

# GENERAL ELECTION: Young Socialists National

## Committee

## demands:

# Keep Left

the paper  
for  
socialist youth

September 1964

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Fourpence

# Fight the Tories

AT the Brighton conference the Labour leadership's official policy, 'Signposts for the Sixties', was rejected—for the third year in succession! This is why the official Labour Party machine has decided to dispense with the National Organisation of the Young Socialists in its present form. They are afraid of our policies as they prepare to occupy the seats of government at the end of 1964. We will fight for and be loyal to socialist policies.

adopted the workers will continue to be the victims of capitalism under a Labour government. In utter disillusionment they will suffer from a return of the Tories as in 1931 after MacDonald's betrayal. We are calling all young workers, school-leavers and students to a great anti-Tory rally in London on September 27. This will be a rally of all those who want to fight against

the Tories. Young engineers, young miners, steelworkers, aircraft workers—**ALL OUT ON SEPTEMBER 27.** Young workers in dead-end jobs or without work of any kind—**ALL OUT ON SEPTEMBER 27.** Young Socialists, including Youth CND, whose leaders have abandoned the fight, all those comrades in the YCL, held back by their 'leaders' in the CP:

**ALL OUT** in a demonstration for socialist policies before the election. Students, young teachers and others who see the bankruptcy of the present system in its inability to provide education; millions of young people without a house; immigrant workers threatened by the Immigration Act, racialism and fascism—**ALL OUT** in solidarity behind the Young Socialists on September 27.



Dave Ashby, chairman (North-east)



Sheila Torrance, vice-chairman (London & Middlesex)

# For Socialism



Wal Hobson (North)



Mike Farley (North-west)



Bob Hamilton (Scotland)



Barry Evans (East Midlands)



Peter MacCallum (Wales)

## Apprentices out

AS chairman of the Manchester Apprentices Direct Action Committee, I would like to say how much I welcomed the decision of the Young Socialists National Committee to hold a mass rally of youth against the Tories on September 27. The conditions for apprentices for which we in Manchester have decided to fight are conditions which are urgently needed by all young workers. I know that the fight for these will not be easy. But we feel in Manchester that we can no longer wait while pious resolutions, passed at annual conference of the trade unions, are ignored. We have decided, therefore, to take action since no one really fights on behalf of the youth.

Now that the Young Socialists National Committee has given a lead, unity of employed and unemployed young workers can be achieved, which can give us real strength. I call on all apprentices to join the demonstration on September 27 in London.

**MIKE HUGHES,**  
Chairman of the Manchester Direct Action Apprentices Committee.

## YCL out

THE publication of the Manifesto 'Forward With the Young Socialists' by the Young Socialists National Committee makes it necessary for all members of the Young Communist League to make an appraisal of the policy and programme of the YCL.

We have to ask ourselves a number of questions. What campaigns have we led in the past period and how successful have they been? Have we forged any links with the working class youth by leading them in struggles against the employers, the Tories and the right-wing members of the labour movement? Have we a programme that will take us forward into the next period with the likely election of a Labour government and that will hold out hopes of a successful move towards the working class?

I appeal to all my fellow comrades in the YCL and Student branches of the Communist Party to unite with the Young Socialists now. Young Communists must be all out on September 27.

A YCL MEMBER

## INTRODUCING KL's NEW EDITOR



The Editorial Board of Keep Left has appointed Aileen Jennings as editor of the paper. 19-year-old Aileen joined the National Union of Journalists two and a half years ago. She began her work on the Nottingham Evening News and later worked on the Ilkeston Pioneer. The Board is confident that she has the ability to introduce widespread improvements in Keep Left.

# ALL OUT ON SEPTEMBER 27th!



**I**n complete contrast to the weak and wholly inadequate election propaganda of Transport House, the National Committee of the Young Socialists has drawn up a Manifesto which outlines the programme on which the Labour youth movement will conduct a campaign to throw out the Tories and return a Labour government firmly pledged to socialist policies.

The Manifesto, 'Forward With the Young Socialists', calls for young workers, apprentices, Young Communist League members, students, school-leavers and unemployed youth to join a tremendous anti-Tory rally on September 27.

At a press conference following a meeting of the National Committee in August, chairman Dave Ashby from the North-East Region, explained that he had called the meeting himself after the secretary of Reg Underhill, National Youth Officer, had stated that everyone was too busy electioneering to call one.

This statement from the National Committee comes after a whole number of witch-hunts of Young Socialist members.

**Letter**

In an introduction to the policies explained in the Manifesto, Dave Ashby states that he 'was bureaucratically removed from the National Committee without the National Executive Committee having the courtesy of informing, let alone consulting, the other members of the committee'.

It was because of a letter from Harold Sims, Regional Youth Organiser of the Labour Party in Yorkshire, which stated that he had been 'deleted' from the records, that Ashby went to Transport House to demand an immediate convening of the National Committee.

Of the eight members who attended that meeting seven voted for the Manifesto. They were Dave Ashby, Sheila Torrance (London and Middlesex), Peter MacCallum (Wales), Mike Farley (North-West), Barrie Evans (East Midlands), Bob Hamilton (Scotland), and Wal Hobson (Northern Region). Roger Rosewall (Southern Region) abstained.

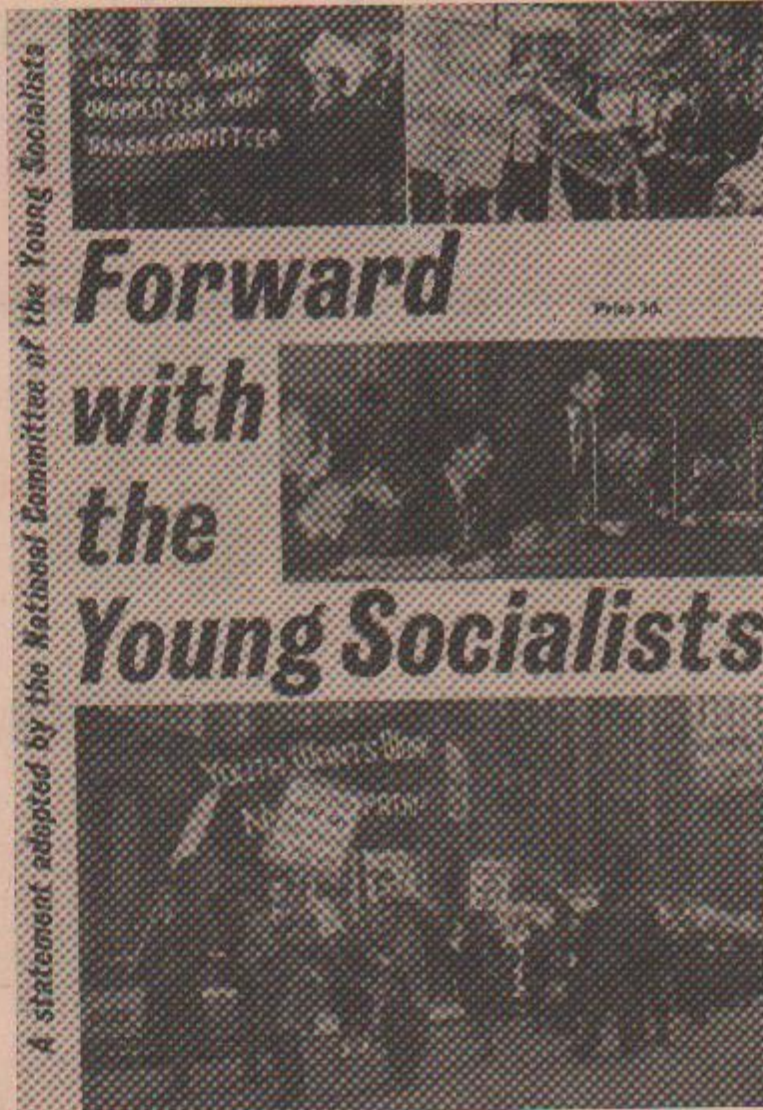
Janet Dugdale (Eastern Region), John Charlton (West Midlands) and John Packer (South-West Region) did not go to the meeting.

**Open the door**

Discussing the problems of working class youth the statement says: 'No other organisation can open the door to young workers and offer them ideas worth fighting for.'

- ★ It was the Young Socialists that campaigned for higher wages for apprentices.
- ★ It was the Young Socialists that organised demonstrations against the Tory Immigration Act.
- ★ It was the Young Socialists that went down to the dole queues with a policy for unemployed workers.
- ★ It was the Young Socialists that fought for better facilities for youth on the sprawling working class housing estates.'

On the question of conscription the statement reads: 'The conspiracy of silence on conscription will not prevent our campaigning. We will lead a fight to the end against any attempt by a Labour



or Tory government to re-introduce conscription.'

Calling on the youth not to respond to the provocations of the police and the courts, the Manifesto demands the next Labour government sets up an independent commission to investigate police violence and corruption.

**Apprentices**

The National Committee members ask all engineering apprentices to fight alongside the Young Socialists. It welcomes the call of the Manchester apprentices on the demands for training facilities, a 35-hour week and a percentage of the skilled man's rate.

Ending with a rallying call to the youth of Britain the Manifesto demands that the YS conference be reconvened immediately after the election, that all YS members who have been expelled be reinstated and that all closed branches be reopened.

Keep Left wholeheartedly supports this statement issued by the National Committee. We urge all our readers and supporters to buy a copy of this Manifesto. Pass it on to your friends in the factories where you work and above all make September 27 the day when you and all the other young people you know will be out with the Young Socialists rallying against the Tories.

● For your copy of 'Forward With the Young Socialists' write to Dave Ashby, 9 Chestnut Avenue, Leeds, 6.

**Manchester apprentices all out for action**

By a Direct Action Committee Member

**A**PPRENTICES and youths in the engineering industry represent one of the most exploited sections of the British working class.

The majority of youths upon starting work pass straight on to production work and remain there until the age of 21 when at least one in five can expect to be sacked.

Two out of four receive no training at all and yet, whilst they are working, they are expected to accept wages which, at the age of 20, amount to £8 before deductions.

The youth have attempted to improve their conditions through the trade union movement, but the right-wing leadership of the unions has persistently refused to make a stand against the employers.

When forced into negotiations they have backed down at the first sign of opposition to their requests.

So, it has been left to the apprentices themselves to organise to improve their conditions. This is shown by the fact that the only appreciable improvements made in wages and conditions were obtained after the apprentice strikes of the 1930s and in 1959.

At the annual youth conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, when the same resolutions on wages and conditions that have been put up every year since 1958 were put to the delegates, the majority, reflecting the unrest in their areas, decided that some form of action would have to be taken and that they should return to their respective areas and attempt to organise the apprentices to fight for the following aims:

**Stand by the Manifesto and NC says Robertson**

**J**UST how correct the headline 'The time to fight is NOW' in the July-August issue of Keep Left was, is shown by the actions of the right-wing in removing Dave Ashby from the national chairmanship of the Young Socialists.

Under the leadership of Keep Left, Young Socialists have been in the forefront of the struggle against the Tories and their agents in the labour movement over the past four years.

The struggle for the unemployment lobby of February this year; the battle at the first 'meeting' of the present National Committee in support of the Streatham YS branch; the lobby of the NEC in June in support of Streatham and against the expulsion of P. Clark and myself are all part of the fight for the Young Socialists' conference decisions and the building of a mass youth socialist movement in Britain.

At Brighton at Easter we passed a policy for a real fight against the Tories and an end to the shadow-boxing of Wilson and his cronies. (On many occasions it is downright agreement with the Tories, not even shadow-boxing.)

We also elected a National Committee to lead the fight for our programme. Seven out of 11 of the elected members of that committee have remained firmly in support of the YS conference decisions. The seven members have issued the Manifesto 'Forward with the Young Socialists'.

This Manifesto is a very clear interpretation of the Brighton conference policies.

This is where all those who term themselves Young Socialists and who claim to fight for the policies of Brighton must stand: in full support of the Manifesto and the actions of the National Committee in issuing it.

This is our answer to all who scream for unity and tell us 'don't rock the boat'. We will unite with anyone who is prepared to fight for the policies of the Manifesto.

At Brighton we told the bureaucrats we would not tolerate witch-hunting and expulsions. We meant exactly that. We will not tolerate them.

We will fight on irrespective of the actions of the bureaucrats and the right wing. As far as we are concerned, they can go to hell, with a well-placed boot in the rear from us to help them on their way.

The next step for all Young Socialists who support the Manifesto must be to ensure the biggest possible contingents of youth on the September 27 demonstration, representing all sections of young workers in struggle against the employers and the Tories.

In the words of the Manifesto:  
**ALL OUT ON SEPTEMBER 27**  
FOR a Labour government with socialist policies.

J. ROBERTSON

● **YOUTH WAGES AS A PERCENTAGE OF SKILLED MEN'S RATE**

- At 15 to receive 60 per cent
  - At 16 to receive 65 per cent
  - At 17 to receive 70 per cent
  - At 18 to receive 75 per cent
  - At 19 to receive 80 per cent
  - At 20 to receive 90 per cent
- with out bonus

● **FOUR WEEKS ANNUAL PAID HOLIDAY**

● **35-HOUR WORKING WEEK**

● **FULL UNION NEGOTIATING RIGHTS FOR APPRENTICES**

In Manchester we have set up a Direct Action Committee to co-ordinate the actions of the youth in Manchester, Stockport and Ashton-under-Lyme.

We started our campaign by issuing a leaflet which outlined our aims and invited all engineering youth who were willing to help us press for our aims to come to several meetings at which we elected officials and laid a plan of action.

1. Organise the youth within individual factories into Junior Workers' Committees and keep them informed as to all developments;

2. To put in our claim at factory level and also to the employers' federation;

3. To gain financial support so that if the employers refuse our just demands, we can withdraw our labour until our demands are conceded;

4. To get in touch with other areas with a view to co-ordinating our efforts.

We now have the support of over 20 firms in the area, representing 5,000 apprentices and are achieving attendances of over 100 youth at our meetings.

We will be pleased to hear from anyone interested in our struggle and we are willing to send speakers to factories in our area, or to help and co-ordinate our efforts with similar committees.

We would be grateful of any financial aid to help our fight.

● Following the setting up of the Manchester Direct Action Committee, two similar committees have been organised in the north-east at Tyneside and Sunderland. A Teeside committee may be organised soon.



# Following successful campaign against racialism LEICS. FEDERATION CLOSED

## YS continue to fight colour bar

By our Midlands Correspondent

**L**EICESTERSHIRE Federation of Young Socialists has been disbanded. Their crime? They organised a campaign against racialism.

The executive committee of the East Midlands Regional Council of the Labour Party considered that the Federation's actions in organising public activities against racialism were 'a gross violation of the constitution'. Presumably, Sir Cyril Osborne, Tory MP for Leicester, and one of the city's more notorious native sons, will applaud this interpretation of the Labour Party's constitution.

Over a period of years, coloured immigrants have been increasingly concentrated in the Highfields area of Leicester.

Highfields was once occupied by middle class and upper working class families, who, as the houses aged and deteriorated, gradually left the area. They were replaced by poorer working class families and in more recent years by coloured immigrants from India, Pakistan and the West Indies.

### Taken advantage

Speculative landlords have taken advantage of the situation and have bought up many of the houses, which they let as bed-sitters and flats. Little or no repairs are carried out by the landlords, many of whom charge extortionate rents. Consequently, the houses, which are already old, are rapidly developing into slums, despite the attempts of the inhabitants to maintain them in a decent condition.

Under such circumstances, it is necessary for the landlords and the Tories whose policies create such conditions, to find a scapegoat; someone who can be used to cover up the real causes of bad housing. The coloured worker and his family provide such a scapegoat.

### Public meeting

During the past few months there have been several alarming indications of growing racialist feeling in certain areas of Leicester.

The Young Socialists suggested to the adult party that they call a public anti-racial meeting in the Highfields area. This terrified the right wing, who are either out-and-out racialists themselves or are tongue-tied because of the coming General Election. They were quite prepared to beat the same cowardly retreat, which has already resulted in the Tories gaining control from Labour in Smethwick.

### Tenants' association

The Federation decided that if the adult party wouldn't act, then the Young Socialists would.

Eight thousand leaflets, explaining the Young Socialists' attitude to racialism and adver-

tising a public meeting to form a tenants' association, were distributed in the Highfields.

At the same time, the Federation placed a picket of 40 members on the 'Admiral Nelson' public house in the centre of Leicester. The pub landlord claimed: 'The majority of my customers, in the lounge only, had objected to sitting next to coloured customers, in the lounge only, had objected to sitting next to coloured people and to drinking from the same glasses. I have therefore decided to ban all coloured people from the lounge.'



Members of Leicestershire YS stand on the picket line

The picket attracted a great deal of attention and publicity. Many youth who saw the picket, joined it and were recruited into the YS. The press publicity resulted in very wide contact being established with large numbers of coloured people, particularly young Indians.

About 100 people attended the public meeting. A resolution calling for the establishment of an inter-racial tenants' association was passed unanimously and a 12-man committee elected. Right wing members of the

local party gloomily dispersed as the riot which they had forecast and hoped for failed to materialise.

Shortly afterwards, the secretary of the Federation, Peter Miller, received a letter from the Regional Office informing him that the Federation had been closed down.

### Unanimous

A meeting of the Federation was called to discuss the letter and the 50 representatives unanimously decided not to recognise the disbanding of the Federation.

The colour bar at the 'Admiral Nelson' is still in operation, but in the course of the fight to break it the Young Socialists have come into contact with large numbers of youth, both white and coloured, who were impressed by the determination to stand up to the combined hostility of the press, the police, the right wing of the Labour Party and the other racialists.

### New branch

As a direct result of the campaign a new branch of the Young Socialists has now been set up in the Highfields area itself.

On Saturday, August 22, a protest march, against the colour bar, was organised jointly by the Federation and the Indian Workers' Association.

As the 150 demonstrators marched through the crowded Leicester streets, they made a tremendous impact with their colourful banners and chants of 'Colour bar—Out!', 'Racialism—Out!', 'Tories—Out!'. During the march itself, many youths joined in the demonstration.

### Brighton conference

The Federation is convinced that the Brighton Conference of the Young Socialists provided the policies for building a mass socialist youth movement.

They have shown in Leicester that it is possible to attract large numbers of youth in the course of a real fight against racialism.

## Young Socialists demonstrate against the Tories in Liverpool



**E**LABORATE police precautions and a Houdini act by Sir Alec Douglas-Home could not prevent the Young Socialists from having its most successful demonstration ever in the centre of Liverpool on Friday, July 25. The occasion was the visit of the Tory leader to the Philharmonic Hall, presumably to console the Mersey magnates and their ladies of the coming Tory defeat.

The police managed to contain the early demonstrators on a thin stretch of pavement where they sang folk songs and looked thoroughly eccentric (a tourist attraction?) as only CND demonstrators can do. Then the Young Socialists were strengthened by contingents from Bolton and Wigan. The police, who were still quite friendly at this stage, conceded them the right to parade outside the hall with their banners—in support of the postmen and dockers' struggles, for a Labour government and nationalization and against police violence—then down the broad steep Mount Pleasant on to the busy Renshaw Street, halting the traffic and dinning the ears of the passers-by with a crescendo of anti-Tory slogans.

They swept across the street onto the broad pavement outside the impervious front of the Adelphi Hotel where, it was rumoured, Sir Alec was having a chat with his 'parliamentary colleague' and 'loyal opposition leader', Harold Wilson. As is usual with successful demonstrations, the press considered it best forgotten. Thus only *Keep Left* carries any report of the developing militancy of working class youth.

## YS support Denby workers' struggle

**I**T is now very likely that a delegation of apprentices, representing the trade unionists locked-out of William Denby's dyeworks, near Bradford, Yorkshire, since October 30 last year, will be marching under their own banner alongside Bradford Young Socialists in the September 27 demonstration in London.

On August 22 eight members of Bradford Young Socialists visited the picket lines at Denby's and distributed leaflets which were copies of a resolution passed by the YS the previous Friday offering help and support to the sacked workers.

It called on them to unite with the Young Socialists in a struggle against 'the Tories and the corrupt leaders in the labour movement'.

It referred to the Denby men's 'struggle against the trade union leadership and against the provocations of the police', and linked this struggle with the Young Socialists' 'fight against the Labour bureaucracy and the witch-hunt'.

### INVITATION

The leaflet concluded with an invitation to the young workers involved in the dispute to march with the Young Socialists in the London demonstration.

The dispute at Denby's has been a long and bitter one. The issue at stake is the fundamental one of the right for workers to organise in a trade union.

Despite everything the Denby management might say, the reason why the 250 workers were sacked last year following a strike is because their operation of a closed shop hampered the management's plans for speed-up—and redundancy.

The works are now manned by non-union labour and, as a result of every conceivable kind of provocation and pressure, the number of workers still manning the picket lines demanding the sacking of these blacklegs and reinstatement on union terms has been whittled down to 120.

### ABDICATED

A decisive fight to bring a successful conclusion to the dispute could have been led by the union leadership in the early stages of the battle.

The general secretary of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, Sharp, abdicated this responsibility.

He ignored repeated demands for the spreading of the strike and continued to seek discussions with the management and try to palm the sacked workers off with compromise solutions.

The only way to strengthen the position of the Denby men is to build a link with the YS and fight for a new leadership with new policies able to take every struggle to a successful conclusion.



# EDITORIAL

SINCE the formation of the Young Socialists in 1960, four main political trends have appeared in its ranks. There is the extreme right wing backed up by the resources of Transport House and its monthly paper, *New Advance*: the anti-Soviet, anti-Communist *Young Guard* elements who follow Harold Wilson and the late Hugh Gaitskell, that Russia is a capitalist country: a small group inspired by Pablo, at present an official in the Algerian capitalist government of Ben Bella, who maintain that the Soviet bureaucracy and the national capitalist governments of countries like Algeria can transform themselves into advocates and supporters of revolutionary socialist change.

Lastly, there is Keep Left, which has consistently fought for socialist policies within the Labour Party and believed in building up within the labour movement an alternative leadership to that of the right wing. Young Socialists have now had considerable opportunity to judge the political behaviour of these tendencies.

At the Easter 1961 conference, the right wing won the first round when it gained the majority of the seats on the National Committee, although the resolutions carried at that conference were predominantly on the left. At that conference the paper *Young Guard* was launched in opposition to Keep Left, by the combined efforts of the Pabloite and state capitalist tendencies.

The 1962 conference saw the witch-hunt launched against Keep Left around allegations of violence that have since been proved completely false. The conference of that year again carried resolutions supporting left-wing socialist policies and the new National Committee contained three supporters of Keep Left, three supporters of *Young Guard*, and five right wingers. Almost immediately the conference was over, Keep Left was proscribed at the May meeting of the National Executive Committee in 1962. The three National Committee members, whom it was alleged supported Keep Left, were expelled and *Young Guard* was recognised officially as a paper which had the right to appear in the Young Socialists alongside *New Advance*.

## OVERLOOKED IMPORTANT FACT

The Pabloites and state capitalists were cock-a-hoop. They mistakenly believed that this bureaucratic action by the right wing would effectively silence Keep Left. They overlooked the important fact that the decision was not so much one that was the property of the conference of the Young Socialists, but of the broad youth movement as a whole.

In winter of 1962 and the spring of 1963, youth unemployment grew at an alarming rate. Keep Left and its supporters were the only tendency to intervene successfully in leading the fight for jobs for the young unemployed. It was this action more than anything else that enabled us to defeat the witch-hunt launched in 1962.

By the Scarborough conference of 1963, a complete transformation had taken place inside the Young Socialists and for the first time a majority supporting the policies of Keep Left were elected to the National Committee. Immediately the efforts of this majority were turned in the positive direction of organising an official campaign through the Labour Party to fight youth unemployment.

This campaign culminated in a national demonstration and protest rally in London on February 11 this year. Behind the scenes it was opposed by the Pabloites and state capitalists. These tendencies together with the right wing have not provided a single positive lead for the youth since the Young Socialists was formed. They have continuously sniped and sabotaged every effort to develop a mass Young Socialists organisation. To all intents and purposes they have worked with the right wing against Keep Left.

This state of affairs came to a head at the Easter conference of 1964. At that conference all these tendencies united behind an agreed nomination in all the regions with the intention of eliminating the influence of Keep Left from the National Committee. Again, they were decisively defeated. Not only did the candidates supporting Keep Left policies gain overall majorities in the regions, but they strengthened their position considerably.

Today, out of a National Committee of 11, seven support the policies of Keep Left, one, that of the state capitalists and three that of the right wing. So demoralised and shaken were these unprincipled groups over the results of last Easter's conference that they immediately resorted to a series of provocations against the supporters of our paper. In the weeks after the Brighton conference it became fashionable for right-wing Labour officials to call in the police to get rid of their Young Socialists branch. This happened in Streatham where a strong force of police with dogs evicted the Young Socialists. It happened also in Edmonton. When hundreds of Young Socialists lobbied, as they had every right to do, members of their own Party—the members of their National Executive Committee—the police were again called in to manhandle these young people whose only crime was that they wanted to speak with their adult leaders.

## PROFESSIONAL TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENTS

All these incidents where the policies of the Young Socialists were being applied, *Young Guard* and the Pabloites carried out, as they have consistently done in the past, a constant attack on Keep Left. Presently, there is a small group of professional *Tribune* correspondents, who at the drop of a hat by the right wing or the fake lefts, will write a letter at least 500 words long to the editor. One of these is Gavin Kennedy, who formerly published Keep Left. You will look in vain in the pages of *Tribune* to find Kennedy opposing the expulsion of John Robertson, last year's national chairman, you will look in vain for a letter where Kennedy opposes the closing down of Streatham Young Socialists, and other branches in different parts of the country. You will look in vain for Kennedy protesting against the adult parties calling the police to deal with the Young Socialists. On the contrary, he concentrates his whole fire against the September 27 rally called by the National Committee. Do we have to ask the question as to whose side Kennedy is really on, in this fight?

Recently, some person or persons unknown forged a letter to discredit the Young Socialists, which they sent to Constituency parties and Young

(Cont. on page 8, col. 1)

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## 'New town' youth face

old  
problems

'So

we



Putney YS march against the Tories

## join the YS to solve them'

**R**OE HAMPTON Village Estate is one of six huge estates in Putney, South-west London. It has many thousands of homes laid out in green, open surroundings. This could be Wilson's prototype for his 'new towns' plan so often mentioned.

On the estate, there are over a thousand young people—they are catered for by one coffee bar.

### Increased boredom

The 'new development', which Wilson is becoming more fond of, has increased the boredom and frustration of the youth. As a result, they explode more often now. This frustration is encouraged by the police, whose only occupation in the Village seems to be moving the young

people on, and chasing those who have motor cycles or scooters.

The police are becoming more violent as they move the young people off the grass lawns and street corners.

Recently one policeman threatened to truncheon a small group of lads as they were walking home. He picked on one youth who had to pay a £20 fine.

### Giving a lead

The attitude of the police was summed up quite adequately by one of them who said: 'All the youth are a load of louts. You cannot do anything with them. What they need is a good thrashing.'

But, the Young Socialists are giving a lead to the youth. Since a dance held some months ago, almost 100 young people have become associated with the Putney Young Socialists.

The new members helped to organise another dance as well as trips to Brighton. Many went

to the lobby of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party and on a demonstration to Mount Pleasant in support of the postmen's wage claim.

Recently they organised an anti-Tory demonstration of their own, marching through the estate and holding a public meeting calling on Sir Alec Douglas-Home to resign and for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

The young people have come under tremendous pressures during their short membership of the Young Socialists.

Labour Party officers locked them out of the Labour Party rooms because they are scared of such youth. This happened after Bill Jones, London Regional Organiser of the Labour Party, had visited the local Party.

### Joining to organise

The Putney Young Socialists continue to meet and work despite this.

Young Conservatives are quite naturally, very hostile to the young workers. They were heard to call them 'working class scum' during a chance meeting on the estate and attempted to provoke them into a fight.

On the basis of the Brighton policies of the Young Socialists now laid out in the Manifesto of the Young Socialists National Committee many young people are joining the Young Socialists.

They are joining to organise themselves to really fight the bosses and for socialism.

As one of them put it: 'The Young Socialists is the only organisation that is sticking up for us and fighting for better life.'



South-West London Young Socialists together at Brighton



On this page Keep Left gives reports from Young Socialists branches. In some areas there have been several expulsions but, as our readers will see, far from allowing the Labour youth movement to be a crippled organisation, Young Socialists have taken their policies out to the youth and recruited large numbers of young people.

# Labour youth defy expulsions

## Leeds

ALL the expulsions in the world will not prevent Young Socialists in West Yorkshire from seeing to it that they play their role in fighting to kick out the Tories in a campaign based on the Labour youth movement's own policies.

To do this the West Yorkshire Federation has been reopened by the youth so that branches can be organised into a fight for the National Committee Manifesto and to prepare for the anti-Tory rally on September 27.

This was the message conveyed to all the local right-wing officials when 70 youth took part in a demonstration and held the second meeting of the Federation.

(The Federation was closed down last October after Young Socialist branches carried out intensive campaigns on housing estates and outside factories with the aim of recruiting more youth.)

### STRENGTH

But the fact that 70 young people openly defied the witch-hunting of the Labour Party officials, shows that the Young Socialists in this area, far from being subdued, are going from strength to strength.

The demonstration began at the Holbeck Labour rooms in South Leeds where the Constituency Labour Party was meeting to consider the expulsion from the Labour Party of Dave Winter and Susan Best, officers of the local YS branch.

Earlier this year these two Young Socialists were summoned before their Executive Committee to answer questions on who organised the coach trip to London at the time of the lobby

of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in June.

They were asked to give undertakings not to take part in public demonstrations or meetings without the permission of the executive or the General Management Committee. Both refused to do this because they felt they had to take part in the fight around Young Socialist policies. For doing this their expulsion was moved.

### SHAME AND DISGRACE

By a majority of one vote Dave Winter and Susan Best were expelled in the constituency of former right-wing Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell. Disciplinary action of this kind is a shame and a disgrace to the traditions of the labour movement, especially at a time when the Labour Party is preparing to do battle with the Tories.

At a Federation meeting after the demonstration John Robertson, last year's chairman of the National Committee of the Young Socialists, recently expelled by the NEC of the Labour Party, was introduced by this year's chairman Dave Ashby—this was in spite of the fact that Harold Sims, the Regional Youth Organiser claims to have 'deleted' Ashby from the YS records.

Robertson called upon all Young Socialists to fight for the Brighton policies of nationalization, against wage restraint and against police violence.



Young Socialists from all over Leeds lobby Holbeck expulsion meeting

AT a meeting called by right-wing bureaucrats of the Labour Party on September 1 to reconstruct the Glasgow Federation of Young Socialists, the elected officers of the Federation and the National Committee member for Scotland, Bob Hamilton, were refused admission. Only 'Young Socialists' vetted by the bureaucrats were allowed in.

Hamilton finally managed to get in and walk up to the platform to open the meeting. He began to speak and stated that the meeting had been called to set up a 'scab' Federation.

### POLICE CALLED

Right-wingers attempted forcibly to prevent him from talking and the meeting ended in uproar with the police being called.

Federation officials then led their supporters to another hall where a decision was taken to continue the Federation as Glasgow Federation of Young Socialists (left wing).

It was decided to intensify the campaign to organise massive

## Glasgow

contingents for the September 27 rally.

This action follows a long attack by the right wing on the actions of the Federation in leading a fight against unemployment and for facilities on housing estates.

'Young moderates', acting true to form, have rarely been seen at Federation meetings during this year and persistently refuse to accept the YS programme.

Yet these fakers called this meeting of selected 'Young Socialists'—most of them *not* very young and even *less* socialist—and invited Mr. T. G. Simpson, secretary of the Glasgow Labour Party along.

Hamilton pointed out at the meeting that Simpson was the man who closed down the Federation after the Gaitskell May Day meeting in 1962.

Simpson's faker friends had

agreed to ask the Scottish Youth Officer to call the September 1 meeting to reconstruct the Federation.

The kind of 'reconstruction' which Simpson wants is shown clearly in a recent letter to Federation officials in which he asked:

Would the Federation fight for the YS or Labour Party programme?

Would the Federation continue to refuse to accept the expulsions of Robertson and Clark? and:

Would the Federation take part in the September 27 rally?

### BIGGEST CONTINGENT

This attempted to put Federation officials in the position of personally repudiating a fight for socialist policies, or being expelled from the Labour Party.

In fact the Federation meeting endorsed the Manifesto 'Forward with the Young Socialists' and agreed to go ahead to organise the biggest possible contingent from all sections of youth to attend the rally.



An official of the Constituency Labour Party (right) enlists a policeman's help to remove a member of the Young Socialists (left)

RECENTLY Wigan Young Socialists decided to set up a second branch in the town. Members went to a nearby council house estate where there are no places for young people to enjoy themselves.

The YS members, who had canvassed in the municipal elections and led a tenants' struggle against higher rents in that area, were able to use the Labour Club for their meetings.

### CANVASS

They canvassed the estate with leaflets explaining the policies of the Brighton conference and 10 young people turned up to the first meeting. There was a discussion on YS policies, followed by records and dancing.

There were twice as many at the second meeting and there

## Wigan

was a great deal of discussion and interest in the fight of the YS against bad housing, police violence and dead-end jobs, especially as the new members all suffer from these things. Most of them earn less than £6 a week and work long hours.

Officers were elected and a large committee formed: the regional youth officer, who also attended, seemed surprised at the support the YS had already gained.

Since then the Newtown branch has had 25 regular members and they are now making plans to expand into other parts of the town.

The YS found resistance in the Labour Club and have been wrongly accused of causing damage. Rumours spread

around and it was even reported in the Minutes of the Trades Council that 'damage was done by a certain element'. But the President of the club stated quite clearly that no damage was done at all.

### SUPPORT

At the time of the postmen's strike, the Newtown YS passed a resolution fully supporting the struggle and offered, at a Postmen's Union meeting, any help they could give.

Support was also given to John Robertson's fight against his expulsion.

Now there is a campaign to recruit more young people into the YS. Members who are off work have been visiting factories finding out more about working conditions and the problems of young workers they are approaching.



# Let's make it clear to Wilson on September 27

## Only Y S Policies Will Solve

**WILSON** and the Labour leaders are attacking the Young Socialists because of the policies passed at the Brighton Young Socialists conference. Instead of a programme to take the factories and the land from the employers, Wilson has made it clear that he sees the task of a Labour government only as running capitalism more efficiently.

The Young Socialists has had to oppose Wilson, because capitalism can only be made 'efficient' (i.e., increase its profit) by an attack on the working class.

Instead, the role of a Labour government must be to attack the capitalist class in the interests of the workers.

### Crisis

In fact, in its very first months, the next Labour government will have a situation of crisis for capitalism on its hands.

The latest figures for exports produced by the government show this clearly. Experts predict that there may be a balance of payments deficit of at least £500,000,000 by the end of the year!

Both Tory and Labour leaders admit that this is a grave situation. No longer can the Tories make excuses: at first they blamed the cold winter and then the hot summer! But now the real facts have to be faced. What do these figures show?

Each capitalist country (Britain, Germany, United States, etc.) must, in the long run, pay its way. In other words, the money spent on importing goods into Britain—food, raw materials, machinery, etc.—must be paid for by money derived from exports.

If the value of exports (including money from foreign investments) does not, in the long run, cover the cost of these imports, then a 'balance of payments crisis' develops.

### Serious deficit

When the authorities say that they expect Britain to show a deficit of £500,000,000 by the end of the year they mean that the import bill will, in rough terms, be £500,000,000 higher than the value of exports during 1964.

Why does British capitalism face such a serious deficit? The

answer is glaringly apparent: British employers are unable to sell enough abroad.

Britain's share of world manufacturing trade has now fallen to under 14 per cent and has been declining steadily since 1945.

During the first three months of this year exports from the leading industrial countries rose by an average of 18 per cent: Britain's increase was only 8 per cent.

### Age of capitalism

Lying behind this figure is the age of British capitalism. Being the first nation in the world to industrialise during the last century, Britain relied for its dominance of the world, economically and politically on the sale of cotton, coal, ships, rolling stock, etc., to the rest of the world.

These were basically simple industries requiring a fairly low level of technical and scientific skill. The other capitalist countries who followed Britain's example—Germany, America, Japan—started off where Britain had finished.

They developed more 'advanced' industries such as steel, rubber, engineering and, later, motors, chemicals, synthetic oil and fibres. It is in these 'new industries' that British capitalism has fallen seriously behind and is unable to compete with Europe and America.

### No drive

Until very recently the employers in this country have relied for their profits upon these older industries, and there has been no major drive in the fields of atomic energy, electronics, automation, etc.

In the field of computers, for example, the United States government alone uses 1,700 and is installing them at the rate of 10 per week. The British government has a total of 34! This indicates why British capitalism is being 'priced out' of the world market and has fallen way behind America, Germany and Japan.

The decline in trade and exports to the Commonwealth has been very serious. It was to countries like India, Ghana, Australia, Canada, etc., that the employers used to look for an important part of their trade. Now markets have been lost to rivals in Japan and America.

In addition, countries like

# Economic Crisis

By  
**John Scott**

This would inevitably hit the working class and reduce the real income of the majority of the population.

### 2. Control of imports

Certain imports would be either banned or duty placed upon them to deter people from buying them. The aim of this measure would be to cut down the import bill and correct the imbalance caused by loss of exports. Again the result, from the point of view of the working class, would be the same: rising prices and cost of living.

### 3. Incomes policy

This is the policy which the Tories are trying to impose through the National Incomes Commission and the National Economic Development Council and what Wilson means when he talks of a planned growth of wages. In fact both Wilson and Home want to impose a wage freeze upon the working class so that the employers' costs can be kept down and sales abroad stepped up.

India and the states in Africa are now able to produce much of the textiles, and heavy engineering goods which used to be important exports for British capitalism.

How will the employers in this country tackle their problems? In fact they have three answers:

### 1. Devaluation

This means reducing the value of the pound in relation to that of the dollar. At the moment the pound is equal to roughly 2 dollars 80 cents and there is support from a section of the ruling class for a devaluation down to 2 dollars.

This would mean:

- (i) that British exports would be reduced in price; and
- (ii) the price of imports into Britain would rise.

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE RELEVANCE OF BRITISH SOCIALISM

By Harold Wilson

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 16s.

RECENTLY written for Encyclopaedia Britannica as an exposition of socialism in the present period Harold Wilson's 'The Relevance of British Socialism' reveals the Labour Party leader as a complete prop of British capitalism.

His first words assure the big industrialists, such as ICI and the steel and engineering companies that the Labour Party annual conference has no control over the Parliamentary Labour Party.

He writes: 'The Labour government must take decisions it regards as being in the best interests of the country.'

Nowhere does he mention the specific problems of youth in an automated age. The thousands of young people who are thrown onto the scrap heap because there are not enough jobs are obviously not Wilson's concern.

The book's main theme is what Wilson calls 'economic dynamism'. As far as the working class is concerned that will mean more automation with production belts

unemployment, cuts in wages and operated at a killing pace, more bad conditions imposed by employers in pursuit of large profits.

Whilst describing in glowing terms the coal industry 'which' he says, 'through technical revolutions has led to a remarkable improvement in productivity', Wilson neglects to give the other side of the picture.

He does not describe the danger endured by miners every day of their lives or the living conditions of thousands of coal workers who have been thrown onto the dole queues after pits in Scotland have closed.

The vicious role of Lord Robens, chairman of the National Coal Board, and self-styled 'miners' best friend' is not mentioned either and yet it is this man's policies which have caused miners to be hounded in the race for bigger and bigger profits.

Wilson is so intent on not upsetting his capitalist friends that his book never calls for the nationalization of all the basic industries.

Realising that the Tory policies he is going to carry out—speed-up, wage restraint and tying the trade unions to the state—will meet with strong and militant opposition he calls for the National Economic Development Council to be a 'body with teeth'.

In other words he wants this bosses' front committee to implement a wage freeze with the help of people like Frank Cousins, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who

All of these measures require severe attacks upon the working class. An attack which is absolutely necessary for the capitalists if they are to step up exports and British capitalism is to regain its place in the world.

Harold Wilson is supposed to be an expert on economic affairs; he knows very well the meaning of the balance of payments figures. Just as his foreign and colonial policy is to keep the empire of British capitalism intact, so his policy at home is to help capitalism through its crisis, instead of mobilising the working class to take power from the employers.

### Our answer

With Wilson's policy, a Labour government will be forced to directly attack wages and living standards, attack strikers, and destroy the rights of trade unionists. In preparation for this Wilson and Co. try to destroy the YS movement.

Our answer must be clear. On September 27 we give notice to Harold Wilson. We fight the Tories on the Brighton programme: for a Labour government with socialist policies! We will build up the Young Socialists and fight for a leadership of the working class which can carry out these socialist policies.



has shown himself quite willing to stab workers in the back.

On international questions he realises very well the role that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Marshall Aid have played in conjunction with the Social-Democratic leaders in keeping down militant workers in various countries throughout the world.

He stresses the need for mobile armies—to crush workers' and peasants' movements in other countries no doubt. Such a policy strongly suggests that he will, should a Labour government come to power, introduce conscription in the future.

Throughout the book the main theme is the establishment of a stronger state apparatus to bolster British capitalism and to hold back the working class.

This book should be read by all workers who wish to see the festering plans of the next Labour government.



## Reply to Challenge

THE recent upheavals in the Young Communist League (analysed in the last issue of *Keep Left*) have now provoked, in the July issue of *Challenge*, an attempt to explain why whole branches of the Young Communist League have been expelled.

Readers of *Keep Left* are well advised to get hold of this article, because it reflects, even if only in a small way, the whole method and history of the Stalinist movement, proving once again how it has betrayed all the ideas and aims of Communism and the Russian revolution.

The reasons why the policies of John Gollan, general secretary of the British Communist Party and Jimmy Reid, organiser of the Young Communist League, are being challenged and refuted in such a vigorous way in the Young Communist League is because many YCLers find living proof of their criticisms in the inspiring fight of the Young Socialists on behalf of, not only the youth, but the whole labour movement.

The Communist Party has for many years made great play of its desire for unity. Such a claim needs investigating.

While no one would deny that the Stalinists have always shown a great liking for unity with the strangest of creatures (Churchill, the Pope, Chiang Kai-shek, Hitler, and Lord Beaverbrook, are just a few examples) it has always displayed another feature—disruption.

It is important for young workers and students to learn about the history of the labour movement and its struggle, because in learning from the past betrayals we can build a leadership to make sure that the sell-outs of Stalinism and the right wing do not happen again.

The greatest sell-out of all time took place in Germany in 1933 when the Nazis under Hitler took power, smashed the labour movement and prepared the way for the Second World War (costing 100 million human lives).

In Germany, the working class had two huge parties—the Social-Democrats, or Labour Party which used to get about eight to nine million votes, and the Communist Party, which polled about four to six million votes.

Fascism—the movement organised by the big German bosses to turn the middle class and unorganised workers against the labour movement—could only be smashed if the two workers' parties acted together against the Nazis.

To bring about a socialist revolution in Germany, the working class had to defeat both the right-wing leaders in the Labour Party and the CP—but the main enemy that threatened them all was fascism.

Stalin said that the Social-Democrats were 'social fascists' and that the Social-Democratic Party and the fascists could co-exist under a Nazi regime.

This so-called theory was made the pretext for joint Communist-Nazi activity against the workers in the Social-Democratic Party, including the wrecking of Social-Democratic meetings and having joint election agreements against the Social-Democrats.

Of course it is right to say that the right-wing leaders of workers' parties, such as the one that existed in Germany, pave the way for fascism by betraying and disillusioning whole sections of the middle and working classes.

But it is the job of socialists to defeat such right-wing leaders and break their hold on the working class. In Britain today we have to build a new leadership that will defeat and replace the bureaucrats at Transport House, and King Street (the headquarters of the Communist Party).

The lesson from Germany in 1933 is that the working class can only win power (as it did in Russia) in a struggle against bad leadership. It cannot fold its arms and wait until it is too late.

The Young Socialists hammered out a policy at Brighton which, I think, should be taken into the whole of the labour

movement. Let there be no Germany of 1933 for the British working class!

An ex-YCLer

## Witch-hunt—1

SINCE the National Executive Committee lobby the witch-hunt in the North-East has been continued on a new and more vicious scale.

Three members of Murton Young Socialists were expelled. Two members of Sunderland Young Socialists were 'suspended' for six months.

This was for the 'crime' of trying to discuss YS problems with members of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party!

However, the overwhelming majority of the branch refused to accept the suspensions. Twenty members signed a petition declaring that the two comrades—one of whom was the chairman of the branch—should continue as members.

Since then the Sunderland branch has been declared 'unofficial' by the Regional Youth Officer. He has issued a circular to Labour parties and Young Socialist branches declaring that Sunderland Young Socialists are not Young Socialists at all.

This right-wing official also declares in his circular that the demonstration in London on September 27 is organised by 'people calling themselves Young Socialists'.

The officials are more interested in fighting the YS and the policies it represents, than helping the 1,140 boys and girls who are on the dole in Sunderland.

At the last meeting of the South Tyneside Federation Mr. Geoff Foster, Regional Youth Officer, ruled that the Federation could not discuss anti-Tory demonstrations, the 'Forward with the YS' leaflet, or the September 27 rally.

In fact, he claimed that all the Federation could discuss was inviting other Federations to take part in a 'River Boat Shuffle'. When the Federation voted unanimously to discuss the political items, Mr. Foster declared the meeting 'closed'.

The branch delegates went on to discuss the whole agenda. They decided to continue the fight for socialist policies by organising anti-Tory demonstrations, distributing the Manifesto among working-class youth and calling on all youth to support the September 27 demonstration.

When the chairman of Newcastle West YS called for a Federation meeting to discuss organising the YS in an anti-Tory campaign, she was informed that this was 'unconstitutional'.

Her branch was informed by the Executive of the Constituency Party that they had decided that the branch should obey certain 'constitutional' rules in future. They could not have anybody from outside the branch to speak there, they could not take part in demonstrations outside the constituency, nor could they leaflet factories for new members or for support of YS policy.

The immediate reply of the branch was to continue its campaign to bring working class youth into the Young Socialists whatever action the right wing may take.

The experience in the North-East will be similar to those throughout the country. We call on all Young Socialists everywhere to continue the fight for the socialist policies adopted at Brighton and to bring thousands of working class youth out on September 27 to show where youth stands in the fight for socialism.

N.P.,  
North-East.

## Witch-hunt—2

JOHN ROBERTSON, the National Committee chairman was expelled for standing by his left-wing ideas and policies. According to the Labour Party he was expelled for selling *Keep Left* because they knew that they could not expel him for his politics.

Similarly Streatham YS was suspended and the National Committee was closed because they stood for the Brighton YS conference decisions.

At a meeting held by Streatham YS, *Young Guard* supporters tried to ruin the meeting but failed. All they did was to show how childish they are. Also at our Federation meeting certain *Young Guard* supporters showed where they stood by trying to get the left wing to go against the YS National Committee.

These people are just helping Transport House to get rid of the Young Socialists National Committee.

We will fight to reconvene the National Committee meeting, we will fight against the suspension of Streatham Young Socialists, we will not recognise the expulsion of John Robertson, we will fight all expulsions and suspensions, we will stand by the YS policies and continue to build the YS and we will carry on reading *Keep Left* which backs us up.

T.R.,  
London.

## Witch-hunt—3

YET another Young Socialist branch has been added to the list of disbandments and suspensions.

Cathcart Young Socialists in Glasgow has been disaffiliated and a fake branch recognised by the Constituency Labour Party.

Cathcart constituency contains the largest housing estate in Europe—Castlemilk—yet Labour is unable to break the Tory hold at election times.

In the past three years, only one Labour councillor has been returned—with a tiny majority.

The only section of the labour movement which has consistently fought in Castlemilk is the Young Socialists which took a busload of youth to the February lobby of Parliament and has mobilised large numbers of young people around a fight for facilities for youth on the estate and against police methods of dealing with youth.

The constituency party took action against this and told the Young Socialists to stop their activities in Castlemilk.

This was unanimously rejected by the branch.

The next meeting of the constituency party renewed the ultimatum. This was pushed through by one vote—against the opposition of the delegates from Castlemilk Labour Party, who supported the YS.

After the holiday period the constituency party met early in August—the first time they had reconvened before September for years.

In spite of the lack of time for preparation, a picket of about a dozen youth met the eight delegates as they went into the meeting and demanded that they oppose the witch-hunt of the YS.

The chairman and secretary of the YS were admitted to the meeting and while they were asking for others to be allowed in as visitors, two policemen came out of the Labour hall and offered the pickets the choice of moving on or spending the night in jail.

According to the Minutes, a decision had been taken to remove the officers of the branch unless they attended a meeting of the reorganised YS which had taken place the previous week.

This scab branch consisted of two renegades who had ignored the decision of the branch to stay in Castlemilk. One of these

people, when tackled by the pickets before the meeting expressed his refusal to campaign to recruit youth to the YS around the conference decisions.

The YS held a meeting in the open air the following day (they could not get a room during the summer) and, in spite of the danger of police intervention, about 20 people passed a resolution calling on the Glasgow Federation of Young Socialists to support the statement of the National Committee, support the demonstration on September 27 and recognise only the branch in Cathcart which has fought for YS policy.

The YS in Castlemilk is confident that it can build a mass branch around the YS programme.

Which will be the genuine branch? The one with two members or the one with 200?

G.M.,  
Scotland.

## Witch-hunt—4

OUR Young Socialist branch has been suspended for one month and turned out of its rooms by our Labour Party officials, because they say, the youth don't respect the building or the Labour Party.

At an executive committee meeting they said the youth were scruffy illiterate thugs. The YS held a lobby outside this meeting and the Labour Party officials said they were going to call in the police until one leading YS member told them to go ahead as it was not unusual for the Labour Party to call in the police to the YS. With this remark they shut up.

This shows the real contempt that the Labour Party has for youth today. It has also been shown on various other lobbies that the YS has held.

Are youth expected to respect people like this? The right wing are really exposing themselves to the youth.

So it is up to youth to expose this bureaucracy to the adult working class: to show the adult working class, who have faith in the Labour Party, that the leadership will betray when they get in power and that the only real leaders of the working class are the youth.

S.B.,  
Lancashire.

## St. Pancras

AFTER seeing how the capitalist papers, including the *Daily Herald*, can get nearly hysterical over 'teenage violence', it is interesting to see how little they have to say about the violence used by landlords, for instance.

We never hear of the police taking any action against these racketeers. Yet, since the Tory Rent Act was passed, landlords have caused ten times as much misery as anything that the so-called 'wild ones' might have done.

Rachman may be dead, but there are plenty of others still in the game.

A meeting was held at St. Pancras Town Hall, London, this summer to which tenants with grievances were invited. About 200 turned up, mostly young people of 18, 19 or 20.

One particular property company was mentioned many times in complaints. This company, operating mostly in the St. Pancras, Hampstead and Earls Court areas, gets its money from young workers who have come from Ireland, Scotland and the North to get jobs in London.

It asks for £5 and £10 deposits on flats or furnished rooms, but gives no receipts. Then as soon as tenants have moved in, the 'hard cases'—rent collectors—are sent round with alsatian dogs at all sorts of times demanding 'rent'

immediately in cash.

After a few weeks the tenants have had enough of this and they leave. The company keeps a high turnover of tenants in this way, and can make £100 per house in deposits whenever there is a change of tenants.

This is just one example of how young workers get treated by the society we are asked to respect—a society run for profit. I think lots of young people can be won to support the Young Socialists' policy of large-scale nationalization to make housing a public service, as outlined in 'Forward with the Young Socialists'.

A London Young Socialist

## South Yorkshire

SINCE Easter several branches of the Young Socialists in the pit villages of South Yorkshire have been continually fighting to put the policies of the Brighton conference forward.

The regional officer, backed by local Labour officials, has answered these actions by stepping up an attack on the Young Socialists.

Several councillors protested about an article which had appeared in the *South Yorkshire Times* recently, stating that the YS wanted to hold a demonstration against the lack of facilities for youth.

In an interview with the local press the secretary of the local Young Socialists commented that there was virtually nothing in the area for young people.

In many cases it is sheer boredom that causes vandalism amongst young people. In South Yorkshire it was the pits that came first followed by a group of houses but there was no thought of any facilities.

What is probably worrying the local councillors so much is that the very estates that the youth are campaigning against are those looked after by a Labour controlled council.

A.T.,  
South Yorkshire.

## Police brutality

ON Tuesday, August 18, police threw over 50 young people out of Eldon Square, a park in Newcastle, for no apparent reason.

Police used dogs to push the youth out of the park and down the street. Many of these young people are unemployed and spend most nights sitting in the park for lack of anything to do.

One Young Socialist went to the park the next Saturday to sell the Manifesto. He was sitting on the grass discussing it with a group of young lads when the police told them, in a threatening manner, to get up and sit on the seats.

This they immediately did, but five minutes later they were told by another policeman, who had a dog with him, to get out of the Square.

When the Young Socialist protested, the policeman said, 'I can't hold on to this dog much longer.'

Opposite Eldon Square is a coffee bar where young people are often given only ten minutes to drink their coffee and are then moved out. Often these youngsters stand outside on the pavement.

Recently a policeman went up to such a group and told them, 'Come on you dead-beats, move.'

There are other incidents where young people have been stopped by the police, told to take their hands out of their pockets, and have been generally humiliated.

The only answer is to organise youth against capitalism, in whose interest the police attack working class youth, which rebels against a system which offers it the alternatives of dole queues or working long hours for low wages.

The real fight against police brutality is being conducted by the YS who are organising a demonstration against police violence as part of their general campaign to oust the Tories and fight for socialist policies.

G.P.,  
Newcastle.





# Exclusive statement by National Committee Chairman Dave Ashby

On September 14 the Executive Committee of the North-West Leeds Labour Party will recommend that I and three other members of my Young Socialists branch—Steve Rich, Janet Hinchcliffe and Jennifer McKenny be expelled from the Labour Party. Let no one be mistaken. The responsibility for these actions rests on the right-wing leadership of the Labour Party which is now in full retreat before the Tories. For the present policies of the Wilson leadership have nothing whatever to do with socialism.

My expulsion will occur at a time when the case for socialism has never been stronger. Yet the right wing clique of Wilson, Brown, Gunter and Callaghan refuse to put it. Wilson wants to wed the unions to a policy of wage restraint. Gunter will favour an enquiry into the unions. (Earlier in the year he went on record as saying that trade unions are not eternal.) Callaghan, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, will continue to operate Tory economic policy. All, together with Brown, agree to say not a word about nationalization, the only answer to the present crisis of capitalism. Now Wilson has denied that such a crisis exists.

In 1931 Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour Prime Minister, cut unemployment pay in order to secure a U.S. loan in the hope of solving the balance of payments crisis. He dissolved the Labour government and formed a coalition government in which the Conservatives were the stronger party. This angered the trade unions who had him expelled from the Party for his treachery. Such developments are not at all ruled out in the next Labour government. The struggles of workers in this country for better wages and shorter hours can only collide head on with the policies of the present Labour leadership. The working class in Britain, young and older workers alike want an end to Toryism and not a Labour government that will only operate Tory policies.

Wilson wants to collaborate with the bosses in bringing in speed-up and automation, whilst wages are pegged down. Gunter wants to streamline the unions in the interests of the big monopolies. Callaghan will have to find the

money to finance a programme of capitalist modernisation and to cut back the trade gap by increased taxation or devaluation of the pound.

The Young Socialists at their conference last Easter emphasised that socialism is the only answer to the developing crisis. Only in a planned socialist economy where all the major industries are nationalized will it be possible to secure for the working population the full benefits of automation and technological advance. Only in a socialist economy will it be possible for the youth to grow up free from the threat of conscription and constant hounding by the police. This is the policy of the Young Socialists around the fight for which an alternative leadership to Wilson and the right wing can be built. This is the real reason why we are constantly witch-hunted by the right wing.

Our answer to all these witch-hunting attacks has to be given in London on September 27 at the anti-Tory rally called by the National Committee in defiance of the full-time officials in Transport House. At that demonstration we have to call not merely for the return of a Labour government but of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. All those 'lefts' who are now telling us to wait until after the election before criticising the Wilson leadership are in fact asking us to abandon four years' work and fall in behind the cowardly retreat of the right wing. We have confidence that the overwhelming majority of Young Socialists will not listen to them.

Already the response to the demonstration has been excellent. In all areas branches are actively preparing for the rally. On present figures, 3,000 youth will take part in this demonstration. September 27 must be the day when we show the right-wing leadership what all their witch-hunting activities add up to. A Young Socialists movement that is bigger and stronger than ever! Demand the reinstatement of all expelled Young Socialists and the reopening of all branches that have been closed. Join with us on September 27 in fighting for the socialist policies of the Brighton YS conference.

## N. Ireland YS fight for recognition

AS the only successful organisation of socialist youth for 20 years, the Young Socialists in Northern Ireland has won the support of many rank and file members in both the Labour Party and the trade unions.

These Young Socialists are determined that they will not become isolated from the labour movement merely because the right wing do not agree with their policies. In East Belfast two flourishing branches—Victoria and Pottinger have been built. Large numbers of young people have been recruited and plans made for an election campaign.

The local Labour Parties stepped in and tried to stifle the development of these two branches by refusing use of the

Labour rooms. Pottinger YS were thrown out on what is claimed to be the personal intervention of Mr. T. Boyd MP, leader of the Labour opposition in the Northern Ireland Parliament.

However, both branches have found new halls and members insist on their right to take part in the local election campaign and strike a blow against Toryism.

Belfast Young Socialists may be full of enthusiasm to organise to help kick the Tories out for good but the leadership in the Northern Ireland Labour Party certainly does not share it.

The Executive Committee has refused to endorse the constitution of the Young Socialists.

As things are at the moment in Northern Ireland the Labour Party does not make any provision for YS branches. Labour youth have had to devise their own organisation and constitution and affiliate to the Labour Party.

The Young Socialists' answer to the right wing is to intensify their work, to return Labour MPs to Westminster as part of a Labour government.

And as part of this campaign many Young Socialists in Northern Ireland have pledged their support for the anti-Tory rally on September 27, and the Manifesto adopted by the National Committee of the Young Socialists.

What were normally quiet and very sheepish election meetings have been turned into big rallies by a large turn-out of YS members carrying placards.

## No tea breaks no canteen, in this sweat shop

THOSE in the labour movement who attack the Young Socialists for supporting Mods and Rockers should talk to some of the young girls who work at a small sewing factory in South London.

A sign in the window of this firm proclaims 'wages £10 to £12 a week'. Some of the girls told a Keep Left reporter the real facts about their wages.

The flat rate at this firm, is £5 8s. 8d. for a girl of 16. Piece-work rates vary, say the girls. For one particular line the rate is 1s. 2d. for a bag of 50 garments. Girls who are very fast and seem to earn a lot of money find their rate is cut.

This firm employs nearly 100 women and girls but a Keep Left reporter was told that the

canteen serves no hot dinners and there are no tea breaks. This is because the management has changed the hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., to 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Another claimed they were all supposed to provide their own scissors, screwdrivers and overalls. The only thing, she said, that the employer provided was oil for the machine.

The Tailor and Garment Workers' Union leadership is notorious for doing nothing about altering these conditions. They are completely blind to the fact that women at this particular factory are stopped 15 minutes' money if they are late from lunch—many of them have to go home because of the inadequate canteen facilities.

Meanwhile the Young Socialists have got down to business. They are recruiting hundreds of youth like the girls in this factory into the YS.

### EDITORIAL (continued from page 4)

Socialist branches. In one South Wales YS branch, a well-known Pabloite supporter was able from memory to quote from the text of this letter without having one in his possession.

But why these desperate measures? There is today no real political difference between the Pabloites, the state capitalists and the right wing. They have to resort to conspiracies because they know very well that the overwhelming majority of youth fight for the decisions decided at the Brighton conference.

We say to them—stop all this forged letter writing and the circularisation of false allegations about violence, etc.—come out into the open and present your political policies for youth, as against those of Keep Left. The Young Socialists have already decided by majority vote that they support the policies of our paper.

## Young Socialists and apprentices on Newcastle anti-Tory march

SHOUTING 'Tories out!' 'Unemployment out!' 'Police violence out!', a lively column of young workers marched through Newcastle on Saturday, August 29.

The demonstration was called by Young Socialists and apprentices. Many of the demonstrators carried slogans calling for: 'Man's pay—No retreat Wilson'; 'YS condemns police brutality'.

There were reported threats from the police before the march began and one policeman was heard to have said: 'No

personal abuse or I'll fill your face in' when marchers shouted against police brutality.

The previous night the Young Socialists had called a meeting to discuss the Newcastle march and the demonstration on September 27. When they arrived at the public house where they had booked a room, the landlord informed them that owing to instructions from the police, the booking was cancelled.

Eighty young people attended a meeting after the demonstration where they discussed plans for September 27.

## STOP PRESS: MANCHESTER APPRENTICES

One thousand five hundred Manchester apprentices staged a one-day token strike on Monday, September 7 in support of their demands for higher wages and shorter hours.

At a meeting attended by 300 apprentices representing lads from 10 factories, chairman of the Manchester Direct Action Committee, Mike Hughes, said that the strike had not had sufficient support and that the apprentices should unite their fight with the Young Socialists in a fight against the Tories.

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