

3,000 YOUTH IN ANTI- TORY RALLY

For a full report
see pages 4 & 5

'Next step — a YS National Conference'

THE anti-Tory demonstration on September 27 at which 3,000 young people demonstrated in a serious and disciplined manner for socialist policies can only give us absolute confidence that the YS will become a mass socialist youth movement. The immediate question is where do we go from September 27?

There is one point that I would like to make perfectly clear. In calling for the demonstration on September 27 the National Committee was acting in what it considered to be the best interests of the movement.

At the Brighton conference delegates from Young Socialists branches all over the country agreed on a whole range of policies which were fully discussed and voted on in a thoroughly democratic manner. A National Committee was elected to lead a fight for these policies.

We could not have been given a clearer mandate. Our responsibility was one of initiating, both locally and nationally, campaigns to build the YS on the policies of nationalization of the major industries, opposition to all forms of wage restraint, better wages, shorter hours and improved training schemes for young workers and apprentices, opposition to the call-up and the Tory Immigration Act and a socialist foreign policy of withdrawal from NATO and the withdrawal of all

foreign troops from abroad.

These policies passed at Brighton were the culmination of four years' work in the Young Socialists. If the present National Committee had failed to campaign for them it would have represented a complete abdication of leadership and responsibility. There would have been no point in continuing with the youth movement as a national organisation. It is this that we have to remember in considering the next stage of the movement.

The National Committee took the step of issuing the Manifesto 'Forward With the Young Socialists' which was in complete accordance with the Brighton policy decisions. We must now prepare the entire movement for a national conference in January. At this conference we would propose to put forward for discussion and amendment the document 'Forward With the Young Socialists'. We would also make our own actions accountable to the conference and proceed at the conference to the election of officials for 1965.

This is the next stage in the building of the YS—to continue the fight for the Brighton policies as a responsible section of the labour movement in Britain, and to refuse to tolerate any expulsions or closures.

Chairman YS
says Dave Ashby,
National Committee



Hundreds of youth hit out at police in Belfast riots

By David Beech

THROUGHOUT the world youth have been involved in disturbances and riots recently—mostly against the police. These disturbances, which occur in depressed and slum areas, are an expression of immense frustration felt by people affected by the worst features of capitalism in crisis.

Early this month in Belfast crowds clashed with armed police. But, unlike the events in American cities, these were religious and not racial disturbances.

Since the Industrial Revolution and the formation of working class organisations, the antagonisms between the Roman Catholics and Protestants in Ireland have been played upon by the bosses to prevent any kind of unity between the workers.

ANTAGONISMS

Once again, as the General Election approaches and workers in general begin to look towards a Labour government which they hope will solve the high unemployment, bad housing problems and the emigration question, the traditional antagonisms are aggravated by a vicar and the Republican Party.

The Republicans, whose party has become the political wing of the Irish Republican Army—which is illegal in Northern Ireland—decided to display the white, orange and green flag of the Irish Republic in its Divis Street headquarters.

The vicar, extreme Protestant, the Rev. Ian Paisley, held a 1,000-strong meeting and decided to demonstrate against the showing of the flag.

Police were called in and stopped the march, but there were fights in Divis Street.

The crowd soon dispersed, only to return for three nights running when thousands of youth and adult workers clashed with hundreds of police who skilfully wielded their truncheons. Windows were broken, and bottles, bricks and slates from the roofs were hurled at the police, some of whom turned up in armoured cars. One such car was treated to a 'Molotov cocktail' and was left burning.

TRUNCHEONS

The scenes were reminiscent of those in New York's Harlem only a month before with truncheons crashing down on prone workers.

Having helped to stir up the riots, both Paisley and the Republican Party then attacked the workers involved.

A Republican Party spokesman said that rioters would be considered enemies of the Party, and Paisley, ever-ready to add to the foment was quoted in the 'Irish Times' as saying that the riots had indicated the 'real character' of Roman Catholics in the community.

As reported regularly in the columns of this paper, the Young Socialists are a growing force in Northern Ireland.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

No other section of the labour movement in Northern Ireland has shown itself to be able to lead the militancy produced by the frustration of workers, young and old.

It is up to the Young Socialists to expose the splitting tactics of the dog-collared gentlemen and the futility of the Republican cause—those Republicans standing for Parliament say they would not take their seats in Westminster even if they were elected.

Fighting for a mass YS organisation around socialist policies is the only way to rid Ireland of the problems at present facing it.

U.S. Young Socialists close paper

AT a time when a newspaper can become a bridge between socialist youth and Negro and white workers, the American Young Socialist Alliance has decided to close down its monthly journal and begin a new magazine—to be published five times a year.

This retrograde step is closely connected with a crisis in the YSA and the Socialist Workers' Party, with which the YSA has political relations—seven out of nine of the original YSA editorial board have either left politics or been expelled by the YSA or SWP.

Neither of these organisations has attempted to pose a socialist answer to the innumerable problems facing coloured and white workers in this so-called affluent country.

This refusal to build a mass organisation—as the British Young Socialists are doing—is a serious political retreat. The closure of the YSA paper is more—it is a betrayal of American workers.

DATELINE FARNWORTH + DATELINE FARNWORTH + DATELINE FARNWORTH

Industrial Farnworth: Youth forced into sweat shop factories



FARNWORTH is typical of the smaller industrial towns of Lancashire—the larger being comparable with Bolton and the city of Manchester. And it is precisely these two, between which Farnworth is sandwiched.

The industries in Farnworth are both numerous and varied in nature, from light engineering and mining to the bakeries of a local bread firm, and cotton and hosiery.

There exists in and around Farnworth many 'sweatshop' factories and industries for the boys and girls leaving school to fall victim to, especially as there are very few decent jobs around. Thus, the lack of reasonable jobs and apprenticeships forces the youth of this town to accept the rough and rag-end jobs.

It would become glaringly obvious to a stranger in Farnworth that large numbers of youth, through lack of attractive facilities, hang around the streets and in the coffee bars rather than face the dullness and discipline of the town's few youth clubs.

Strong potential

One cinema has to suffice for the whole of the inhabitants of Farnworth (a population of 27,000)—when it is possible to afford the price of a seat.

After the young lads and girls have been relieved of the last of their spending money and only the street corners offer any excitement at all, the great friends (?) of youth, the police are ready to move them on and to intimidate them.

In this setting of 'sweatshops' around Farnworth, where few have good toilet and washing facilities and many have atrocious conditions, there exists a strong potential for the building of a large and militant Young Socialists branch.

To organise the youth into trade unions and wage struggles in these factories for trade union recognition and better facilities, would be one of its tasks. But the right wing Labour Party

by a Farnworth Young Socialist

agent and his cronies see things differently.

Recently, they barred the Young Socialists from their traditional meeting place in the Labour Party rooms and were successful in having their actions endorsed by a local Labour Party meeting by presenting the spectre of enormous damage done by some of the YS members.

Interesting fact

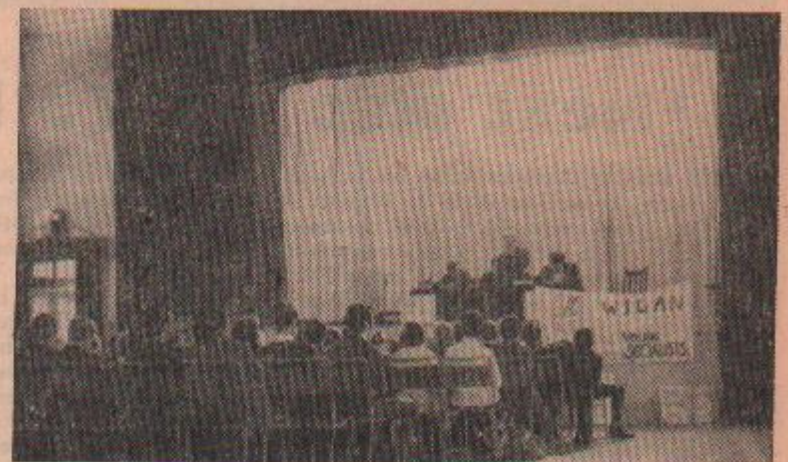
Young Socialists do not condone damage done to meeting rooms, and whatever was done, it was certainly not serious.

But serious or not the Labour officials were determined to make the Young Socialists appear irresponsible to the rest of the adult party.

Offers are being made to the adult party to repair the damage and undertakings that there will be no future recurrences have been given. An interesting fact was noticeable though; no mention was made of the existing state of the building which is shocking.

The main switch for the lighting is away from the wall and blue flashes come from it whenever it is switched on. The toilets can be smelt from the street below. All these are conditions which existed before the arrival of the youth.

It is generally felt that



Following a recent march (seen above) of Farnworth and other Lancashire Young Socialists a meeting was held at which Mike Farley, National Committee member for the North-west spoke.

the damage has been used as an excuse to deliver a political blow at the Young Socialists and against the socialist policies they believe in and fight for within the labour movement. This falls in line with attacks nationally against the Young Socialists movement by the right wing and Transport House.

Farnworth YS refuse to be disbanded and isolated from the working class and labour movement by the right wing!

They are continuing to meet regularly, although under difficult conditions, and are planning to recruit more young people to the Young Socialists and the Labour Party, to take the fight for socialist policies and socialist answers to the problems facing the working class into the Labour Party and trade unions.

Massive movement

The plans are to build the 60-strong membership into a massive youth movement and to campaign against Rachman-type landlords, against police violence, wage restraint, racialism, against conscription and the H-bomb, against the Tories and the witch-hunt of the YS.

Recently, a large demonstration was held in Farnworth, involving Young Socialists from all over the north-west against the Tories and the closure of Young Socialists branches up and down the country. This was followed by a meeting with many speakers and a dance.

Apprentice Special



ON Monday, September 7, 2,000 engineering apprentices in the Manchester area staged a one-day token strike as part of their campaign to establish improved working conditions.

Apprentices from Mather and Platts, ICT Gorton, Beyer Peacocks, English Steel, Hawker Siddeley at Woodford, Churchills Tools, Kearn, Tildmans, Richards Electrical, AEI Openshaw, and Hawker Siddeley at Broughton joined the walk-out after a call from the Manchester Engineering Apprentices Direct Action Committee.

The apprentices are demanding a 35-hour week, 60 per cent of the skilled rate at 15, 90 per cent of the skilled rate at 20 and four weeks' annual paid holiday.

Conference decisions

These demands are the decisions of the Youth Conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union held in Bournemouth early this year—the Manchester Direct Action Committee was formed after this conference.

Previously trade union officials have reported a 'failure to agree' after they have approached the employers with the apprentices' demands, but the Direct Action Committee hopes to impress all adult workers and trade union leaders to make a real fight to win these conditions NOW.

'WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO REMAIN THE SHUTTLECOCK TO BE BATTED TO AND FRO BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS.'

'We have been, for too long, the Cinderellas of industry, used as cheap labour, tea boys and machine minders.'

Several well-attended meetings of the Direct Action Committee have been held where apprentices from many factories have discussed and decided to support these plans.

Visits have also been made to other areas in the British Isles and similar committees are being set up.

The Manchester Direct Action Committee has now fixed

Manchester Apprentices' Committee calls national conference

By Mike Hughes Chairman, Direct Action Committee

Saturday, October 31, as the date for a national conference in Manchester of all apprentices where a National Committee will be elected and decisions taken for the next steps to pursue our claims.

Apprentices should ignore statements that have been reported in the newspapers and on the television that we have called a strike for November 2.

NO SUCH DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY OUR COMMITTEE.

We feel that any decision of such importance must be the responsibility of apprentices nationally and that is why we have called the conference on October 31.

A fully representative meeting of apprentices is required where account can be taken of the feelings and organisational preparations which have been made in each area.

The strike call for November 2 has been made by a bogus committee, set up by disgruntled apprentices, and others, who were removed from our committee two weeks ago.

These elements, members of the Communist Party and supporters of the Pabloite group, refused to accept democratic decisions which we had taken and went ahead in organising a

so-called national meeting in Manchester on September 27.

This meeting, for which no work was done, and which was advertised only in a small paragraph in the 'Daily Worker' was totally unrepresentative of apprentices. Only a handful of apprentices, in fact, attended.

It was a typical attempt to impose a carefully selected 'committee' upon the apprentices to ensure the control of the CP and their supporters. Many such 'committees' have appeared in the past, most of them ending in shady and disastrous circumstances.

The Manchester Direct Action Committee did not support the pretentious meeting held on September 27. We had already declared our support for the rally of youth in London, organised by the Young Socialists National Committee.

Premature

We know that many apprentices in Manchester are eager to take strike action immediately and call for national support. But to do so without proper preparation would be premature and irresponsible.

It may be a simple thing to call a strike but it is a much more difficult thing to win one. A strike for a strike's sake is not clever. We are not inter-

ested in stunts.

This was the tragedy of the last apprentices strike which, because of lack of cohesion and national organisation, left many apprentices bewildered at decisions. Splits and divisions resulted and many cases of victimisation.

Two of the people associated with the bogus committee, Joe Bush and David Harrison were removed from our Committee after it had been reported that they had travelled to Sheffield without our authority and attacked and disrupted appren-

tices' attempts there to form a Direct Action Committee.

They were not prepared to organise a representative meeting and carry out decisions which apprentices took at such a meeting.

We are receiving the support of the vast majority of apprentices in Manchester, as well as apprentices in Wigan, Chorley, Leeds, Sheffield, and supporters are working in Birkenhead, Liverpool and other areas throughout the country.

All apprentices are invited to elect factory delegates and observers to attend the national conference on October 31.

Those requiring information and details should write to Mike Hughes, c/o 73 Lower Seedley Road, Salford, 6.



Apprentices are forming themselves into Action Committees all over the British Isles. Young Belfast workers were among many apprentices to join the YS September 27 rally.

TO ALL APPRENTICES

Send a delegate from your factory to the National Conference of Apprentices

The
Milton Hall

224, Deansgate, Manchester

on October 31st

at 5 p.m.

Organised by the Manchester Direct Action Committee. For further information please write to Mike Hughes, c/o 73 Lower Seedley Road, Salford, 6

KEEP LEFT

THE PAPER FOR SOCIALIST YOUTH

21 Fauce Street, London, S.E.17

WHO WANTS TO BE SAVED?

PEOPLE like Gavin Kennedy are constantly warning Keep Left against what they call a 'factional attitude'. In their 'holier than thou' crusade they enjoy the support of some extremely dubious people who constantly attack our paper in a most vicious and underhanded way. For example, the 'Save the Young Socialists' meeting was advertised by the 'Daily Worker' and 'Tribune' who refused to advertise the Rally called by the majority of the National Committee of the Young Socialists.

Was this the result of a misunderstanding? On the contrary. The Stalinists and fake lefts lined up together because they support the aims behind the so-called 'Save the Young Socialists' campaign. Take a good look at the politics of the people who were prominent on the platform at that meeting. They consisted of two main groups, the supporters of 'Young Guard' and those who now see fit to produce a new paper called 'The Militant'. Previously, they were all behind 'Young Guard'.

An unsigned article in the October issue of 'Young Guard' describes the September 27 Rally as follows:

'By and large the speeches were unimpressive (perhaps excepting John Robertson). What was impressive, however, was the organisation that had obviously gone into arranging the demonstration. A lot of money must have been spent to bring many people from Scotland, Northern Ireland, the North-east and the Midlands, and providing them with food in London, but it was noticeable that there was a marked difference in attitude to the Rally between the marshals and many of the marchers. A conversation with one young Scottish lad revealed this clearly. When he was asked what Y.S. branch he was from he said he had never attended a Y.S. meeting but that someone had approached him and promised a free trip to London and free food if he would demonstrate. When asked who the someone was, he pointed to an individual carrying a poster and said "That silly c—t over there". He said that unless he continued to demonstrate he wouldn't be able to get home as he hadn't been told where the Scottish-bound coaches were leaving from.'

Do you remember how the capitalist Sunday newspapers used to attack the great CND demonstrations from Aldermaston? On the Easter Sunday evenings, hordes of reporters used to crawl around the town of Reading, into the schools and cafes, eavesdropping into the conversation of young people on the march. And the things they claimed to find out were nobody's business, **only they never named any names or provided details to enable their stories to be checked.** It was the usual type of filthy smearing so typical of the Fleet Street press and their attacks on the Left.

What has appeared in 'Young Guard' is no different. The person who reports in 'Young Guard' is a liar and a witch-hunter. There was no free food for any demonstrators and the transport was paid for by the Young Socialists themselves out of collections taken at the docks, pits, factories and building sites. The author carefully refrains from naming the 'young Scots lad'.

But this is not factionalism, says Gavin Kennedy, who enjoys a big boost from, we suspect, the anonymous author in an article on the same page as this rotten report was presented. How broad-minded dear Gavin really is, especially when it comes to dealing with smears against Keep Left.

In Liverpool Councillor Paddy Wall is a well-known supporter of 'The Militant'. At a Liverpool Trades Council and Labour Party meeting held on September 17 a resolution from Edge Hill Constituency Labour Party was placed on the agenda which stated:

'That this C.L.P. resents the recent high-handed attitude of the N.E.C. towards the Young Socialists and calls on the Liverpool T.C. and L.P. to declare its support for the Young Socialists Movement.'

The Executive Committee of the Trades Council rejected this resolution and proposed one which concluded:

'This T.C. and L.P. affirms its belief in the future of the Y.S. and its determination to resist any reintroduction of the restrictions which have proved a complete failure in the past, or any attempt to form a separate socialist youth organisation outside the Labour Party.'

Cllr. P. Wall, with the full support of the right wing and fake lefts, proposed this resolution and said:

'I am opposed to the Edge Hill resolution. It is not just the simple resolution it is made out to be by Mike Farley, it has deeper implications. I am a political animal and as such I am not prepared to give the Young Socialists a blank cheque for all their activities, which is what this seemingly simple resolution wants us to do.'

He then launched an attack on the September 27 demonstration calling it irresponsible and saying that the actions of the majority of the National Committee were sectarian and gave the right wing the excuse to close down the Young Socialists after the election. He said that the actions of the majority of the National Committee were the actions of someone preparing to break from the Labour

(Continued on back page)

September 27—a great day

3,000 YOUTH

By Kee

LONDON saw the most dynamic demonstration of socialist youth in the history of the British labour movement when 3,000 young people marched through the streets of the West End and city centre on September 27, against Toryism.

On this, the most political rally ever to be held by the 4-year-old Young Socialists movement, youth from all parts of the country proudly marched with banners and posters behind the portraits of the founders of international socialism—Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

During the weeks before the demonstration, Young Socialists up and down the country had been busy planning and campaigning outside factories, coffee bars, dance halls and bowling alleys, in an all-out effort to recruit into the Young Socialists, all those young people who helped to make September 27 such a memorable day for the labour movement.

Only a couple of months before the rally, the National Committee of the Young Socialists published a Manifesto 'Forward With the Young Socialists' in which a call was made to the whole of the youth in Britain—'All out on September 27'.

The response to this call was magnificent!

Starting at Hyde Park the long procession of Young Socialists contingents, apprentices, Young Communists and students began their march along Oxford Street up to Bond Street.

STRENGTH

At the front walked six members of the National Committee of the Young Socialists: Dave Ashby chairman, Sheila Torrance vice-chairman, Barry Evans, Mike Farley, and Wal Hobson. (Peter MacCullum of Wales was not able to be present because of illness.)

Although, at first, it looked as



Demonstrators with their posters.

if the impact of the march would be diminished by the police, who tried to split it up into small sections, by the time the 3,000 reached Bond Street the whole strength of the demonstration could be clearly seen.

Shouting their slogans; 'Out with the Tories', 'No police violence', 'No conscription', and 'Labour must nationalize', the youth enthusiastically marched through Piccadilly Circus, and into Trafalgar Square.

There, as Keep Left's publisher, Dave Longley, welcomed each contingent into the square, the huge crowd swelled to at least 4,000. Those myopic press men who could only find 1,500 must have got tired of counting.

As young people from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the North-east, North-west, Midlands, and London and the south stood and listened, Dave Ashby, chairman of the National Committee and member from the North-east explained why the rally had been called.

'The working class is sick of Toryism. That is why we have called this rally.'

There was no leadership forthcoming from Wilson and his friends, he added, and it was up to the Young Socialists to build up an alternative leadership for the working class.

The National Committee had always fought for the socialist policies passed at the Brighton conference, held earlier this. It had been attacked by Transport House for doing so, and eventually the members of the NC had been forced to call their own meeting and issue the Manifesto.

Amid applause Dave Ashby stated that the National Committee of Young Socialists would never accept any expulsions or suspensions.

Following him onto the plinth was Sheila Torrance from London and Middlesex who made a call to the whole of the Labour movement to join the Young Socialists in the fight for socialism.

On the question of the fakers



Marchers mass at Trafalgar march to S

around the centrist paper 'Tribune', who had refused to advertise the rally in their paper she said: 'There is no unity with such people, only unity between the Young Socialists and adult workers.'

From the North-west, Mike Farley explained that Young Socialists in his area had carried on an unceasing fight against the misery of unemployment which was increasing as a result of automation.

OPEN

Young Socialists had been attacked for conducting campaigns against these things, but Farley added: 'If Young Socialist branches are closed down we shall open them again.'

Jackie Vance, one of the 20 strong Belfast contingent of Young Socialists, who had flown to the demonstration described the terrible condition the workers in Northern Ireland lived in. He spoke of the right-wing witch-hunt to prevent the YS from recruiting youth.

The only prospective Labour Party Parliamentary candidate to come out in

for the Young Socialists

ANTI-TORY RALLY



Editor Aileen Jennings speaks at K.L. meeting. Also on platform are, l. to r.: Dave Ashby, Dave Longley, John Robertson and Mike Hughes.

Left reporters



Square before setting off on a second Pancras Town Hall.

full support for the policies of the Young Socialists, Bill Dow of South Paddington, appealed for help from the youth in his constituency to bring a Labour victory.

There had been a long fight against rent racketeers in his area, he added. But the tenants were not just fighting the landlords and their thugs, they were fighting the Tory system as well.

In conclusion Barry Evans from the East Midlands told the demonstrators that the rally had been carried through in the traditions of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Then came the smack in the eye for all those centrists and the right wing who say that the youth now being recruited into the Young Socialists are hooligans not interested in socialist politics.

Although obviously very tired from long bus journeys—some of them lasting well over 12 hours—every single young person joined the second march to the St. Pancras Town Hall where a Keep Left meeting was held.

For the Young Socialists this was the proudest moment. This action showed that the youth can be organised politically into a strong socialist force and that they will fight to become the leadership of the working class of Britain.

This time at the head of the procession six Young Socialists marched with Keep Left sashes in front of the Keep Left banner which read: 'Banned by Wilson but read by 10,000 Young Socialists.'

Did not this prove that all the fighting against the ban on Keep Left was really the only way to build the Labour youth movement?

For those members of the 'Save the Young Socialists' movement who had the grand total of 200 at a meeting the week before, does not this prove that crawling on ones knees before the right wing witch-hunters of Transport House only leads to defeat and demoralisation.

KEEP LEFT MEETING

At St. Pancras hundreds of youth poured into the Town Hall to the Keep Left meeting while others listened to speakers at an overflow, outdoor meeting.

Opening the meeting John Robertson, ex-chairman of the YS National Committee introduced Dave Longley, Keep Left's publisher, who told the audience of the experiences of youth who joined the Young Communist League.

'They joined the YCL to fight against the bosses, but found that the Communist Party leadership did not believe that the working class could do this—they say it is the role of the middle class.

'But we maintain that it is only the working class that can do this, and for that we have been expelled.'

Many YCLers had turned to the Young Socialists because it was the only organisation fighting for its socialist policies, he said.

PROUD

Keep Left's editor, Aileen Jennings, said that it was a very proud moment for Keep Left and an answer to all those who said that the paper would have to close down because of the witch-hunt, when all 3,000 of the Young Socialists on the march left Trafalgar Square to march to the St. Pancras Town Hall.

'When the League of Youth was closed down in 1955 it was Keep Left that

played the most important role in keeping alive the youth sections attached to the various Labour parties. In fact it was only through this paper that the youth sections nationally were able to maintain any contact at all.'

Only a few months after the Young Socialists was formed in 1960 Keep Left was asked to close down by Transport House.

But Keep Left refused to bow down to the officials of the Labour Party. It held a conference in Manchester which was attended by Young Socialists from all over the country.

IMPORTANT

Aileen Jennings stated that at each conference of the Young Socialists, Keep Left had played an important role right up until the Brighton conference this year, when every policy put forward by Keep Left had been supported.

'Young Socialists can gain great inspiration from the fight that Keep Left has put up over the years. This paper has shown that the only way to build a socialist youth movement is to fight the witch-hunt, not crawl before Transport House as those around 'Young Guard' and 'Save the Young Socialists' are doing at the moment.

'Keep Left has always appealed to the youth because it has dealt with their problems such as unemployment, dead-end jobs, low wages and the fight of the apprentices,' she added.

'We have shown that the Labour bureaucrats can never gag either the Young

Socialists or Keep Left. This is proved by your presence here today and the fact that this paper is read by 10,000 Young Socialists.

'Keep Left has always been the paper of the socialist youth now it will be the paper of the Young Socialists, helping to fight to build a mass movement.

'The key to the future is to oppose the Labour bureaucracy and show contempt for their witch-hunts. We will have new writers, more people will be able to sell papers and we shall have an open editorial board.'

Dave Ashby told the audience that the Young Socialists would be built in daily struggle against the right wing and those who apologise for the right wing. The future of socialism in Britain lay in the hands of the youth who had a responsibility to carry out their policies as Wilson and Brown were incapable of fighting the Tories.

Mike Hughes, chairman of the Manchester Apprentices Direct Action Committee spoke of the tremendous difficulty that youth in his area were experiencing in trying to find jobs.

CHEAP

There were few apprenticeships, and even those lucky enough to be indentured were used as cheap labour—receiving the minimum training to do jobs satisfactorily in the eyes of the bosses.

Some employers were now only offering apprenticeships to boys with General Certificates of Education. But still the wages and conditions are very low.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union apprentices had called on their union to go to

the bosses to improve conditions in which 15-year-old boys receive £2 a week—most of which goes on bus fares to get them to work and feed them.

There has been no response from the union leaders, so the apprentices have begun to form their own committees.

'We have got to build up a national organisation. We have got to work with the Young Socialists and the Young Socialists will help us,' Hughes said.

'It is the Young Socialists who give us national contact. Engineers in the Young Socialists and those who are in contact around us now are building a national organisation. Strike action will be taken and it will be national,' he concluded.

STRIKES

Sheila Torrance said that many workers would resort to strikes in an attempt to raise their standard of living. 'But the Labour leaders will try to stop these strikes from being successful, because they are with the bosses all the way down the line. These same people also hit at the youth. They bring in the police against us and attack us in every way possible,' she said.

At the same time people like those around 'Tribune' supported a 'Save the Young Socialists' meeting which could only draw 200 people.

'We have demonstrated with 3,000. This is something they could never do because their policies are not working-class policies. Their policies are the same as the Labour leaders and they are just a left cover for the right-wing Labour leaders.'

She said that the YS supported the struggles of older workers like the postmen and dockers.

The YS, she added, must begin to build itself into a mass organisation—'we have got the basis in the 3,000 here today'—which would support Keep Left and help increase its sales.

Other speakers from the floor told how they were attempting to build their YS branches and turn towards young trade unionists and how the right wing of the Labour Party had attempted to intervene.

The lively meeting ended late in the evening. Still the youth remained disciplined, as they went to their coaches to return to their homes all over the country, giving the scores of police outside the meeting no chance to step in and cause trouble.



Young Socialists carry the portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Apprentice Special

North-east (continued)

Taylor-Pallister apprentices fight against victimisation

THIRTY apprentices of Taylor and Pallister, of Dunston, near Gateshead, won a strike in September when they stopped work because Robert Rowell, a young apprentice, was not allowed to clock in for work because of his long hair style.

When there were complaints about his hair being dangerous, Robert brought himself a cap. But the management insisted he wear a hair net, so the apprentices stopped work.

They appointed four to negotiate with the management and after a strike the employers agreed that Robert could wear a cap and the apprentices were paid for the time they had lost by the walk-out.

No backing

The apprentices had no union backing. In fact, none of them are in the union. Such a position shows the lack of concern the union leaders have for the youth.

Older union members should rally to help apprentices, not hold them back.

When a Keep Left reporter questioned some of the apprentices at Taylor Pallisters after the strike, these young workers wanted to come forward but it was the older workers who stepped in saying:

'You'll lose your job,' 'Don't give your name,' 'Why fight?' 'All apprentices have got low wages and poor conditions.'

And apprentices will continue to have low wages and bad conditions if they do not fight to organise.

Taylor Pallister apprentices stopped the victimisation of Robert Rowell by sticking together. Apprentices everywhere can win if they unite.

Tyneside apprentices should join the Apprentices Direct Action Committee to fight for higher pay and the 35-hour week.

Large force

Vickers-Armstrong Elswick works has one of the largest apprentice forces on Tyneside, amounting to approximately 500.

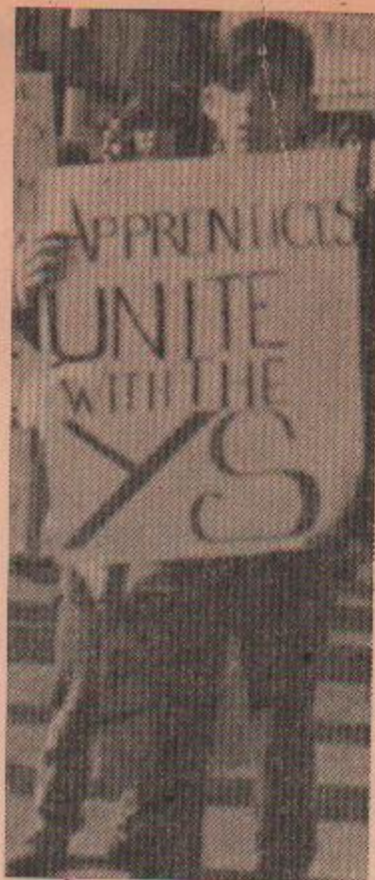
On joining Vickers, they spend a year in the 'Apprentice Training School', after which they are allocated to various departments of the factory.

Here, say the apprentices, the majority are required to do work which skilled men refuse, and without which the factory would come to a standstill.

Apprentices told us that in the training school they are discouraged from joining the union.

'Why do the unions agree that we shouldn't be allowed to take part in industrial disputes?' one of them asked. 'This separates the apprentices from the unions.' Apprentices complain that they get no allowance for essentials, such as tools, overalls, safety boots, books, etc.

The Tyneside Apprentices Action Committee has held meetings of Vickers apprentices at dinner times explaining the only way to better apprentices conditions is by a united effort of all apprentices.



Leeds

United support for DAC

THE Leeds Direct Action Committee has been set up since the beginning of September and is already receiving a great deal of support from apprentices and some older workers in the area.

During lunch hours, the committee has held factory gate meetings, attended by 30 to 40 workers, who were told about the decision on pay passed by the apprentices at the annual conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union Junior Workers' Committee.

Speakers pointed out that many apprentices are put on to full production at the age of 16. This means that their training is restricted.

With many apprentices indentured for five years, this kind of practice provides the employers with a ready pool of cheap labour.

At one factory the adult workers are giving the com-

mittee full support by contributing money to the funds. This kind of unity between both young and older workers is important if the apprentices are to win their demands.

Equally important is the unity between workers in different trades, the Leeds Direct Action Committee is made up of Boilermakers, AEU men, ETU members and the employees of Blakeys.

Leeds apprentices are determined to help in building up a national movement of young workers, which is prepared to wage big struggles for higher pay and shorter hours.

It is significant that the Leeds Committee decided to give its support to the Young Socialists Rally on September 27. Marching behind their banner through London, the Leeds apprentices showed their solidarity with members of the Labour youth movement.

Wales

Three-shift system at steelworks

APPRENTICES working at Guest Keen's Iron and Steel works in Cardiff were told by the management recently that young workers in their fourth and fifth year of apprenticeship would have to work the 'Continental' three-shift system.

This means that, like most adult steelworkers, they will be working two mornings, two afternoons and two nights, followed by two days off.

This ruins any social life—no worker on the 'Continental' shift system knows a normal week-end.

However, this is more than an attack on the apprentices' social life. The bosses have cynically declared that they are improving training by giving

apprentices more experience of work in the factory, but they have really shown that they just want to use apprentices as cheap labour.

Guest Keen's apprentices do not believe that they will be any better trained by working three shifts.

It is already rumoured that the management wants fourth and fifth year apprentices to work entirely by themselves. This means that an apprentice fitter will be doing a full adult workers job—on apprentices pay.

Trade union officials have done nothing to fight for the apprentices. As usual they have 'carried on negotiations with the bosses and at the same time persuaded apprentices to give

Oxford

Lucy's apprentices strike after sack threat

APPRENTICES in Oxford work mainly in the building industry and in small engineering sweatshops, where few of them are organised in unions. For those who are lucky enough to get apprenticeships in the motor industry, conditions are reasonably good, but many apprentices in other jobs have to take a second job to earn even enough money for cigarettes and spending money.

Until very recently no attempt was made to help apprentices to organise. The Amalgamated Engineering Union Junior Workers' Committee has rarely had more than half a dozen people attend its meetings, and, as in other places, has done little more than train a few young workers for the union bureaucracy, while ignoring the needs of the mass of engineering apprentices.

Joined picket

But recently, after the firm's warning that a militant apprentice would be sacked as soon as he came out of his time, apprentices at Lucy's, a small engineering firm, called a meeting at which a ban on Saturday morning working was instituted.

Young workers, and students from Oxford Young Socialists branch joined the apprentices in a picket to enforce the ban on Saturday working, which was observed by 72 of the 76 apprentices.

Lucy's apprentices have also called for the setting-up of a direct action committee, and this is supported by the Oxford YS, who intend to support the picket as long as the overtime ban is maintained.

There are already a number of apprentices in the YS branch, and the YS will continue to fight to recruit and to strengthen the apprentices' movement in Oxford.

Leicester

YS and apprentices unite for better conditions

LEICESTERSHIRE Federation of Young Socialists has been helping apprentices in Leicester to organise the fight for their demands passed at the Amalgamated Engineering Union Youth Conference.

This started about three weeks ago when Young Socialists gave out leaflets outside ten engineering works, inviting apprentices to a meeting.

This immediately provoked reactions from both the employers and the local trade union and Labour Party bureaucrats.

Jim Cattermole, the Labour Party regional organiser, issued a statement to the press in which he said that there was no such organisation as the Leicestershire Federation of Young Socialists (the Federation was 'closed down', as reported in last month's Keep Left, but it is, in fact, more alive today than it has ever been).

He stated that even if such an organisation did exist, it would have neither the right to organise public activities nor to interfere in internal trade union affairs.

The AEU district secretary, Councillor S. A. Barston also told the local press that the demands would be dealt with in the usual constitutional manner. Presumably in the way the AEU has been doing since 1958, when they were first raised!

In this manner the Labour Party and trade union officials have been lining up with employers, who exploit apprentices, just as much in this reputedly rich city as do the employers in Manchester, Sunderland or anywhere else.

At one factory, the management are reported to have called their 70 apprentices into the canteen and told them not to go to the YS meeting and tried to brand the Young Socialists as troublemakers.

In spite of attempts to intimidate apprentices, by both employers and trade union officials, we hope soon to be in the position where Leicester apprentices can form their own Direct Action Committee and link up with the committees in other cities for an all-out fight against the engineering bosses for decent wages and conditions.

Young Socialists

YOUR editorial in the September issue refers to myself by name and implies that I support the actions of the right wing against Young Socialists. Nothing could be further from the truth and I trust you will allow me to correct this impression that you have given your readers.

The expulsion of John Robertson and Peter Clark, on the spurious reason that they sold Keep Left in the YS, must be condemned by all serious socialists. The disgraceful manoeuvre by the right wing against Dave Ashby by disbanding the branch is so cynical in its inspiration that only the most partisan supporters of the Right can fail to demand that he and the branch be readmitted unconditionally.

It is clear that the Right are de-functionalising the YS by running down Federations, Regions and branches in many areas. This must be opposed by the YS and every effort made to keep these centres of activity open, by, I suggest, real participation in the work to throw out the Tories at the Election.

The intervention of the police in branches is, of course, very serious. What is important in this is the fact that a situation arises in the YS that somebody considers it necessary to call the state in to intervene. Those responsible should be exposed in the Labour Party. We settle our differences inside the movement.

Lastly, I did not 'concentrate my fire against the September 27 Rally'—I thought it a good idea—I only questioned whether it was a Rally against the Tories or against the Labour leadership. I am prepared to support any campaign on the above points within the movement. Whose side does this put me on?

Gavin Kennedy,
East Lothian.

● In Kennedy's letter ('Tribune', August 28), he describes the leadership of the majority of the Young Socialists National Committee as follows:

'The control of the movement—not just formal control of the committee but control of an active minority—is not answerable to the youth movement itself. This is even worse than the bureaucratic control of Transport House—we can see what Reg Underhill and his colleagues are doing.'

'The September 27th demonstration must put those YS members that are still interested in the future of Labour's youth movement in a difficult position. ...'

'It seems to me that this sort of rally is the worse possible event of the year, unless it is directed at the Tories and factionalism is put in the background.'

And just in case the demonstration, as it did, called for an all-out fight against Toryism but criticised the witch-hunt by the right wing, Kennedy had this to say:

'Some of us who have been associated with the inspirers of the National Committee are well aware of what is going on and how certain aims are to be realised. To pose as the innocent victims of the right wing, with declarations of war on the Tories is not going to convince anybody but the naive.'

In view of all this, how can he call himself a supporter of the September 27 demonstration?—
The Editor.

YS branch attacked

YET another Young Socialists branch in Leeds has been the target of a vicious attack from the reactionary forces of the right wing. Several comrades who live in the south-east Leeds constituency (Miss Alice Bacon's seat) decided to build up their Young Socialist branch. A church hall was booked with the intention of holding a dance and recruiting working class youth into the Labour Party.

The church council of St. Mary's gave its consent for their hall to be used one night every week. Leaflets were given out and posters advertising the dance were stuck up. Then the reactionaries stepped in.

The night before the dance was due to be held, certain local Labour Party officials visited the parents of one YS member. He was out at the time, but the two visitors made veiled threats about the youth and his connection with the YS and so upset the parents that they were still in a distressed state when the YS member returned home several hours later.

Not content with this, the officials then contacted the church authorities who sent a letter informing the organisers of the YS dance that the hall would only be available for one night and never again after that. This was the result, they said, of 'certain information that reached us'.

Of course, every Young Socialist who reads this paper will know what that information was—South-east Leeds YS would not be a debating society or talking shop, but a working-class youth movement prepared to fight around the policies of Keep Left and the Young Socialists National Conference and also recruit more young workers into the Labour Party.

The Labour Party officials were later approached and asked to apologise for upsetting the parents of the youth. They refused to do so and added that they would do everything in their power to stop the dance, including sending the police to break it up.

Despite these attacks, the dance was a huge success and the foundation was laid for a strong Young Socialists branch.

The experience of this branch showed exactly where the Labour Party and the church stand in relation to working-class youth.

H. Hopkinson,
S.E. Leeds.

Survey on racialism

SMETHWICK Young Socialists carried out a week-end survey with the object of exposing the falsehood of Tory racist propaganda in the town.

Teams of young people went to 1,000 homes in Spon Lane, Soho, Sandwell and Victoria wards—localities which have been spotlighted in two years of intensive racist agitation by certain ultra-right-wing political groups.

This initiative was taken by the Young Socialists in response to a statement by Alderman Peter Griffiths, leader of the majority Tory group on the town council and prospective Tory candidate at the General election.

He said that there were 'parts of the town where people were afraid to leave their homes at

night' because of the large number of coloured immigrants.

That working-class youth should take the lead in countering racist activity here is a big step in the right direction.

The need for firm leadership from the labour movement, both at national and local levels, has allowed racist groups to inflame prejudices and fears until a highly explosive situation has been created.

No serious attempt has been made to explain the real causes of housing shortages, unemployment, overcrowded schools and hospital wards.

This has undoubtedly helped to create the basis of racist prejudice in the town.

In May this year Labour lost control of the town council to the Tories, and it is now being said that the seat of Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker, Labour MP, may be in danger at the forthcoming general election.

In Smethwick youth clubs, young workers have often been subjected to propaganda of a poisonous kind from so-called 'youth leaders'. Much of this has a decidedly fascist nature.

Young Socialists should not stop at countering racist propaganda in order to frustrate Tory hopes of an election victory.

They should follow up this survey with an all-out drive to recruit immigrant and white youth into the Young Socialists, and to unite with them in a campaign against any backward attitudes.

In March, when the full glare of national press and television publicity was turned on racist activity, the Labour Party leaders in the area declared that there were no youth immigrants in the local branch of the Young Socialists, but that they 'certainly would not be excluded if they wished to join'.

The Young Socialists should break out of this negative attitude of 'not excluding' immigrant boys and girls.

They should make a very positive effort to recruit them into the YS and fight against racism and for socialist policies.

A Birmingham
Young Socialist.

YS and the law

POLICE in the North-east continue to harry and intimidate the youth. There are clear indications that they are paying particular attention to Young Socialists.

The authorities do not want discontented youth to organise themselves politically.

Three members of the Young Socialists were standing on a corner recently before going off on a Keep Left sale. Two of them are, at the moment, waiting to go into court on a minor charge.

They were approached by two detectives who asked what they were doing and told them that if they sold papers it would be the worse for them in court.

Another Young Socialist member was standing joking with his mother outside his own front door one night. He began to sing 'Bless 'em all. Bless 'em all. The screws and the judges and all!'

A policeman took his name and address and he was hauled before the police station next

morning and warned not to be disrespectful to the law.

A.L.,
Wallsend.

A case of nostalgia

A NEW fly-over is being built in West Newcastle which will mean that the very old Scotswood Bridge will be pulled down.

Last month there was a television programme about these plans. Councillor Bob Brown, secretary-agent of Newcastle West Labour Party spoke about the old bridge.

He said he felt a great nostalgia (sense of loss) when he saw things closed down.

Newcastle West Young Socialists would like to know if he had the same sense of nostalgia when he closed down their branch the week before.

J Scott,
Newcastle.

YCL expulsion

COMRADE Rob Davies, a member of Newcastle Young Communist League, has been bureaucratically expelled by the YCL branch committee.

This marks the latest stage in a crisis in the branch, which has been punctuated by witch-hunts, falsifications and breaches of the constitution by certain members in the Newcastle YCL.

Over the past few months there has been a fight in this YCL for real socialist policies and for unity with the Young Socialists on the Brighton conference decisions and against the Tories.

In February Alec Douglas-Home, the Prime Minister, came to speak at a Newcastle Tory Rally. A mass demonstration was organised by Comrade Davies and some Young Socialist members. When the YCL branch committee were asked to co-operate in organising it, they reluctantly agreed, only after pressure from their own members.

During the meeting they hung back from the main crowd as if to look like innocent bystanders, when other YCLers were being pushed around by the police.

After a hard fight we built up our YCL branch with a number of young workers around and got an attendance of 30 to 40 at branch meetings.

This was done in face of increasing complaints from local Communist Party leaders about "hooligans" and "scruffy louts" at the meetings. We were told that they would not create a good impression canvassing for elections.

People who had not been at YCL meetings for months began to attend. They were people who were content to stagnate in the Communist Party and the branch was turned into a dead and empty discussion shop, with any discussion on how to build a real communist youth movement, stifled.

Comrades Wilkes, one of the National Committee members, even went as far as to say that the branch should no longer discuss political questions at its meetings.

It should become a sort of social club with an occasional political speaker. He said that youth were not really interested in politics very much and we would frighten them away if we went on about politics.

After that branch meeting

On September...
for the branch...
ing and found only one...
of the committee there—the...
secretary, who informed him...
that the branch committee had...
not been called as Comrade...
Davies, as far as the secretary...
was concerned, was not a...
member of the YCL.

After an argument a meeting...
was called for the following...
Monday.

When Rob Davies arrived at...
this meeting only three members...
of the committee were present.

He said this was all against...
the YCL constitution but he was...
told it didn't matter. As far as...
they were concerned he was to...
be expelled and it was not...
necessary to have a majority of...
the committee present.

Davies told them he did not...
accept their bureaucratic deci-...
sions and still considered him-...
self a member of the YCL.

The following night the com-...
mittee informed the YCL meeting...
that they had passed a resolution...
that factional discussion of YCL...
and Party policy must cease.

This means the banning of...
Marxism from discussion, which...
goes in line with the exclusion of...
those YCLers who have tried to...
fight for Marxism.

Newcastle YCLer.

School-leavers

BRITISH capitalism has no place...
for youth. Unlike the adult...
workers who have responsibilities...
like wives and kids, the youth...
have no ties and therefore will...
fight for better conditions and...
pay with less fear of being sacked.

The bosses know this and...
realise that young people today...
are more rebellious and have not...
yet been tamed.

There has been much talk...
recently about the boom. We all...
realise that this boom is an...
election gimmick artificially manu-...
factured by the Tories. But there...
are thousands of youth on Mer-...
seyside who have not seen any-...
thing of this boom. Over 150 of...
them joined in the demonstration...
in London organised by the...
Young Socialists on September 27.

Last year many thousands of...
school-leavers who could find no...
work stayed on at school. It was...
not surprising then when July...
came this year to see the ranks of...
the unemployed youth swelled...
by thousands of these lads and...
girls.

In an article published in the...
September edition of the 'Voice...
of Merseyside Industry', Mr. E. G...
Allen, Director of the Lancashire...
and Merseyside Industrial Devel-...
opment Association warns: 'Un-...
less there is considerable...
further improvement, there could...
be 9,000 juveniles without jobs in...
1964. He also says, 'Maintaining...
employment opportunities for a...
large population in a period of...
automation will provide thorny...
problems in the coming years.'

This is surely the convincing...
answer to the Communist Party...
and all those like the Liverpool...
City fathers who campaigned for...
the movement of industry to...
Merseyside a few years ago. The...
only people who are pleased are...
the big industrialists who gained...
big government subsidies, and...
took advantage of the unemploy-...
ment to create speeded-up jobs...
at cheap wages which gave...
higher productivity and profits.

The youth have gained nothing.

Liverpool Young Socialist

Apprentices Communists must fight North now for socialist policy at 25th Congress

THE speed with which the Young Communist League bureaucrats expelled a section of the London membership last May, following the Young Socialists Brighton conference, caused some puzzlement initially. The official explanation was that they wanted the 'disrupters' out before the 25th YCL Congress, but this is not being held until December! Subsequently, the reason for their innocent haste became known.

The Young Socialists demonstration of September 27 was the first stage of the tremendous struggle with the right wing Labour leaders who will soon be installed in office.

As Wilson strives to convince the industrialists and financiers how responsible he is and how faithfully he will serve them when elected, e.g., his promise not to nationalize ICI, etc., the Young Socialists vigorously assert that it is necessary to fight the Tories all the way down the line, on questions of police violence, unemployment, wages and hours, nationalization and conscription.

The sharp division between the YS and the Labour Party leadership is not paralleled by the YCL and the Communist Party, because the 'independence' of the Young Socialists is based upon the deep roots it has among working class youth whereas the YCL remains small and predominantly 'middle class'.

UNABLE TO CONVINCED

In this country the Communist Party was never able to get off the ground as a real force for socialism.

As a party it has remained small and generally ineffectual.

It has been possible, therefore, for the CP leaders to make the YCL leadership into its junior

partners with equally corrupt and treacherous policies.

This link-up is demonstrated quite clearly in the September-October 1964 'General Election Special' edition of 'Challenge' (the editor who is rumoured to have left 40 behind some time ago has wisely removed the old caption 'Provocative, hard-hitting, and Young').

Of 18 or so of its articles, eight are written by CP members, five by YCL members (two of which are written by the same person, and all of these 'YCLers' are approaching or have reached 30 years of age). The other five are unsigned.

Moreover, the CP is paying for this edition of 'Challenge' and the YCL is merely selling it, yet they still call it a YCL paper!

This domination of the YCL by the CP is exactly the same as the Labour Party bureaucrat's policy, in that they wish to keep young people down and make sure that they do not get the upper hand in any section of the organised working class.

ELECTION WORK

Hence the Labour Party bureaucracy and the YCL bureaucracy try to swamp their youth sections with unlimited election work, when the only real way to smash the Tories is to bring into active politics thousands of young people who had no previous contact with the political parties.

Because of its isolation, this is easier to do in the YCL than it is in the YS. Where it is involved with young workers, e.g., in the apprentices movement, the bureaucratic leaders quickly demonstrate their true role, when they say that the struggles of the apprentices are 'non-political' and there-

(Cont. from page 4)

EDITORIAL

Party and to form a separate youth movement.

There is little doubt about the role which Cllr. Wall is playing here. Cheered on by the right wing and the fake lefts he effectively split the left-wing vote and defeated the resolution from Edge Hill. All this talk about unity on the left is nonsense so far as he is concerned. He is for unity with the fake left and the right wing and not with the vast majority of Young Socialists.

When a Young Socialist delegate from a constituency Labour Party proposed another resolution:

'That this T.C. and L.P. opposes all expulsions of Y.S. members and closures of Y.S. branches carried out by the N.E.C.' The Chairman, Eric Heffer, well-known for his support of 'Young Guard', ruled it out of order and refused to let the delegate speak.

The more we examine this 'Save the Young Socialists' campaign, the more we can see that it is a conspiracy behind which, it is hoped to divert Young Socialists away from the real fight against the right wing and its witch-hunt into an attack on the National Committee of the Young Socialists and Keep Left.

Instead of 'Save the Young Socialists', they should call themselves 'Save the Young Centrists'—so that they may continue the dirty work for Transport House.

25th Congress

by an ex-YCLer

fore should have nothing to do with the YS.

The CP/YCL bureaucracy, having diverted their organisation from leading the working class in struggle against the Tories into a feeble 'pressure-group', have, in the present situation, logically extended this development and have made 10 minutes' TV time for a Communist spokesman their big campaign issue.

Thus, in a situation where everyone else is concerned with the problems of the impending Labour government, the YCL is roped into the banal farce of pretending that a 10-minute chat by John Gollan on the TV would cause a landslide towards 'Communist' policies.

YOUTH BRIGADES

Being aware of the absurdity of this contention when it is set against the real issues of the election, the YCL bureaucracy has attempted to supplement it by organising the YCL branches into 'Youth Brigades' centred around the 36 Communist candidates, who have been given an odd assortment of reformist issues to campaign about: canvassing Y-voters, organising petitions for 'Youth Centres' (they see these as solutions to the problems of youth!) and 'Challenge' sales besides, of course, canvassing for TV time and doing the electoral donkey work—envelope sticking, etc.

The reason for the rapidity of the expulsions now becomes clear.

It was very necessary for the bureaucracy to eject the vocal critics from the YCL because the ridiculous campaign programme for the election about to be introduced would have exposed them to scathing attacks.

How can any serious-minded YCLer deny now that the YCL is isolated from the working class? And, remembering the size of the September 27 demonstration, how can any YCLer now believe that it is the left wing of the YS that is sectarian and not the YCL?

BIGGER CRISIS

It is quite obvious that official YCL policy is determined by interests which directly contradict those of the working class. There wasn't one working class youth on the CP/YCL demonstration of September 15 for TV time for the Communists, whereas there were 3,000 on the YS demonstration of

September 27.

By expelling the critics now, and making the rest of the active YCLers work for the elections (it must be noted though that despite the fact that YCL membership has passed the 5,000 mark, sleeping membership has never been higher) it is building up another and a bigger crisis for after the election.

POWER TO SUSPEND

When the election is over, and the CP campaign deflates miserably when not one of their candidates is elected, many YCLers will be wondering what the hell that was all about, and critical discussion will inevitably ensue.

So, it is not surprising to see that the London District Committee of the YCL (who have recommended for expulsion more of its members than any

other District in the past few months) has proposed that district committees should be given the power to suspend members (which, in practice, means expulsions)—before, only the National Committee could do this.

This is part of the bureaucratic preparation for the December Congress of the YCL. It is now urgently necessary for the oppositional tendencies in the YCL to prepare for this Congress. The way to do this is not to 'lie low' and attempt to pass left-wing resolutions surreptitiously at the Congress but to recognise the essential unity of all the working class youth—between the left of the YS, the left of the YCL with the vast majority of 'non-political' youth.

This means exposing the miserable sham of the YCL election policy, recognising that it is merely a blind alley designed to keep sincere YCLers away from the working class.

Breakthrough for Birmingham YS



SEPTEMBER 5 saw the first effective demonstration of Young Socialists in the Birmingham area. A very lively 120-strong march left the Bull Ring and moved out to Aston.

Contingents came from all over the West Midlands—from Oxford, Coventry, Leicester, Nonthampton and several Birmingham YS branches.

The campaign began with the formation in Birmingham of an Anti-Tory Committee by several Young Socialists branches. From the start, the prospect of organising youth to fight the Tories brought the right-wing disrupters around.

Uninvited

An attempt was made to break up a meeting of the Committee by bringing uninvited delegates along.

At the outset of the march, the right wing's only company was the police. Things clearly were not going their way.

At the meeting, chaired by John Smith of the Anti-Tory Committee, Dave Ashby, National Committee Chairman of the YS, spoke, along with Barrie Evans, National Committee member for the East Midlands, and Maureen Healy from Coventry.

Meeting

Before the meeting started, there was an attempted disturbance, which was dealt with without too much trouble. The youth on the march were clearly in no mood to allow any disruption of the proceedings and the speakers were given a good hearing.

This was a good start to the campaign around the policies of the Young Socialists in the West Midlands. The humiliation of the right wing was complete. The correctness of the policies of the Brighton conference and their ability to attract working class youth and to organise them, was made clear.