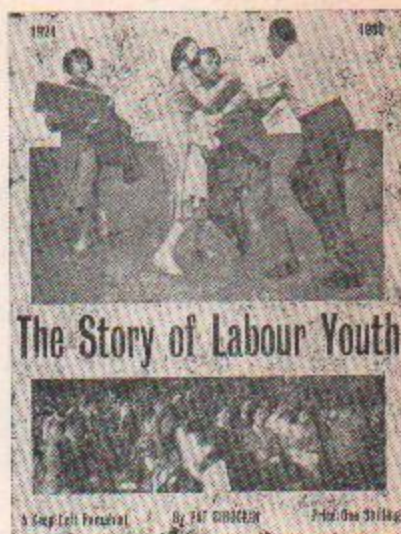
(signed) ROGER PROTZ

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To Ken Scarr, 9 Salisbury Court, Spur Rd., Edgware, Middlesex

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