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WIN A WEEK IN PARIS

Exciting YS competition for full details of how to enter and join the YS see page 9

US pushes nearer to the brink of world war

by
PAT LEONARD

AS the Vietnam war now threatens to involve the whole of South-East Asia, the intentions of the United States are laid bare for all to see.

Present US fighting methods are having no lasting effects. As soon as the US troops gain a position, or kill large numbers of the National Front fighters (as their press is continuously boasting) more forces come forward to drive them back. Such is the

determination of the Vietnamese people.

This determination is now shown to be spreading to all territories surrounding Vietnam; Cambodia and Laos.

Here, the people are not only sheltering North Vietnamese forces, but beginning to fight against the US-supported puppet governments in both countries.

This situation means that the war is not going at all well for the Pentagon, and that the so-called 'neutral' governments are now tottering.

This is shown in statements made by the South Vietnamese Foreign Minister who, in a recent visit to Paris, whilst saying that invasion of Cambodia was out of the question, stated that South Vietnam did reserve the right to exercise the 'right of pursuit into Cambodia for self-defence'.

This statement echoes the sentiments recently expressed by ex-President Eisenhower. But the present major problem, plus the fact that the entire Cambodian army numbers only 30,000,

means that both Saigon and the Pentagon have had to admit that this fact makes it impossible for them to even consider taking on NLF forces as well as Cambodian workers and peasants.

A similar situation also exists in Laos, where the puppet Prince Souvanna Phouma is being urged by the United States government to abandon a 'neutral' role and to begin campaigning actively against the Pathet Lao—Laotian counterparts of the NLF, who are winning increasing support from the people of Laos.

So the balance which the United States has, to some extent, profitably maintained around the borders of Vietnam, is now crumbling. The continu-

ing struggle of the Vietnamese people now threatens to unite the people of South-East Asia. The question now raised is: what must be the future strategy of US imperialism in this whole area of the world?

Every way US capitalism turns in Vietnam today pushes imperialism nearer to the brink of world war. The only answer which the Young Socialists can give to the enormous crisis now developing is in the urgent construction of an international revolutionary youth movement, with internationalist policies, based on the strength of the workers and peasants of South-East Asia and millions like them all over the world.

WORLD NEWS

SOVIET YOUTH DEFIES BUREAUCRACY

Keep Left
Correspondent

'IN our country, the organs of state security play a police role. What democracy can there be to speak of when we are being watched? Let them catch spies!'

The speaker was 25-year-old Vladimir Bukovsky, on trial in Moscow in September 1967, charged with organizing a demonstration at the beginning of that year.

He typifies the attitude of many young intellectuals in the USSR today who are fighting back against the bureaucracy and its political police. Their literary struggles reflect the development of opposition, within the working class, to the parasites on the workers' state, who have ruled it since Lenin's death.

That is why the government tries to suppress their writings.

But whilst the bureaucrats remain in the saddle, and the KGB (secret police) continue the work of Stalin's GPU, their power is challenged today in a way which was unthinkable in the 1930s, when the leaders of the Revolution were wiped out.

Bukovsky and his friends had organized their demonstration to protest at the suppression of a clandestine literary journal, 'Phoenix 66'. They read poetry in Moscow's Mayakovsky Square until they were arrested.

Their trial, long delayed, was not reported in full, because of the way they defied the court and defended their actions.

But a 30-year-old scientist Paul

Litvinov, grandson of the former Foreign Minister, wrote a full account of the trial and sent it to four Soviet papers, and to the French and Italian Communist Party press.

None of them printed a word, of course.

For this action he was grilled by KGB officials and threatened with prosecution. In reply he wrote another letter about his interrogation and sent all these manuscripts to several foreign friends.

In his letter, he explains that he is a supporter of Alexander

Ginsburg. This young writer is now awaiting trial for sending abroad documents relating to the trial of the writers Sinyavsky and Daniel.

Thus, far from halting the fight of the Soviet writers, the attempt of Stalin's successors to suppress them meets with still more determined opposition.

As Bukovsky declared: 'I absolutely do not repent for organizing this demonstration. . . . When I am free again, I shall again organize demonstrations!'

This defiance shames those writers like Yevtushenko, whose

poetry criticized Stalin's rule only to the extent that this was permitted by Khrushchev. The aim of this 'criticism' was to head off real opposition to bureaucracy.

But the literary protests of people like Bukovsky cannot achieve its purpose of cleansing Soviet life of bureaucratic lies and distortions unless it is linked up with the historic struggles of Trotsky and the Left Opposition against Stalinism from the time of its birth.

Then they can play their full part in the international revolutionary movement of the youth against imperialism and bureaucracy. Then, too, the record of the Moscow Trials and the bloody crimes of Stalin against the 1917 Revolution can be answered.



Alexander Ginsburg awaits trial for sending reports on the trial of writers Daniel (left) and Sinyavsky.

Trouble on the home front

AN estimated 150,000 dollars worth of damage was done at Fort Hood, Texas, in one night in October last year, by GIs who were destined to leave for Vietnam the next day, according to reliable reports published by 'The Rag', an underground army newspaper published in Austin.

Before their departure for Vietnam the men of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade were confined to company areas and forced to wear combat fatigues all the time. The men began to build up a determination against going out to South-East Asia.

Breaking point came when, on the night before they were to leave, the Enlisted Men's Club refused to serve any more drinks. One hundred men then went over to the Non-Commissioned Officers' Club across the street and proceeded to break the place up.

Beaten

Not surprisingly it was the Military Police (probably the most hated men in any army) that a large group of the men went for. Rumours have been denied that an MP lieutenant was beaten to death, but it is certain that several were given a severe going over.

Rocks and pieces of cement were thrown at and into buildings.

The top military brass, of course, deny the whole thing. But there have been too many witnesses come forward, to say what actually did happen, for the incident to be glossed over by official understatement.

Couple the riot of the GIs at Fort Hood with the widespread stories that numbers of the men in Vietnam are demoralized and taking drugs and one gets a good idea of the real crisis behind the US government's war policy.

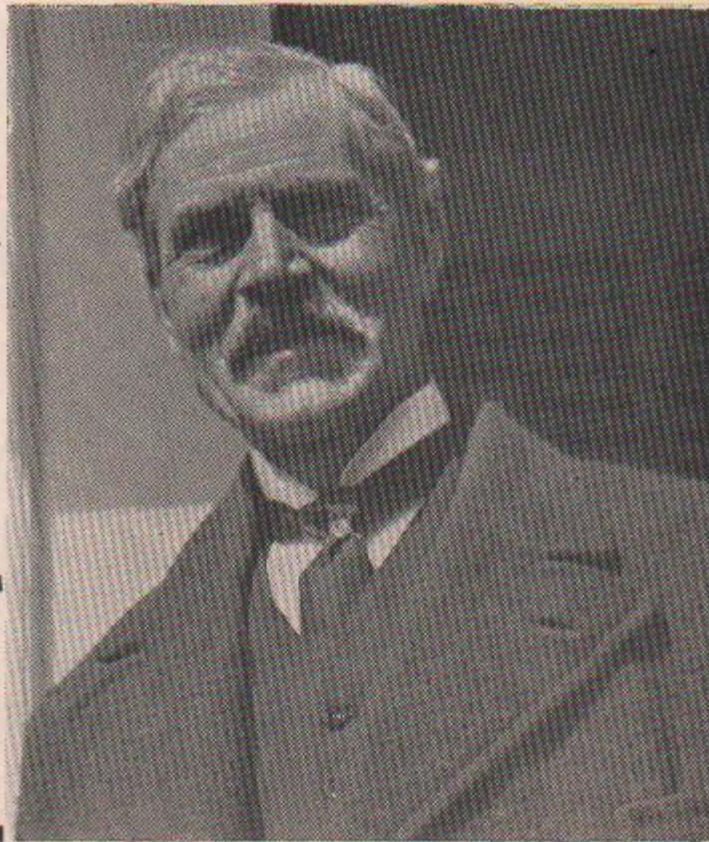
With a sharpening situation in the United States, where the government is trying to clamp down more and more on the working class to resolve the international crisis of the dollar, the build-up of hatred for the Johnson's policies will reflect itself everywhere, in the army included.

FROM CHARTISM TO THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS



Fabianism and the formation of the Labour Party

One Fabian follows another . . . Harold Wilson in 1968 continues where Ramsay MacDonald left off.



IT IS CLEAR to more and more workers, both young and old, that the present Wilson government has nothing to do with socialism.

On the contrary, more and more see the Wilson cabinet for what it is—a body dedicated to the preservation and strengthening of capitalism and the employers at the expense of the working class. But when we attack Wilson, Brown and Co. we do not deal with them as individuals. For us they represent a definite trend in the Labour movement which goes right back to the formation of the Labour Party at the start of the century.

Reformist

This trend we call reformist. It represents those in the working-class movement who try and deceive the working class that it is possible, gradually, and peacefully, step by step, to achieve what they choose to call 'socialism'.

The tendency which was expressed in Chartism, the subject of our last article, was the revolutionary trend in the working-class movement.

This tendency has fought since that period to teach the working class that it is necessary to prepare for the overthrow of capitalism, that the ruling class will not give up power peacefully and that socialism will not be achieved through the medium of parliament. These trends were evident from the very foundation of the Labour Party.

Part Two of a series by P. Jeffries

Until the 1880s there was no political working-class movement in this country, as there was in Europe. There was a trade union movement, organizing perhaps the top ten per cent of skilled workers, which in the main tended to support the Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party was of course a capitalist party, reflecting the interests of sections of the ruling class, those most closely associated with trade and industry.

This period saw, however, some important changes in the class struggle in Britain. These changes were closely associated with the changed position of British capitalism internationally. It was coming under increasing pressure from rival capitalist countries, especially the United States and Germany.

Britain's old monopoly, as the workshop of the world, was now beginning to disappear. This showed itself in rising unemployment and the introduction of new methods of production which undermined the position of many of the skilled workers.

These attacks reached their high-point in the 1890s with the attempt by the employers, supported by the courts, to undermine the legal position of the unions.

The most famous example of this was the Taff Vale case in 1901, in which it was ruled that a union was liable to pay damages to an employer for

losses which he might suffer as a result of strike action. It was now that a mood began to develop in the working class for a new party to express its interests which would be separate from either the Liberal or the Tory Parties.

Old Chartists, who had struggled to keep alive the ideas of socialism throughout the mid-Victorian boom from the 1850s onwards, played a prominent part in the fight for this new party. They were assisted by Engels and the group of Marxists around him, who took a leading part in all these developments.

Repeal

A great step was taken in 1893 with the formation of the Independent Labour Party, dedicated to the creation of a new independent working-class party.

They won the support of important sections of the trade union movement when, in 1900, the Labour Representation Committee was established to fight for the election of working-class representation in parliament, particularly to repeal the spate of anti-working class decisions in the law courts.

A group involved in these developments were the Fabians, formed as a Society in the mid-1880s. This group drew mainly from the middle class, especially the intellectuals of the middle class. Sydney and

Beatrice Webb, George Bernard Shaw, Graham Wallace, Hubert Bland and Annie Besant were amongst its most prominent members. Their importance was that they elevated reformism to the level of a conscious philosophy.

They believed in the 'inevitability of gradualness'; they saw socialism as evolving in some automatic way out of capitalism.

Least of all did they see in the working class the vehicle for the overthrow of the capitalist system.

In fact they were opposed to the creation of the Labour Party in these years, despite their later attempt to obscure the real facts. They believed that it would be possible to convince the Liberal Party to accept their ideas of a reformed capitalism.

Instead of the creation of the Labour Party they favoured the 'permeation' of the Liberal Party. But they quite misjudged the mood of the Liberal leaders who, in line with the new problems facing British capitalism, were turning more and more viciously against the working class.

It was only at a later date, when these Fabians realized there was a growing determination in the working class to form a new Labour Party that they jumped on the bandwagon.

Ramsay MacDonald, the first leader of the Labour Party and a person accepting the whole Fabian outlook, thus began a

series of secret deals with the Liberal Chief Whip after 1900 for electoral pacts, to make sure that Labour and Liberal candidates did not stand against each other.

Although small in numbers the Fabians have played an important and reactionary role in the history of the Labour Party.

They have fought always to turn the working class away from revolutionary politics and to use the power of the working class only to further their own interests and gain positions of influence and prestige in the capitalist state.

'bribe'

Their ability to do this has rested partly on the strength of British capital internationally, with its control over a massive Empire.

This has allowed the capitalist class to 'bribe' or 'buy off' a section of the working class and tie them to the capitalist system.

Of course this ability has now vanished. Wilson, a confirmed Fabian in his outlook, has no room to grant any reforms to the working class. On the contrary, as we have said, he is forced to take back many of the gains which have been won by the working class in the past.

But we also have to understand why, in the past, a revolutionary leadership able to challenge the reformists and Fabians did not develop. To understand this we have to look at the history of the Communist Party of Great Britain, the subject of our next articles.

1967—Bonanza year

FOR THE working class 1967 was the year of the wage freeze, severe restraint, mounting unemployment and rising prices. For the capitalist class, however, it was just the opposite.

They are calling it 'the year of the Harold Wilson Bonanza', at least according to John Davis, 'The Observer's' business correspondent.

In their December 17 issue, 'The Observer' lists the top ten firms according to profit ratings.

The paper says: 'The ten best performers . . . have collectively more than trebled an investment made in them equally on January 1.'

In other words, if last year you had a spare £1,000 to play with, as these people do, your

workers much further than at any other time.

Wilson has willingly undertaken this task.

On December 18, after announcing cuts in social services, Wilson spoke in parliament about future government decisions.

These would be taken 'in accordance with our priorities and our principles'.

The first principle of the capitalist system is profit for the employers.

'The Observer' quotes one of the top ten bosses, Stanley Weston, as saying: 'Profits are what count. I would swop all my shops tomorrow if I could make more profits.'

Below we list the top ten chart. The bosses have little time for pop. They prefer the sweet music of the cash box. These are the shares they are rushing to buy:

Clear profit on
£100 invested
January 1

1. Warwick Engineering Investment	£266	aircraft seats
2. Alexander Duckham	£239	motor oil
3. Trafalgar House Investments	£238	property
4. Stocklake Holdings	£222	Footwear, metals
5. F. J. Wallis	£207	Groceries
6. Mettoy	£205	Toys
7. Lesney Products	£185	Zinc
8. Pricerite	£181	Groceries
9. Stanley Weston Group	£180	Chemists
10. Kangol	£175	Clothes and car safety belts

investment would be worth over £3,000.

'Only once in six years has there been a bigger profit,' says the paper. 'That was in the boom days of 1963.'

But if mining, plantation and foreign shares, as well as take-over bids, had been included, 1967 would have left 1963 well behind. 1963 was, of course, the last year of the Tory government, the year of Profumo.

After three years of a Labour government, the profits jump again. Except that there is a difference from 1963.

Since capitalism is in deep crisis, the profit-swelling can now only continue by driving down the living standards of

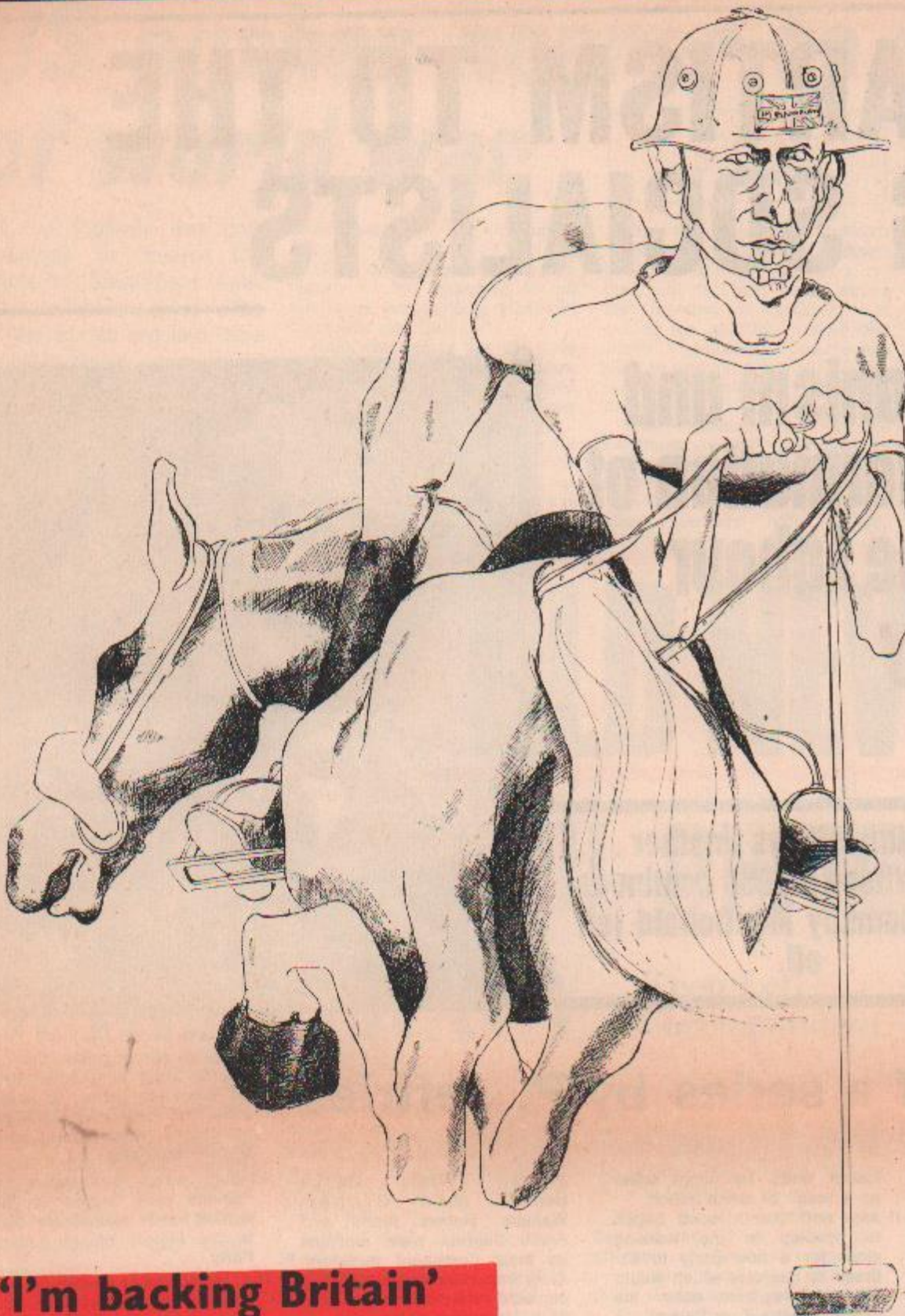
People who bought these shares are counting the rake-off in percentages like 200 per cent profit.

Meanwhile Wilson warns the working class 'No area of expenditure (schools, health, housing) can be regarded as sacrosanct.'

In order to protect this profit system the entire welfare state is going to be dismantled.

The working class must answer decisively.

They must prepare to trample on the sacred rights of profit and property—to nationalize these firms and the banks. And to build a party to do that job. Now is it us or them? No holds barred.



'I'm backing Britain'

A warning to the working class

by Miles Buchanan

THE VICTORY of the Scottish National Party candidate at the Hamilton by-election is a danger signal for the whole working class.

The vote there reflects, above all, hatred of Wilson's policies which have meant unemployment, laws against trade unions and cuts in living standards for workers all over Britain.

The Nationalists come forward to channel this into the blind alley of being anti-English.

They represent a reactionary middle-class ideology brought into the working class to divert and divide it in the present period of extreme crisis for British capitalism. But this is not a mass fascist party, nor has nationalism been deeply ingrained in Scottish workers.

The working class has not been defeated, and the turn in the trade unions and factories

is to the left and not the right. It is for this reason that sections of the capitalist press and big business have, for some time, been fostering Scottish nationalism to divide workers.

Given the continued building of the Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League as the real alternative to Wilson, nationalism will only have a temporary hold on Scottish workers.

Consistent

Only our movement has maintained a consistent and principled opposition to this reactionary party.

The Communist Party in Scotland has long adapted its programme and activities to the nationalists in its call for 'direction of industry to Scotland' and its support for setting up a Scottish parliament.

The revisionists and other petty-bourgeois riff-raff who hang around the labour movement try to confuse workers by claiming that this is a national liberation movement which will

bring about a revolution quicker in Scotland.

In fact the problem for English and Scottish workers is the same—to expose the 'left' in Parliament, and the Stalinists who cover up for them, and to build a mass revolutionary party of the working class to take power and smash capitalism.

The national aspirations and struggle for democratic rights of the people of a backward country against imperialism must be supported by socialists.

But in an advanced capitalist country like Britain, nationalism can only be an instrument of the ruling class for dividing the working class.

The SNP is another capitalist party.

It has two faces.

One is for the depressed middle class. Here the policy is opposition to the monopolies, the 'big men' and concentration of industry, hence their hostility to nationalization.

The second face is for the working class, where the SNP

Continued on page 12

Thugs assault Young Socialist

By a Keep Left Reporter

ALAN BRISTOW, 20-year-old North London Young Socialist Federation secretary was brutally assaulted on the evening of December 22.

He had just left his lodgings with presents for his mother when the thugs jumped on him and kicked him unconscious on the pavement.

The Middlesex Region of the Young Socialists have called a demonstration of protest on:

**Saturday, January 13
starting from Bruce Grove,
Tottenham, at 3 p.m.**

Comrade Bristow's trade union branch, Edmonton No. 3 AEU passed the following resolution on Tuesday:

'This branch is most con-

cerned at the brutal assault on December 23 on Brother Alan Bristow, a member of this branch and the Young Socialists, by a gang of anti-socialist thugs.

'We recognize that this was an attack on the labour movement and are absolutely hostile to such actions and pledge our support to the campaign to stamp out this sort of action.'

Arthur Lennon, convenor of the BOC (Tottenham) factory, told The Newsletter:

'This is a clear attack against the labour movement by fascist-minded elements who use Wilson's policies to whip up a feeling against socialism. The only lasting answer is to strengthen the Young Socialists in the area and build the alternative to Wilson that the working class needs so urgently.'

Bill Patient, a prominent militant, shop steward and recently Enfield AEU district committee member, commented:

'I have many disagreements with Alan, but they are differences within the labour movement. I am firmly opposed to this act which is directed against the working-class organizations.'

'... This will build you young comrades and all of us into the people who will lead the working class to power.'

Keep Left is proud to print the speech delivered by John Archer at the Memorial Meeting to his son Peter

On December 3, 1967, the Young Socialists paid their tribute to a founding member, 23-year-old Peter Archer, who died following a road accident on October 18 in Birmingham.

Comrades,

In the prisons of the Russian Tsars, before the Russian Revolution of 1917, the imprisoned revolutionaries used to mark the last day of each passing year by calling the roll, shouting the names of their dead into the ears of the jailers.

Our comrades of the Russian Left Opposition continued in Stalin's jails to pay respects to their dead comrades-in-arms.

Peter Archer was not the first of our people in the British Section of the Fourth International to lose his life in the struggle. There were Starkey Jackson, Jack Hamilton, Tyler, Westwood and Joe Pawsey, to name only those whom I knew, and there are others.

Now our comrade and friend Peter would have been surprised, and I am sure he would have been delighted, that so many of his comrades should turn out to pay him respect.

What would he expect from us? We know what he would have said if he overheard sentimental phrases and emotional self-indulgence.

Really to pay him our respects means to study the contradictory forces that were working, in opposite directions, in the process of his life. It means to profit from his experience.

This meeting is not just a ritual.

Peter was born in the January of 1944, on a night when 1,000 Allied bombers went to Berlin. Mary and I often ask ourselves what became of the little Peters who were being born that night in Berlin. Did the Grand Alliance of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin do for them? Did they starve in the winters of 1945 and 1946? Are they demonstrating against unemployment now?

The second imperialist war was rising to its climax, the Normandy invasion. And the working-class, in Britain, all over Europe and in America, was growing more radical. Our old comrades like Dulcie Yelland were helping the process on in the aircraft factories, and Harry Finch was among the Bevin boys in the mines, and the others are here.

We were just able to keep the fire of Trotskyism alive. We were maintaining the class struggle in the midst of the imperialist war; we were looking forward to the imperialist war being turned into a civil war, against the war-makers.

Our party, then the Revolutionary Communist Party, was taking part in the resistance of the Tyneside engineering apprentices to being called up to work in the mines. Ernest Bevin, head of Transport and General Workers' Union and Churchill's Minister of Labour, was trying, without success, to put our people in jail.

Relations sent presents to the baby, odd bits of silver, and we sold them for the defence fund. Our French comrades in the Nazi concentration camps were greatly heartened when their secret radios brought the news of the strikes led by Trotskyists, against the imperialist war.

INTERNATIONALISM

Peter was born into an atmosphere of internationalism in this very practical sense. Mary and I could bring him up in no other way than that of facing the truth about the ruling class in society and about the reactionary influence of religion. All I can say about this is that we at least tried not to lie to him, not to mislead him. We had no one experienced to teach us, and we suffered in leading our lives without the guidance of the Communist vanguard from which Stalin had already largely cut us off.

You can't produce anything in capitalist society without wage labour. Therefore the class struggle exists in the real world as a struggle at the centre of present-day society.

What surplus value are the employers going to appropriate? How are they going to succeed in converting it into fresh capital? Hence the class struggle permeates all productive activity.

But you cannot have life at all without production. Therefore the class struggle is a basic fact of life. Peter knew this from an early age. When Mary sold the papers outside Leith docks, Peter was there in his pram.

Further, the world was never presented to him in terms of fixed, unchanging objects. He was accustomed from the beginning to see things as changing, developing, coming into existence, and passing away. Consequently he had no trouble with religion.

He could see, on the one hand, that religious beliefs have been primitive morality and primitive science. On the other hand he could see the thoroughly reactionary role which religious ideas and institutions play in our own time. Right at the start he could see through the flirtations of the Stalinists with so-called 'progressive' parsons.

He recognized that we are living in the period of capitalist decay, of wars and revolutions.

From an early age Peter felt himself to be part of the labour movement, and especially part of the Trotskyist movement.

I must say, even making allowances for parental affection, he was an attractive little boy. He had a devoted grandmother and the comrades were all very good to him. But this meant years of personal difficulty for him.

Even at his primary school he got bullied by Roman Catholic children for speaking out against prayers and belief in the supernatural. All through his childhood, I am sorry to say, he learned what it was in those days to feel different from other kids because your parents are Trotskyists.

He came through as a cheerful, confident boy, terribly determined, and I'm glad to remember that he and his brother Bob were solid allies, whoever they were defying, whether it was the outside world, or their parents who were out so much on political work.

MACHINES

It was just like Peter that his school learning started slowly. He had little trouble when once he had made up his mind and there was some point in it—and that came when he found that he could not do what he wanted until he could read and write and do elementary mathematics efficiently. What he wanted was to learn about electricity and radio.

When he was quite a little boy, machines began to fascinate him. He saw them, correctly, as extra arms and legs that you can use to do things for you, when you know how they work. Especially he was impressed by the mighty power of electricity.

When he was quite young he learned at our classes and camps that the only use of these things is so that people can live better.

Contrary to what some people thought, Peter liked comfort. He didn't often come home in his later years, but when he did it may surprise you to know that he would demand hot baths, good food and a bit of ease and rest! He accepted hardships, but he



Pat King presents John and Mary Archer with the portrait he painted of their son Peter, at the memorial meeting.

didn't like them. He saw no reason why anyone should suffer unnecessarily.

So on the one hand he was greatly impressed by the power of science, the mastery of man over nature. On the other hand, he saw his own speciality, nuclear physics, developed on lines which threaten the future of the entire human race. He felt himself to be personally right at the centre of the current problem of mankind.

This was not an insoluble academic puzzle to Peter, as it is to Reith lecturers on the BBC! He realized that he knew as well as anyone what is really involved, and the burden lay on his small shoulders.

He enjoyed his early years at Roudhay School in Leeds, where he found the scientific passion of his life. More than once he told me how grateful he was to his first physics teacher, an old free-thinking materialist, who started off by teaching him that the entire universe consists of matter in motion, and that ideas and feelings exist only when matter produces them, which is what he had already learned from Marxism.

SET-BACKS

Consequently he would say, when he learned to think, that he had so much less than other people to un-learn, because he had never believed in magic. Also at school, he entered the Cadet Force and put on a khaki uniform and submitted to drill and discipline, consciously, so as to learn to use arms, and especially his favourite radio-communications.

He came to London when he was 16, and tried to integrate himself in new fields of work. This was much harder than in Leeds. He worked terribly hard, but he encountered terrible set-backs in the reactionary atmosphere both of Battersea Grammar School and of the London Labour Party.

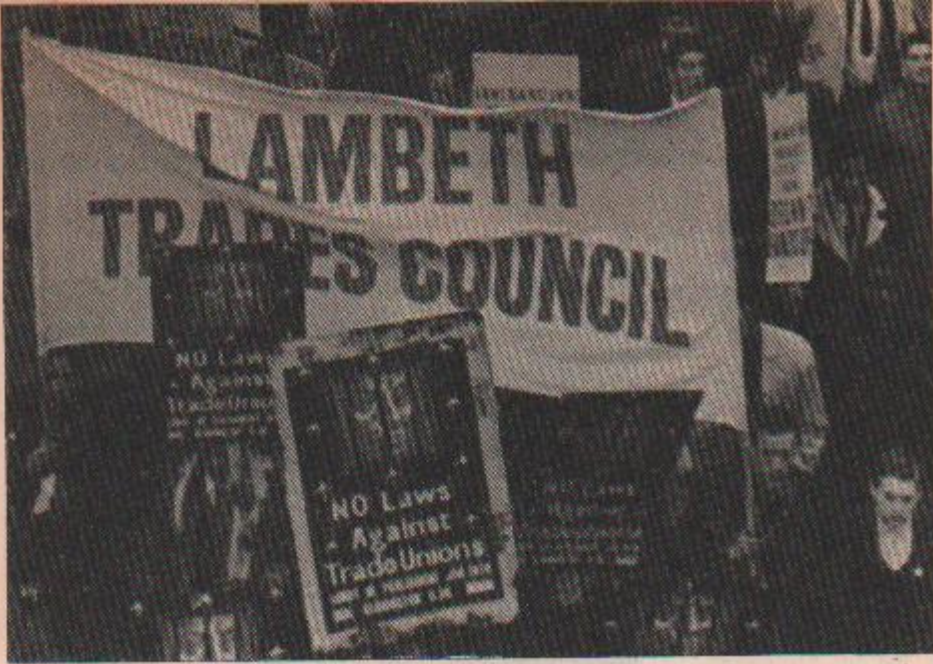
He had been able to play his part in our work inside the Leeds Labour Party. But now the right wing had thrown us out. He had helped us to fight for Labour victories in elections, against the Tories and against those in the labour movement who opened the way to the Tories and now prepare the way for fascism. All the time he concentrated on the essential task, the construction of the British section of the Fourth International, as the physical embodiment of the Marxist principles which embody reality.

For some time he was having to take almost continual set-backs. It is terrible when, whatever you do, you are wrong. You cannot learn just from defeats. You need successes in your experience as well as defeats to learn from.

In such times Marxist theory does not get much chance to prove itself in action; there seems such a gap between your ideas and what really happens. It is like looking for something in the dark when you can't find it and you grope and thrash around.

While he was studying for his 'A' levels and running around in London selling papers and trying to build up the YS, he had another and an exceptional difficulty. Most people in their 'teens can feel that they are making progress when they break with the beliefs of their parents, when the young Jewish comrades break from the Talmud and Zionism, when the young Catholic comrades say to themselves that what the priest says is nonsense. This is to carry on the

● Continued on page eight →



As we prepare for the number one battle in 1966 To defend the trade union

Look at the **Young Socialists' record for 1966 and 1967**

IN MARCH 1968 the Wilson government will publish the Report of the Royal Commission on the trade unions. Its findings will surprise no-one in the British labour movement. The Commission's way was, after all, instigated by a Labour government which had already passed Clause Four of the Prices and Incomes Act in 1966.



January 26, 1966

YS members joined with Lambeth Trades Council in a 1,500-strong march against the Prices and Incomes Bill. (top left)

October 2, 1966

The only forceful demonstration against Wilson's policies on the eve of the Party's Brighton conference. (top right)

It is therefore fairly certain that Wilson, with the firm backing of the bankers and monopolists, will use the Royal Commission to legislate even more viciously against the trade unions. He will act on the basis of recommendations that unofficial strikes be made illegal, that a national ballot of the workers precede a stoppage and that there be a 'cooling-off period' before a strike.

March 1, 1966

The Communist Party attempted, with police aid, to stop the YS joining the London Liaison Committee march with political banners, but failed. (centre left)

February 21, 1967

Young Socialists joined the demonstration called by Lucas/CAV and BMC car workers. 1,500 marched against wage freezes and unemployment. (centre right)

Devaluation in November was only the start of the attack on the working class. Wilson and his Cabinet are aiming at drastically reducing the standard of living of all workers and thereby carrying out the wishes of the world's top bankers, whose only desire is to save the crumbling capitalist economy.

Preparations to make unofficial strikes illegal, to fine unions and individual trade unionists will be carried ahead. In this odious plan Wilson and his Cabinet have the co-operation of the Trades Union Congress leadership, in spite of the decisions taken against the Labour government's economic policy at the TUC's Brighton Congress in 1967.

May 25, 1966

Dockers and seamen join YS march backing the seamen's strike and dockers' fight against Devlin—7,700 Mersey dockers stopped for the day. (bottom left)

December 12, 1967

The demonstration and lobby against the Communist Party tried to sabotage the YS march couldn't. YS and trade unionists marched on. (bottom right)

The Communist Party of Great Britain follows in the wake of these bureaucrats and at the same time provides a convenient cover for those 'lefts' in Parliament who, whilst voicing their opposition to Wilson's policies, are only prepared to go that far.

Who then is the real defender of the trade union movement, its traditions and the right to fight for better wages and conditions? Who has consistently, right from 1964, prepared the labour movement for the political treachery of Wilson and company? Not the 'lefts' and centrists around 'Tribune', or the Communist Party or their paper 'Morning Star'.

It is the Young Socialist movement, Keep Left and the thousands of youth who support our program and who are constantly waging a campaign against the Labour government's policies. We are the allies of the working class. Only Young Socialists have a plan to fight for the building of an alternative leadership which will fight for socialist policies to end unemployment, to end rent rises, price increases, attacks on the trade unions, attacks on the old age pensioners and for the nationalization of industry under workers' control.



Morecambe Conference

The Young Socialists decide on policy at their annual conference. The YS is down on record as opposing wage freezing and unemployment and fighting for a socialist alternative of nationalization under workers' control.



The next stage in the fight—Forward to the annual conference. Build for a Socialist

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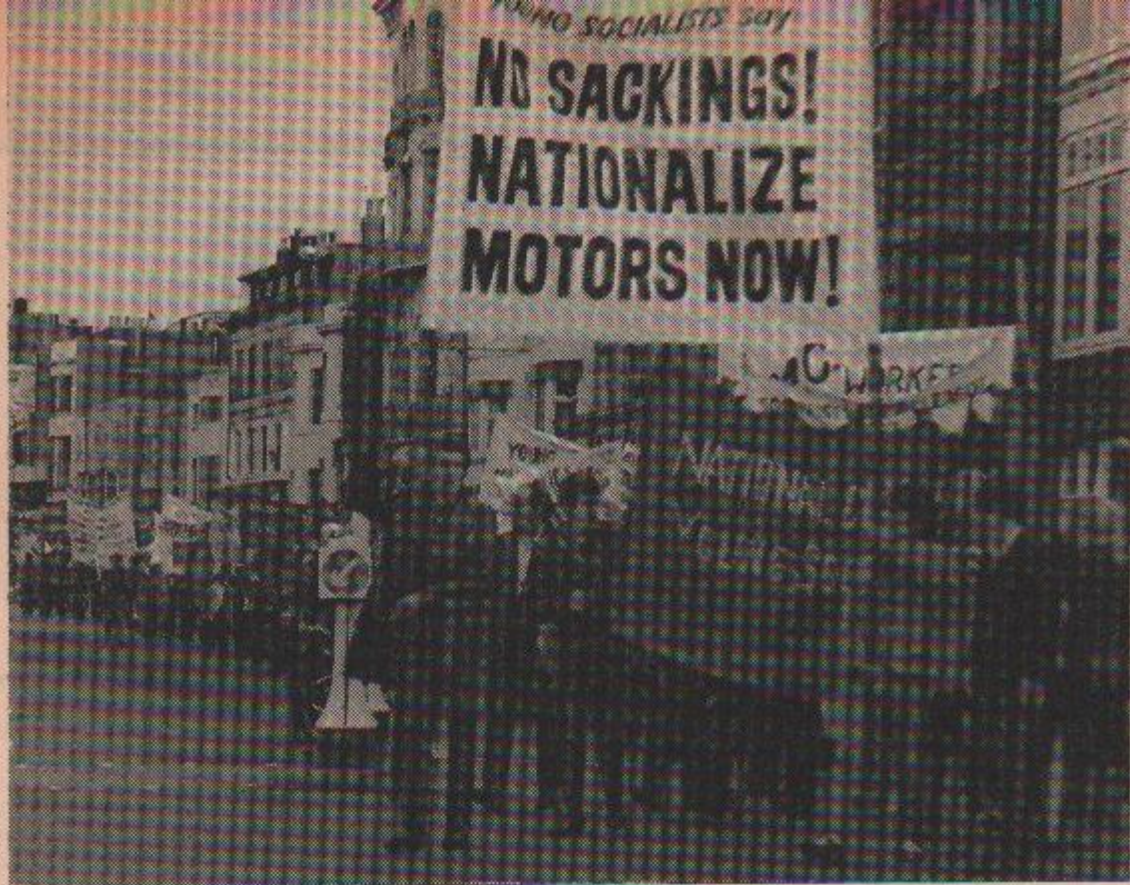
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'Left' MPs must defend the Health Services



THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS have never minced words in speaking about the government of Harold Wilson. It is a government of double-dealers and traitors. Let us consider for a moment the Parliamentary debate on arms for South Africa.

On the surface it appeared that there was a formidable division of opinion in the Cabinet with Wilson supporting the arms ban in opposition to Callaghan, Brown and Healey. This was not at all, of course, the real issue. In the background was the clamour from the big bankers for further drastic attacks on the standards of the working class. For weeks on end they had been shouting about the Health Services and the need to take action against them.

Like the political twister that he is, Wilson simply grabbed hold of an opportunity to gain a temporary 'left' face in order to later support an attack on the Health Services. His trick was to try to confuse the 'left' MPs and then drag them into line later behind right-wing policy.

We are pleased to see that this confidence trick does not appear to have worked. There are a number of MPs who now feel that they cannot under any circumstances support the attacks which are to be made on the Health Services in early Spring.

But this by itself is not enough. We insist that the time has come to get rid of the right-wing Wilson leadership of the Labour Party. We insist that this can be done within the Labour Party whilst at the same time maintaining a Labour government.

An enormous opposition is bound to build up in the movement against cuts in the Health Services. This surely will be the time for the 'left' MPs to place a motion in the Parliamentary Labour Party of no confidence in Wilson and at the same time prepare a slate of names to replace his Cabinet.

Whether this policy is successful or not is not in itself the issue. A united struggle against Wilson could be the start of a campaign which in the long run would in any case remove him, under circumstances where the Tories could be kept out. They will no doubt support Wilson's attack on the Health Services. Like their friends, the international financiers and bankers, they have long been demanding behind the scenes that expenditure in this field should be whittled down. These class opponents have always been hostile to the Health Services because they place within the hands of the working class the possibility of living longer, at the expense of profits.

If the 'left' Labour MPs act now, they will enjoy the support of considerable sections of the labour and trade union movement. We say to them, pay no attention to the Communist Party which says you should not openly challenge Wilson nor fight for his removal. Gollan and company simply represent in Britain the opinions of the big Moscow bureaucrats. They care nothing at all for the British working class or for that matter the Health Services. They talk 'left' in order to confuse the issues under circumstances which in the end help Wilson because they leave him and his Cabinet intact.

The Young Socialists were the first to oppose Wilson in 1964. We now call upon the 'left' Labour MPs to follow a similar road to what we did at that time. If you fail, then it is the end of the Labour Party.

Peter Archer Memorial Meeting

— continued from Page 5

struggle for your own personality under an ideological cover, a good one, too! Marx wrote that the criticism of religion is the beginning of criticism.

This road was not fully available to Peter, because to break ideologically from his parents would have meant breaking from Marxism and he had firm ideological agreement with Trotskyism. He could to some extent free himself from us when we became less active.

What kept him going when he didn't know what to do was just his indomitable spirit, his combativity, his rebelliousness. This meant that his life was far from easy. Nor did he make life easy for people around him, either.

Peter never shed tears. This was only because he had such a high sense of his own dignity, not because he lacked the capacity to suffer. He had deep feelings. He was not at all the dehumanized political machine which is the caricature of a revolutionist drawn by our enemies.

His work raised his capacity for feeling. It is the miserable daily round of petty acquisitiveness and jealousy in capitalism that dehumanizes people and kills their capacity to feel.

These opposites, these conflicts, made up the development of the Peter who you knew. On the one hand, he would tackle every job as if no human being had ever tackled it before and he personally was the first. He found great difficulty in learning by means of abstractions taken from books. In his work, both in science and in politics, he showed an extreme empiricism, as if he had to master all problems by his unaided efforts.

EDUCATION

Yet at the same time he had a great respect for theory. He had seen how the older comrades respected theory. He conscientiously came to the education classes, and the camps were a high spot in his year. Marxist theory was like a castle that he could not yet conquer but which he intended one day to conquer, when he could. Meanwhile he fought with all his strength against the limitations on his freedom to act.

By his last year he was owning up to being interested in history. He showed that he could grasp general arguments. He was taking an interest in bourgeois literature and art, which does after all include the plus-es as well as the minus-es in what has come down to us from all the sufferings of the past.

He has studied some of Trotsky's published writings, and a small amount of Lenin. He had hardly yet begun to study the Marxist classics. But he had begun to take the important steps that would make him a thinker and a planner as well as an active worker.

His very last letter asked me to send him some serious books to read. He had to do a stretch in an isolated power station and live in a hostel away in the country. So I sent him 'Ludwig Feuerbach', 'Dialectics of Nature' and a work by Comrade Leon Trotsky. How he would have liked to read Trotsky's 'History of the Russian Revolution'!

Peter was very dear to us, but let us do him the respect that we would like for ourselves. Let's tell the truth as best we can.

He had to go his own way. Sometimes you just couldn't help him. Sometimes he seemed to stand in his own light. When he faced the vast difference between what he wanted to do and what he was able to do, his answer was to fight. That was his way of growing to be a man. The isolation and difficulties of our movement in the past were the background against which his mighty will sought fulfillment.



... a cheerful, confident boy.

You see that there is not a lot really that even Peter's parents can say about him that is not political. You can say that he was cheerful, but he was never silly or frivolous. He was never idle; his mother and his Scottish grandmother taught him to keep busy. He was solid all through. Though he was never very tough physically, and though he drove himself hard, he was politically as hard as rock.

Comrades, for instance, whom he helped to win from Stalinism tell how disconcerting it was to be accosted by this shabby kid, no higher than six penn'orth of copper, who explained quite clearly all about the Moscow Trials.

Those of his political opponents who really knew the score heartily hated him, and their hatred was just as heartily returned. No one ever despised Peter!

None the less, the important thing for him, and for us if we are to understand where these qualities came from, is that he harnessed himself to the party. His extreme individualism could have cancelled all this out, could have made him an odd man out, an embittered loner. In the end he would have lost his bearings, but for his respect for the Marxist theory which he knew he could not yet fully master. From this he got his high respect for his party, his keen delight in its victories, his enduring hatred for its enemies, the employers, the police, the parsons, the Labour bureaucrats, the Stalinists and the revisionists.



'Solid allies' . . . Peter (left) and Bob.

Peter was not merely loyal to the Socialist Labour League as it is now. He was deeply loyal to the history and development of the Communist movement. He saw this as beginning, not as many do, with the day they joined, but as going back to the young Marx and Engels and the Communist League in the 1840s, with the main line developing through the experience of the Second International, the Third International and the Russian Revolution, on into the Fourth International.

Peter saw his scientific work and his political work together as the central purpose of his life.

He has a great respect for people who can do a job properly. He was proud of holding a skilled card in the ETU and being with the experienced craftsmen who know how to keep power-stations running, and to stay alive in them. Those amplifiers, that simultaneous translation equipment—he built them with his own hands, often on the kitchen floor at home—because he taught himself how, for political ends, to build the Young Socialists.

This singleness of outlook, based ultimately on Marxist theory, enabled him to bear a lot of emotional distress. Like all young people he had emotional distress. But Peter was not one to lose control of his feelings, which he had under control much better than most of us. He avoided feeling sorry for himself, drawing in on himself or taking his unhappiness out in bitterness towards other people.

Peter was not only a builder of the party. He himself was built by it. He had learned to be objective about people, to take them as they are and get the best out of them. He had few internal barriers, subjective obstacles inside him, to prevent him from influencing people or working with them.

If he could not work with someone, it was not because of personal likes or dislikes, or some imaginary obstacle existing in his mind, perhaps the memory of an insult or a fancied insult. It was for an objec-



Family group . . . Peter right and brother Bob with their mother.

tive, real reason, that the other person was in political disagreement with the needs of the working class.

So far above the majority of people Peter had already raised himself. But he had not yet gone all the way. I must say some things about how he came to lose his life, because this is really a political question, about which the party has the duty of speaking to the young comrades especially.

We old boys have got passed the age when we think we have to press our luck in order to prove that we are men. All the same, we can still remember what it is like to feel so full of life that you want to take chances. You rejoice in your strength, your skill, your quickness. You think you will live for ever.

It wasn't the accident that he died of. It was a completely unexpected inflammation of the lungs, which appeared two days later, and which the doctors could do very little with because they did not know how. The fact that he died is bad enough, but it is inevitable that he must have suffered some pain; he was on a respirator for four days.

But even that is not enough. Trying to keep him alive took the tremendous efforts of a team of highly-skilled doctors and nurses in a special ward for major injuries. Who knows whether someone else may not have died, whom they could have saved?

And Peter lay there, knowing what had happened, knowing that he had smashed himself up, and suffering in his mind because he could not admit his share of the blame.

Young Comrades! We know you can take it straight when we give it to you. What a dreadful thing for one of our comrades to do to himself! And it doesn't matter whose son he is! We all miss our children!

We can't replace Peter. There was only one of him. It is the same with you. Each and every single one of you is needed. You can't be spared. If you get yourself smashed up, we can't replace you. You may think that no one else on earth cares what happens to you, but we care about you.

Political young workers are precious to the party. If no one else can give you any reason for looking after yourself, we can. Not just for our sakes, but for those people who aren't even born yet. Are they to have to go on living like us in this stinking bourgeois society, or are they to live like real human beings?

RESPONSIBILITY

The party accepts the duty to prove to you that you really matter, but each one of you personally has to learn to act responsibly towards the party.

This was the crack in Peter's armour that killed him—a moment's irresponsibility which he had not trained himself to check. He had never fully learned to look after himself. He was still in the process of forcing himself to do what is necessary, to face up to reality. He didn't get another chance.

I can remember from years ago Comrade Gerry Healy telling me in his usual forthright fashion about some mistake I had made. He said, 'In politics you've got to learn to be SHREWD'. In some matters Peter was very shrewd; revisionism for instance. In daily life he was getting a lot better, but he still let slide one thing which he should have seen to, he still took a chance.

You young women comrades! Strengthen these young men. Encourage them not to do dangerous things just to show off. Show them that you don't have to be treated like spoiled, middle-class girls. Steady them down. Help them to do what has to be done. Go along with them, as equals and comrades. Then they will respect you, very much.

The inside of an accident hospital is not really the romantic place it looks on TV or the cinema screen. It is a grim and terrible place, a good place never to get into, a place where people die. You accept your duty to fight for your class. Accept the duty to stay alive. Comrade Trotsky once wrote during the Civil War of the Red Army soldiers that

Review

AS the tremendous militancy of the Negroes in the United States is now taking place alongside the struggles of the organized workers in the trade union movement (Detroit, for example, was recently the scene of pitched battles between police and Negroes and has been gripped by the massive auto workers' strike at Fords), this book gives a clear picture of precisely what it is that the Negroes are fighting against—and it is certainly not their fellow white workers.

It tells the story of six young Negroes in Harlem, New York, all in their teens, who were arrested by the police, dragged down to the notorious 'meat grinder' (police station) and savagely beaten with fists and brickbats.

The pretext for this was that some young Negroes had high-spiritedly overturned a fruit stall. In the

The Long Hot Summer

Seven Seas Books 7s. 6d.

ensuing melé the police had waded in to beat up the kids and the youngsters had defended themselves. In the course of the fight one older Negro lost an eye after being beaten over the head by the cops.

The fruit stall owner insisted that the culprits were not the young Negroes who had been placed under arrest.

Ten days later, after having been released from the police station, the six were picked up again and this time charged with murder. All could prove that they were nowhere near the crime at the time. All produced witnesses to this. All were found guilty.

The book consists mainly of statements made by the six youths and their mothers through which comes clearly the hatred for the cops who push them around, the wretched conditions of the Negro ghetto and the misery of kicking around without a job. There is a blind groping for an explanation for these

things but Truman Nelson misses the point.

He is a Liberal who writes in a very emotional way about the Negro's problems in a society of discrimination, but he can see no way forward. He has little time for the back nationalists, pointing out that one of the leaders, when the Harlem residents organized a protest march, which the police banned, offered 'black goons to the police to smash up the march'.

While Nelson looks on sympathetically, the Negroes are fighting. Although he does not seem to notice it, the working class in the United States has started to move into action on the docks and in the motor industry.

The 'Long Hot Summer' is not a book which gives any kind of programme of action or even much hope of struggle, but its facts are an indictment of capitalist society. Nelson, through his interviews, lays bare the brutality and corruption of the police and the state machine.

For the facts it presents the book is certainly worth reading.

THIS is the story of Joy, a young working-class girl from Fulham. She is married at 18 to a thief who, after an abortive smash and grab raid, is jailed, leaving Joy with her baby son.

This is more a relief from her bullying husband than a loss to Joy, and she quickly passes on to a more sensitive member of the gang, Dave, played by Terence Stamp.

She spends an idyllic six months with him, living off the proceeds of his break-ins, until he too is caught and sentenced to 12 years for robbery and violence.

From here she drifts into amateur prostitution and photographic 'modelling'.

Despite the divorce proceedings she has initiated she returns to her husband on his release for the sake of their son John.

This film was written by Nell Dunn, and produced by the same producer who made the TV films of 'Up the Junction' and 'Cathy Come Home'.

However this film shows a steadier retreat from dealing with significant working-class problems than even the previous weak films managed.

Saga

Nina Hibben, film critic of the 'Morning Star' professed to find this a glorious saga 'from the heart of working-class life'. But the strange thing is that no-one actually works in the film, they all live on the proceeds of robberies or from prostitution, whilst the working class has always been characterized as those who have to sell their ability to work in order to live, like Arthur Seaton in 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning' and many others.

No-one in this film earns their living in this way. As Joy's husband says: 'I've never given anything to anyone and no-one will give anything to me, life's like that'.

Which, in actual fact, means that he is prepared to take as much as he can without giving anything in return unless caught. Unlike the capitalists he is doing it illegally. They have the law on their side.

POOR COW

Producer, Ken Loach

Starring

Carol White

Terence Stamp

His allegation that all the police are 'bent' as well 'possibly excepting those blokes on the zebra crossings wearing the white coats', is for him not so much an expression of class opposition to the police, as the simple philosophy that everyone has their price.

Film Controversy

NICK LEWIS is basically wrong in his criticism of Keep Left's review of 'Bonnie and Clyde'.

Nick says in his letter that the strength of the film lies not in its social content, but in various technical devices which Warren Beatty borrowed from French films, particularly Godard.

But this is to make the completely unreal distinction that most critics for the capitalist papers make between form and content, which enables them to talk about art, saying it's good or bad, without having to actually comment on its ideas.

However, as the winter issue of 'Sight and Sound' points out, the strength of 'Bonnie and Clyde' lies in its considerable manipulation of the facts, in order to put them in their social setting and to show them as products of a particular stage of US development.

Their undirected energy and unconsidered violence form the one vital element in a society that has come to a halt. In the background throughout there is inactivity: the stores are shut or without customers; the farms have been taken by the banks and

Although they all dress in working-clothes, talk in Cockney accents and live in tenement flats, their existence has little to do with the daily grind every worker has to go through in order to survive.

This comes out in the unconvincing performance of Terence Stamp as Dave who seems more like a beatnik from a well-to-do background slumming for a while with the gang.

'Poor Cow' idealizes the most backward and demoralized elements in the working class, trying to give some glamour to their desperate existence.

The film can be seen from the point of view that crime doesn't help the working class to achieve socialism, but this point has been made much better elsewhere.

boarded up; no one is working in the fields; the rolling stock is idle in the goods yards; in the quarry, used for the family reunion, the machinery is standing still; the banks they rob contain little money or have collapsed.

'On the walls, peeling Roosevelt campaign posters suggest a fading hope. For help and understanding the Barrows can only turn to the dispossessed: the expelled farmer who borrows Clyde's pistol to shoot at the bank notice on his former property; the working man who is allowed to keep his money during the hold-up and later says "They did all right by me and I'll buy some flowers for their funeral"; the Itinerant Okies (dispossessed farmers) who give the wounded couple food and drink.'

Keep Left was not fauning on triteness when it recognized the class hostility towards the police, and this sort of development from backward and disillusioned sections of the small farmers of the southern states of the USA.

Keep Left should guide its readers, in this way, to a film worth seeing, which 'Bonnie and Clyde' is, whilst recognizing that we will not have our Eisenstein's until we've made our October revolution first.

Terry Monaghan,
Fulham Y.S.

WIN A WEEK IN PARIS



TWO boys and two girls can win a week in Paris—all travel, food and accommodation expenses paid for. Your hosts will be the YS sister organization in France, Révoites. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity. Roll up your sleeves and get to work to enrol the largest number of paid-up YS members and sympathizers for the Morecambe Conference.

Winners of the competition—those who enrol the most to go to Morecambe—will be announced at the Morecambe Conference itself.

Join the Young Socialists and come to Morecambe

Come to the Morecambe Conference on April 6 and 7. The cost is approximately £3. Coaches leave from all areas. I want to join the Young Socialists and come to the Morecambe Conference.

Name

Address

I enclose a deposit of

Send to Sheila Torrance, 186a, Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

Send us your opinions, branch reports, ideas on how to build the Young Socialists

Our preparation for Morecambe

YOUNG SOCIALIST branches are preparing to start 1968 by taking a large number of young people along to the Annual General Meeting of Keep Left.

Then we will go forward after the AGM with a big campaign in all the branches in the area with dances, public meetings and football matches, right up to the Morecambe Conference.

Our aim is to build the Young Socialists into the alternative leadership for the working class. At our Morecambe Conference we will be involving large numbers of older trade unionists to forge links between adult and young workers.

We will fight together against the treacherous political role of the Labour Party leaders, and the betrayals of the Communist Party, who act on the wishes of the Soviet Union bureaucracy.

So we say prepare now to make the Morecambe Conference the biggest and best conference, which will lay the foundations for the alternative leadership for the working class.

Hackney Young Socialists Federation.

Challenge

THE publication of the Young Communist League journal 'Challenge' in a new form at an increased price is a development which Young Socialist members should note.

The new 'magazine' is highly reminiscent of 'Private Eye', with sick jokes, etc. The change represents something we have said all along, a turn towards middle-class youth—Communism is represented as being 'with it', hippies are 'in' and the problems of working-class youth are, it appears, 'out'.

In other words it is an adaptation to the current brand of idealism. The role of the paper cannot do anything else but to divert youth away from revolutionary struggle.

'Challenge' turns to the hangers-on of the Wilson government, the Labour Party Young Socialists, and the youth section of a capitalist party—the Young Liberals.

As social democracy carries out more and more vicious attacks on the working class 'Challenge' raises the banner of 'live and let live' to one and all—excepting of course

the Young Socialists and Trotskyism.

Under the cover of 'Communism' the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union and the Communist Parties of the world carry out policies of class collaboration. They willingly take part in capitalist governments carrying out the line of 'peaceful co-existence'.

In Britain today they operate as a cover for the Labour government and the 'lefts'; they offer no leadership for the working class such as on the docks or on the building sites in London or in industry in Sheffield.

To fight Stalinism the Young Socialists have to go to the history of the working-class movement and study how this bureaucracy in the Soviet Union developed. It is not enough to have a few phrases.

The publication of the new 'Challenge' should cause consternation amongst those members of the Young Communist League who want to fight for socialism. They must learn that it is not enough to put forward ideas of reforming the Young Communist League from within.

This kind of compromise will get nowhere. There is only one path to revolutionary policies, not several which may or may not be wrong. Only the Young Socialists is based on Trotskyism.

Bernard Diamant, South Leeds YS.

News from Bradford

IN Bradford, as in most towns, Keep Left is the only political youth paper which can be sold in any reasonable numbers at all.

This is because the youth are coming to realize more and more that only the Young Socialists and its paper Keep Left have any conception of the political needs and interests of the working-class youth.

In the wool-textile industry wages are appallingly low and they are often forced to work in the filthiest conditions. At the same time youth unemployment is very high, so the mill owners try to rule the workers with a rod of iron.

But the youth are fighting back. Recently in one mill the young workers refused to clean out the primitive toilets which the management had allowed to get into the most disgusting condition.

The managers were completely unable to force these young textile workers to do this work because they had

the complete backing of the whole factory, both the young and the old.

In the wool-textile unions the leaders have completely sold their members out time and time again. These leaders co-operate in sackings, speed-ups, worsening conditions of work and racialism.

But big changes are on the way. The younger workers, including the immigrants, are determined to settle accounts with their leaders. The Young Socialists have a vital role to play in the building of a real working-class leadership in the unions.

Dennis Candy, Bradford.

Devaluation and the Motor Industry

THE effects of devaluation on the motor industry are very important for Luton because the main industry here is Vauxhall Motors.

foreign-made computers and electronic equipment which British industry needs in order to be able to compete with modern industries abroad.

There is a third factor which will increase the cost of car exports. The demand in Britain for cars is being reduced by increased hire purchase conditions and an exceptionally high bank rate, both of which reduce the amount of credit in the country.

This will mean that the motor industry is producing fewer cars for the home market. The factories will not be turning over at full capacity, which will force the price of individual cars to rise.

One of the reasons for the success of the US car industry is the huge home demand which allows enormous factories to work at full capacity and therefore relatively economically.

The motor industry will also have another problem to face.

Since devaluation the amount of foreign money received from the export of

Labour government's policy. During their recent struggle for wages the management was willing to give a rise of a few pence an hour when the Minister of Labour Ray Gunter stepped in and forced the men to accept special conditions attached to the rise in pay.

This brought home the lesson that we are now in the period of the political strike, when all strikes for wages are strikes against the government.

Those who say that strikes can be fought in the same way as they were during the post-war boom—against the management alone—can only lead struggles to defeat. The strike on the Barbican site is a clear example of this type of policy leading to defeat.

The Vauxhall workers must link up with other sections of the labour movement, especially other motor workers, in a political fight against the Wilson government.

But the problems of the motor industry are not soluble under capitalism as all the failures of the Labour government's policies have shown in the past and will show in the future.

The solution for the motor industry is its nationalization under workers' control.

This poses the necessity for an alternative socialist leadership which the Morecambe conference will provide.

Over the next few months the Luton YS will be forming a resolution on the motor industry for Morecambe. In this way the new recruits to the Young Socialists will be involved in thrashing out political solutions to the problems of their industry.

Luton YS.

révoltes

Annual Subscription
£1 (post included)

POUR LA CONSTRUCTION DE L'ORGANISATION RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE DE LA JEUNESSE

Wilson claims that devaluation will mean that British goods will now be cheaper in overseas markets and therefore the British motor companies will be able to sell many more vehicles abroad. The general increase in exports achieved in this way—and the corresponding decrease in exports—is supposed to cure the balance of payments deficit and lead us back into an export boom from 1969 onwards.

We do not think that devaluation will reduce export prices by as much as is claimed. The British motor industry, like many other major industries, is based on imported raw materials, which are now increased in cost by 14 per cent.

The motor industry is based on the iron and steel industry for car bodies and engines, and the iron and steel industry is based on imported iron ore.

Not only will the cost of raw materials be increased, but so will the cost of the

one car will fall by 14 per cent. This means that the motor industry will have to sell 14 per cent more cars abroad in order to make the same amount of money as before devaluation.

So in order to make more money than before, and thus contribute towards the 'export boom', the motor industry will have to sell something like 20 per cent more cars abroad than before.

Can it do this in the face of the contradictions we have mentioned in this letter?

We do not think that the motor industry or any other British industry can achieve this, especially because of the slow-down in the rate of expansion of world trade.

Because devaluation will not solve the crisis, the Labour government will intensify its attacks on the working class in an attempt to solve the crisis by driving down wages and conditions.

The men at Vauxhall's have already experienced at first hand the carrying out of the

Put Britain right in half an hour

EVERYBODY who is anybody is joining the hand-clapping, 'put Britain back on its feet' stomping, Glory Glory (I'm a Tory), Hallelujah band wagon for the 'half an hour' extra work for nothing.

It seems that the Duke of Edinburgh has recovered sufficiently to dole out a few unofficial awards to the five typists who think it is possible to put Britain right in half an hour.

Of course such compliments are well received from such a shining Knight of sacrifice. I mean he has probably even agreed to put in an extra half hour at his polo club, for Britain. 'You understand a lot of ground-work is required,' he said.

The 'I'm backing Britain' badge will now adorn many a patriotic middle-class chest,

but I suspect that even 'Gimcrack' won't be laying odds on this one.

The telegrams of advice, sent direct to the pulpits, will, without doubt, be received with the necessary reverence and the full blessing of Our Father, followed by an early-morning radio broadcast—a fair day's pay for two days of work'.

Telegrams were also sent to those champions of the working class, Ray Gunter, the Minister of (Hard) Labour and George (I'm in the Union Jack) Woodcock.

The campaign is nicely rounded off with a message to the Prime Minister who, as always, imagines he is at Dunkirk patching up a broken economy.

They must have forgotten to send to the Liverpool dockers—10,000 of them took the day off after New Year's Eve. They just can't be thinking about Britain. Tut, tut!

Rex Henry,
Croydon YS.

Forecast for 1968

1968 opens with a vicious attack on the social services in January by the Labour government, and in February with the Report of the Royal Commission on the Trade Unions.

The results of these actions will have enormous significance for the working class, for the Labour government is doing more than just continuing its policies since 1964.

On the one hand it is attacking the movement that founded the Labour Party and on the other is attacking the Welfare State, which has been the central demand of the Labour Party in the past.

In other words, the failure of the Wilson government to solve the problems of British capitalism results in this government spear-heading an all-out attack on the trade unions.

But the question of whether or not the government can carry through such measures is clearly posed. Their position in the dock strike of having to rely on the betrayals of the Communist Party leaders clearly showed the weakness of the government, which could easily collapse if it ever had to come face to face with a much bigger force.

Only a few weeks ago Jacques Rueff, a leading French economist, said that what Britain needed was a dictatorship like that of de Gaulle.

Furthermore the secret meetings of the Industrial Policy Group, which Callaghan said was sinister and opposed to parliament, only confirms the idea that the British ruling class is contemplating an end to parliamentary democracy.

But the enormous radicalization and politicalization of many sections of the working class requires, for the ruling class, an enormous conflict with the working class in the near future.

The devaluation of the pound, which first and foremost was an attack on the

workers' standards of living, was considered by many industrialists to be too small. We should not see it as the temporary solution to the capitalists' economic problems, but rather as the beginning of a new stage of attacks on workers' conditions.

The international complications of devaluation, notably the build-up of pressure on the dollar, threatens to disrupt the whole world economy, throwing it into an enormous trade and production recession.

We cannot predict the future but we can say with certainty that 1968 will see some enormous class battles. As socialists we mean to see the solution to the crisis in the interests of the working class by the achievement of socialism and workers' power.

The nature of capitalism and its state, exposed so openly at such times as the Russian Revolution and Hitler Germany, can leave only the star-gazers to believe in a peaceful road to socialism.

We know from history that the leadership of the working class is decisive in the outcome of its struggle with the employers.

The Communist Party has led to nothing but defeat in 1966 and 1967 because in all the political strikes it has been the leadership which has insisted 'keep politics out of the unions'.

This method resulted in the Barbican defeat.

We think that this period poses the fight for and the achievement of socialism. The other alternative is barbarism and war.

We have chosen the fight for socialism and call on all members of the labour movement to join the Young Socialists.

R. Brown,
Hemel Hempstead YS.

How to save Britain in half an hour a day

THE girls who now work half an hour for Britain must have given great heart to Britain's industrial moguls, who have in fact conned them into giving labour value for nothing.

Only deluded people could believe this latest gimmick will save the British economy. It would be more useful to ask why all the British financiers were so interested in gold and foreign currency just prior to devaluation. The Treasury gave away £500,000,000 in just a few half hours.

Of course, to some people, who have all day to do nothing, it would be quite difficult to fight in half an hour for John Bull. Perhaps they might manage another bottle of whisky, or a couple of extra courses at lunch, or perhaps another half an hour's speculation on the Stock Exchange—what a great help to the nation!

My heart goes out to the poor, exhausted middle and upper classes. How to spend

A Young Socialist pamphlet dedicated to the memory of Comrade Peter Archer who died on October 25, 1967, aged 23. He was a founding member of the Young Socialists and a member of the Socialist Labour League.

Obtainable from 1864a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

Leon Sedov



SON · FRIEND · FIGHTER

Dedicated to the Proletarian Youth

by

LEON TROTSKY

2s. 6d.

those extra profits must be a terrible headache. How much more can a bloated, jaundiced carcass take?

It would be nice for workers to get, in their wage packets each week, what the shareholders get in dividends every half hour.

What about the unemployed? Maybe we can find them a job for half an hour a day, which they would be only too willing to do for nothing. Even the Duke could find something to do in half an hour!

This kind of crude propaganda stunt is another attempt to prepare in advance for a witch-hunt against the working class, by whipping up a patriotic fervour amongst the middle class. They even hope the half-an-hour lunacy will affect the working class. The bosses hope that workers will eat less and work harder in 1968—to work for nothing would be even better.

John Bull,
Sacred Society of
Union Jack Wavers.

Epitaph For Capitalism

Here lies capitalism, rotten and decayed,
its role as freedom, long exhausted
and outplayed.
No longer does the split society
of exploiter and exploited
exist.
And gone forever is the sadistic,
totalitarian iron fist.

Gone too are its Stalinist and
Social Democratic allies;
those who distorted and misled,
they too lie here . . . dead.
For they are the parasites who
have betrayed,
and the Revolution constantly
delayed.

Yes, there it is grovelling on
the ground.
We have destroyed it
and a new life we have found.
Now forward to freedom
forward to life.
Now truly we can say
it was worth all that
strife.

Alan Surrey

YS XMAS SCHOOL TOPS THE BILL



AT A Christmas Weekend School, which combined a whole number of activities, Young Socialists from the London area met to discuss the question of how the present economic crisis in Britain affects the working class and the role of the Labour government.

The topic discussed most was the building of the Young Socialists into a mass youth movement and how the YS could give a lead to the struggles of the workers in the trade unions against the attacks of the Labour government.

Many new members of the

YS spoke from the floor or participated in the discussion groups after the main lecture.

On Saturday evening the more talented members provided entertainment in the form of singing and other contributions in a talent spot, which was followed with records and dancing.

A Speaking Contest on Sunday afternoon gave those YS members who wanted to a chance to enter for the National Speaking Contest on January 6. Winner was a member from Battersea YS, who gave a vivid account of his job in a power station.

In a football match between YS members south of the Thames and those north of the river, South were the winners.

SNP-A warning

● from page four

claims to be against Wilson's policies.

But behind Home Rule is the belief in private property and the rule of law and order—that is, in the continuation of capitalism.

Along with this goes the defeat of the working class, its trade unions and the building of its own political party.

This is reflected in the SNP hostility to the theory of the working class, Marxism.

But the Nationalists are most clearly exposed in their policy on youth. Despite Mrs. Ewing's claims about championing youth, when it comes to the test, her party lines up with the capitalist system, its courts and police, against working-class youth.

Only the clear class policies of the Young Socialists as contained in the draft resolution for the Morecambe conference in April this year, and the preparation for putting up YS candidates at the next general election, offer a way forward to Scottish workers as part of the international working class.

JARROW YS SWINGS INTO '68



JARROW Young Socialists are building up the YS movement to fight against unemployment—now a serious problem in the North-East of England. One of the most attractive activities of the YS in that area are the successful dances, like this one.



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Peter Archer Memorial Meeting

● from page eight

it was easier to get them to die for the Revolution than to clean their rifles.

Learn from Peter's disaster. Be in control of yourselves. Use your brains to keep you out of accidents. They can kill you.

The worst thing of all is what we have lost by Peter's death.

Just think what Peter would have been at 30! in the fullness of his powers, energetic, intelligent, and also trained in Marxism and in political work. This would indeed have been a formidable political figure. We shall feel the need of him to take the fat off the Paul Chambers!

The measure of our loss is not just what he did in his few years, but where he was going and what he would have done. That is the road opening before you young men and women in the Trotskyist movement.

Especially he tells you that to do the work that the working class demands, you must be well-grounded. Peter wasn't a novice in party work, but he was only just now tackling his basic studies. You can't get by just on activity, however devoted. The

comrades who founded this movement began with the ideas of Marxism. They learned them from books.

Mary and I are sure that Peter would not think of his life as a useless waste. He would be glad and proud that his endurance and work had won our admiration and respect, that the movement was going from one success to another, from the weekly to the twice-weekly paper.

He would be proud that we can look back on what he did to build the YS, to fight the racialists, to break into the motor industry.

He would see his own life as part of the answer to the people who see the Russian Revolution as just a conspiracy or a non-event.

His life was an answer to those who conceal that Lenin and Trotsky were ready to make the greatest sacrifices to help the workers of other countries to overthrow their exploiters, who spit at internationalism.

So far we have only got round to how we older folks saw Peter. What you thought about him, the younger comrades whom he worked with around the movement, that is just as important a part of our experience.

How did he learn to deal with problems? How did he try to lead and strengthen the other comrades? How did he try to tie together the different generations in the party to make them work smoothly together and avoid nonsense?

Who is there here who will just tell us about what Peter was like in a branch? What happened when you were out with him on a sale, or in a fight? Come on, talk to us, we want to hear!

Comrade Chairman, comrades and friends! That is what I have to say in farewell to our friend and comrade, Peter, and I hope he would think it is OK.

There remains just one last job to be done. I have to do it because he isn't here.

When he died, there was a £5 note in his wallet. This is it. It's no good to him any more. What he would want above all would be to lay it down where the £25,000 fund is beginning, to see you pile the hundreds and thousands of coins and notes on top of it, higher and higher, burying it under what will be his tombstone and his memorial.

This will build you young comrades and all of us into the people who will lead the working class to power. That is the way we pay our respects to Peter.

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