

# KEEP LEFT

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UNITES YOUNG WORKERS - APPRENTICES - STUDENTS - UNEMPLOYED AND IMMIGRANT YOUTH



## NEVER again the 1930s

## FORCE THE TORIES TO RESIGN!

# FIGHT

- The anti-union laws and unemployment
- For the right to a job
- For the nationalization of the basic industries, the banks and the land.
- For the anti-Tory rally—Alexandra Palace February 14, 1971



# For a unified, socialist Arab Republic

article by Peter Sylviere



**THE** unprecedented uprising of Palestinian guerrillas heralded by the spectacular capture of three airliners, hi-jacked and then blown up, has dealt a mortal blow to imperialism and Stalinism in the Middle East.

Bourgeois indignation turned to rage when the guerrillas replied to diplomatic overtures for the release of hostages by exploding all three airliners on September 12.

Applauded by the Tories in Westminster, Jordan's King Hussein responded by sending his army of British tanks into war against the guerrillas.

For the next fortnight countless atrocities were reported, rivalled only by the 'Pinkville' massacre in Vietnam.

Sandhurst-trained Hussein ordered his Bedouin soldiers into hospitals where sub-machine guns were used to finish off the wounded, while axes were employed to decapitate babies.



Palestinian guerrillas man machine-gun defence at Irbid

## BURN

Two years ago during a previous struggle with the guerrillas Hussein had warned: 'If I don't rule this country, I shall burn it.'

The Palestinian people, who go to make up two-thirds of Jordan's population, arrived as refugees after they were forced from their homes when the State of Israel was imposed upon the Arab people by imperialism in 1948.

The guerrilla movement's vowed intention to eliminate Zionism and return the land to the Palestinians has put them in the forefront of the struggle against imperialism, earning them a strong base of sympathy amongst workers in the Arab countries.

The six-day war in June 1967 accelerated a rapid strengthening of the guerrilla groups particularly in the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

Despite every attempt to liquidate the guerrillas, including the sell-out of Al Fatah leader, Yassir Arafat, to Hussein at the Cairo peace talks on September 26, the revolutionary wing of the movement defiantly continues the struggle.

## DEPRIVED

The death of Egyptian President Nasser two days later has deprived both imperialism and Stalinism of their most illustrious ally in the Middle East.

His funeral nevertheless provided convenient cover for the gathering of reactionary forces desperate to finish the task of beheading the Arab revolution.

The problem of maintaining a peaceful status-quo, without the guiding expertise of Nasser, was eclipsed by the arrival of Arafat.

Referring to Hussein and his army during the opening days of the war, he announced: '... a sea of blood separates us from them'.

Within days that sea vanished and was replaced by a traitorous deal selling the destinies of '... the hundreds of thousands of homeless' (Arafat's words) not to mention the 'dead scattered in the streets'.



Hi-jacker Leila Khaled

Under pressure from the growing popular movement of sympathy for the guerrillas, Nasser issued a scathing attack accusing Hussein of 'lying, breaking promises and perpetrating a popular massacre'.

Compelled by the sheer force of this movement of Arab workers and revolted by Hussein's tactics of indiscriminate slaughter, 'left'-talking, bourgeois-nationalist leaders were being driven to match words with action.

Riding a tiger of Syrian workers impatient to avenge the death of Palestine guerrilla fighters, Baathist president Atassi reluctantly dispatched (September 19) a fleet of tanks towards the Jordan border.

## TERROR

The speed with which the Syrian soldiers hastened to the aid of their brothers under Royalist fire in Jordan struck terror into the hearts of Nixon's cabinet and immediately clarified the line-up of class forces in the Middle East.

The phantom of Arab socialist revolution cast twin shadows over the Pentagon and the Kremlin, prompting both sides to plan a combined strategy to attempt to crush the guerrillas. Whilst the Soviet bureaucracy

went to work twisting the arm of the already flabby Syrian government, on September 21 Nixon alerted the US Sixth Fleet to await the arrival of 'Guam' carrying helicopters able to transport marines to land-locked Jordan.

During the five days which separated the 'Guam' from the US fleet in the Mediterranean, tension mounted as the possibility of a second Vietnam was clearly posed.

## DESTROY

Left-wing guerrillas threatened to destroy imperialist interests throughout the Arab world if America intervened.

It was for Stalinism to provide the lead for a counter-revolutionary offensive.

On September 24 the Syrian president ordered his fleet of Russian-built tanks to retreat to their Russian-built barracks.

Arab leaders temporarily stunned by the courageous guerrilla offensive, supported by a massive wave of Arab sympathy, now jumped to attention as they glanced the growling faces of their imperialist and Stalinist masters.

And later the grief at Nasser's funeral turned to joy as Arafat, keen to win his spurs, emerged from the Cairo talks on October 3 soundly on the side of 'peaceful' co-existence.

Reactionary leaders applauded as he declared himself in favour of banning the revolutionary wing of the guerrilla movement, approving prices placed on the heads of its leaders.

Clubbing together of reactionary forces in the Middle East is part of the historic crisis of imperialism accelerated by the international offensive of the working class.

The carefully laid Rogers-Gromyko 'peace' plan has been blown to smithereens by the Jordan crisis.

The already threatened nationalism, cultivated by Arab Bonapartist leaders to hide their economic servility to imperialism, has been deprived of its most able protagonist—Nasser.

The imperialist crisis, reflected in the increasing offensive against the Arab masses, now demands harsher means to defend its path of destruction. That is the significance of the US sixth fleet. The class-issues emerge inexorably

bursting through every bourgeois ideological myth. In Israel Zionism was not sufficient to prevent a strike at Israel's giant El Al airlines during the Jordan crisis.

Trotskyists must build a movement to uncover the common ground of all workers and in the same way expose the common counter-revolutionary ground of imperialism and Stalinism in the Middle East.

## STRUGGLE

The Palestinian revolution in Jordan has not blown over—it can only be concluded in class struggle—which means the building of a Marxist party to unite Arab and Jewish workers and peasants for the taking of power.

Release all Arab and Jewish prisoners in Israel!

Down with Zionism!

Down with Stalinist/imperialist secret diplomacy!

Long live the Palestine revolution!

Forward to a unified Socialist Arab republic.

# Determination on US-auto picket line

**THE US AUTO** workers are determined to win — said one of the pickets, Robert Jackson: 'They told us the strike would last till next year. We're going to see Christmas on these lines'.

and horrific speed of working have forced these men to take this determined stand.

Besides wages, the main demand is for a retirement pension of 500 dollars per month after 30 years work in the car factory.

An auto worker tells why The sky-rocketing prices this demand has become a

By Mike Humphreys

rallying call for the 344,000 on strike now:

'Partially assembled cars move past at the rate of 62 per hour, he has to look over each car and take out a dent or reweld any improperly joined seam—all in less than a minute. In this factory he gets 30 minutes for dinner.'

In the drive for profit the car manufacturer, in intensifying the exploitation of the working class, also forces the car worker to fight back with even more tenacity.

Richard Jankowski of the Fisher Body plant said: 'I almost cry when I see kids coming into the shop today.

'Working in a factory is nothing to be ashamed of but you see men who are 35 and look 50 years old and you say "is that going to be me".'

To cut down on wage bills the Detroit car bosses are automating to the extent of using robot welders. This is an attempt to create unemployment.

But according to 'Time' magazine, US car sales are down this year partially because the US public, hurt by both inflation and unemployment is hesitating to invest in big ticket (expensive) purchases.

There is no way out for capitalism.

Every attempt to solve its problems of falling profits leads to new problems of shrinking markets.



# northern ireland

CATHOLIC youth in Belfast live in hopes of being united with protestants and living on equal terms with them but on the other side many young protestant workers have been taken in by the idealist poison spread by the Paisleyites and are determined that their 'every man for himself' outlook shall remain dominant.

Samuel Beattia is 17 years old and lives with his parents near the city's dockland in Newtownards Road. He has four sisters and three brothers.

He finished at secondary school two years ago to work a 45-hour week in a brewery at £6 a week and he left because he 'got fed up with doing the same thing day after day'.

He told Keep Left:

## BORED

'They put you on one job and you stick there. You just get bored. You can't stop. You've got to keep the women supplied with bottles. Inspectors stand beside you and even if you want to go to the toilet you've got to get a replacement.'

Beattia left the brewery to work as a window cleaner for £11 a week and he liked that better because he was 'moved around' and was 'with someone all the time'.

Since he threw up the window-cleaning job three weeks ago he has been unemployed but he said

## Keep Left team's special report

that after tax it 'wasn't worth carrying on'.

He hopes to get another job at £16 a week but even if this fails he's optimistic about finding work.

He said, 'I'm not afraid of unemployment. I'll get on whatever happens.'

His approach to life is individualist and he is committed to the protestant view that if people don't get on it's because they are idlers and it seemed that in his eyes most catholics fell into this category.

He admits that unemployment, poor wages and slum housing are the cause of the trouble between working people and he said he thought the presence of British troops was 'good'.

He said, 'If we hadn't got the troops there'd be nothing left of Belfast.'

Belfast middle class live in better and even fine houses on the outskirts of the city and Beattia saw no reason to object to this.

He said, 'It's right they live in big houses. They work for it. If people live in slums it's because it's their own fault.'

Young people are ready to listen to any attempt to interpret



Working for low wages in a Belfast mill



A typical slum street in Belfast

# Spotlight on Belfast

what is happening in the city but without leadership, without an understanding of the capitalist crisis and how it affects them and Ulster, individual solutions to a situation in which prospects hardly seem to exist, are rare.

Michael Ford is 19 years old and a catholic. He has three brothers and three sisters and his father is a roofer.

He said, 'There is very little chance of a good future in Belfast. Even tonight people are fighting in our area. If I could get a certificate as a tradesman I'd go to England.'

Ford thought the Stormont government was to blame for the unemployment and poor living conditions.

## TO BLAME

'The Unionist government are to blame for the crisis. They want to split the working class to stave off the threat of its power.'

The republicans—among whom he numbers Bernadette Devlin—were claimed to have misled catholics from childhood by teaching that the other side were always responsible for the shortage of jobs and the slums.

He said: 'They say destroy the British and the Unionists and you'll be all right but that's not the answer.'

The Irish Republican Army are said to have large areas of Belfast 'sewn up' and in areas such as the Unity Walk and the Artillery flats the walls are plastered with IRA slogans.

Ford said, 'The government don't try to provide employment. There's enough labour so they could launch nationalized industries.'

He added: 'If nationalized industries were set up and prices controlled there wouldn't be inflation. There'd have to be workers' control because employers wouldn't give rises.'

On wages he pointed out that

the unions had not been 'very active' and that they were afraid to protest or to call a strike because of the unemployment.

## APPRENTICE

Leaving secondary school at the age of 16 he has worked as an apprentice electrician for three years and is paid £13 5s a week, including Saturday morning on overtime.

A young catholic girl, Alice Okane, who has four brothers and five sisters has been able to go on from secondary school to Rupert Stanley College to take 'O' levels.

She lives in the Crumlin Road area and her father, who is a welder by trade, is unemployed.

Alice told us:

'We're sick of being separated

from the protestants and sick of the injustices. The working people of Belfast are just the same but the protestants are being led on to think they'll get more.'

Alice wants to be a dental surgeon and she is prepared to leave Belfast and Ulster if she has to.

She said: 'I don't want to go into a factory. You're just like an animal there. There's no future. Most girls work a couple of years and then get married. But I don't want to marry. I'd rather travel and meet people.'

She added: 'I wouldn't stay in N Ireland. I wouldn't like to rear a family here in a situation where there's so much hatred between people. I would like to see a united Ireland. I don't see how a divided country can prosper.'

continued on page 4



A hated sight in Belfast—British troops

# RUDI DUTSCHKE

THE Tory government's decision to send Rudi Dutschke back to W Germany can only be understood as an attack by the whole of the ruling class on the political and academic freedom of left-wing militants and revolutionaries.

Rudi Dutschke, 31, came to this country for treatment after he had been shot by a right-wing extremist for his activities as a student revolutionary leader of the SDS.

## guarantee

He gave the authorities all the guarantees they asked for including their demand that he should refrain from taking part in politics in Britain.

He carried out this agreement.

But when he tried to join Cambridge University to

carry on his studies, the Home Office intervened and he was asked to leave the country.

The jail sentences passed on the eight Cambridge students in August this year, after they demonstrated against the Greek junta, were part of the same Tory offensive on the working class via the call for 'Law and Order'.

## desperate

The Tories are desperately trying to single out and isolate the militants and left-wing oppositionists inside the universities, colleges and above all in the factories.

They want to do this in order to undermine the working class and to lay the basis for anti-union laws.

The defence of Rudi Dutschke is therefore a class question and can only be successful if the fight is taken into the working class.

Rudi Dutschke's right to live and study in Britain is part of all the fundamental rights which the working class have won from the ruling class.

# Irish Young Socialists rally

Report from Keep Left reporter in Dublin

A HIGHLY successful rally in Dublin attended by youth from Irish Young Socialist branches throughout the country was the result of the YS.IYS recruiting campaign carried out last month.

A draft resolution—containing the policies and perspectives to be presented to the first national conference of the IYS next year—was introduced for discussion and debate.

Jacky Vance, National Committee member of IYS, explained that it represented a

historic occasion since it was the first time that youth from the North and South had got together to debate and formulate policies against the Tory governments of Lynch and Clarke.

It took place in a period which had the greatest revolutionary potential not only in Ireland but internationally, said Dave Fry, National Secretary of the IYS.

Fraternal greetings were brought to the rally from the League for a Workers Vanguard (Irish section of the Fourth International), Irish All

Trades Unions Alliance and Young Socialists in Britain.

John Simmance, representing the YS from Britain, stressed the need to prepare for the International Conference of Youth.

The struggle of youth in Ireland, he said, was not separate from the rest of the world.

Plans were made at the rally to set up new branches all over the country.

The rally also had as part of its agenda a five-a-side football tournament and a discotheque in the evening.



Keep Left October 1970

## Greetings to the six-days-a-week 'Workers Press'

KEEP LEFT is extremely proud to greet the publication of the six-day 'Workers Press', only just over a year after the first issue of the world's first Trotskyist daily rolled off the presses.

Thousands of Young Socialists all over the country rightly regard the 'Workers Press' as their paper, for it is above all the Young Socialists who have fought to launch, contribute to, sell and collect funds for the 'Workers Press'.

With the advent of a Tory government dedicated to stripping the working class of its most basic rights—rights won in 200 years of working-class struggle against the employers and their Tory mouthpieces—a daily revolutionary paper is now a vital necessity.

One year of the 'Workers Press' has already made this clear to thousands of workers.

The Tory government faces the working class and its leadership with new tasks.

The struggles of the dockers, the Pilkington workers and the GKN-Sankey strikers have already made it clear that the union chiefs will back down from a struggle with the Tories.

They are politically protected by the Communist Party, which tries to cover their left flank. But for millions of workers the fight against the Tories, against unemployment, soaring prices and anti-union laws cannot be postponed or avoided.

Nationally and internationally, the working class is coming into battle to meet and fight its exploiters.

In the Middle East, in Indo-China, in western and eastern Europe and the United States, the citadel of world imperialism, class struggle is now the order of the day.

The 'Workers Press' will bring together, every day, the experience of these struggles and relate them to the fight of the British working class.

Six-day publication, as the Socialist Labour League Central Committee pointed out in its statement announcing the new step forward, will make more effective the struggle against the reactionary policies of the Tory government and the lies, slanders and confusion spread by the Labour traitors and British Stalinism and its press.

The six-day paper will give a lead to every struggle facing the working class. It will continue to be the uncompromising spokesman and best defender of the real needs of the class in the fight against the Tories and against bureaucracy.

The Young Socialists who have played such a magnificent part in the forging of this revolutionary weapon will gain even more striking power in the campaign for a huge anti-Tory rally of youth at Alexandra Palace.

Keep Left, too, is on the threshold of big advances with the prospect of weekly publication in 1971.

Keep Left appeals to all its readers to take the 'Workers Press' regularly and fight to build up its circulation. We say:

- Long live the six-day 'Workers Press'.
- Forward to the weekly Keep Left.
- For a mass anti-Tory rally at Alexandra Palace.
- Build the mass Young Socialists movement.

### MEETING

Hands off the unions!

**GREET THE SIX-DAY**

**workers press**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18  
Poplar Civic Hall, Bow Road

7.30 p.m.

Adm 2s

#### SPEAKERS

G. Healy (SLL National Secretary)  
G. Caughey (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)  
Roy Battersby  
John Simmance (YS National Secretary)

Chairman: C. Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)



## The Pilkington story

FOLLOWING a seven-week dispute at Pilkington Glass Company in St Helens earlier this year more than 600 men were sacked after a return to work on the basis of a £3 a week increase in wages.

The sackings occurred after the men declared their right to withdraw labour in defence of a fellow worker who wanted to be represented in a complaint against the management by someone of his own choosing.

And at the firm's Pontypool factory 230 to 250 men were sacked for refusing to return to work whilst the St Helens men were out on strike.

Of the 600 men originally sacked at St Helens, 250 are still outside the factory. They and the Pontypool men were victimized for fighting for their right to strike for basic trade union rights.

The fact that the leadership of their union, the General and Municipal Workers' Union, did not lift a finger to assist them in the fight against victimization is the full measure of its betrayal before the Tories and the employers.

Those who were re-employed at the St Helens factory lost their rights under the pension scheme, the Redundancy Payment Act and the Contracts of Employment Act.

Meanwhile those outside the gate continue their fight in the labour movement against their dismissal and for the basic trade union right to representation and to strike.

Secretary of the St Helens Young Socialists branch, Alan Brenon, one of those recently sacked from Pilkington's spoke to Keep Left about the dispute and how it affected the lives of workers in the town.

### Strike

St Helens has a population of about 110,000 and at least one person in every family works at Pilkington's.

I have got a father, a brother, three uncles and a grandfather working there.

The recent seven-week dispute started with only a handful of men.

We had an offer of 2s 6d an hour some 12 months ago and the men were still waiting for a reply this summer on the offer.

Finally they got tired of waiting and they walked out on strike for 2s 6d an hour increase.

Other sections in the works were brought out and the other branches in the town soon joined us when they found out that we were going for a flat rate to build the basic wage up to a decent living wage.

After that it just escalated. The union first of all backed us 100 per cent and made it official at local level, then when the

Told by Alan Brenon, Secretary of St Helens YS Branch.

National Executive of our union (the General and Municipal Workers' Union) said: "You're not on—get back to work" we had to form a rank and file strike committee.

The strike lasted for seven weeks and eventually we had to go back. If the union officials had stayed with us we could have won hands down and got a decent living wage out of it.

For several weeks whilst we were out we had no money from the Social Security and if a man and his wife were both out on strike they got no money at all.

The dispute split families right down the middle. The unions were telling people to go back to work and some of the workers went along with the official line.

Sons were out whilst fathers went to work and you had one brother working and the other one out.

### Return

Every pub, cafe or shop that you went in to all you heard was the Pilkington dispute.

It was the first dispute in the town for about 100 years apart from the 1926 General Strike.

The head man of all the trade unions came along to see us. All the men in St Helens trusted him and they all went back to work thinking that they had won a victory.

But as soon as we were all back at work he didn't seem to want to know any more.

The local clergy, after three weeks of the strike told us all to go back to work because it was causing a lot of hardship and they did not like to see this.

After the first ballot, to decide whether or not we should go back, the results were never published and the clergy decided to move in again.

They ordered another ballot. But there was no recount allowed when we asked if we could see if the number of people who voted tallied with the number of votes cast.

The men said they wouldn't accept the ballot and refused to go back to work.

On the picket line the police weren't too bad at first but somebody put the pressure on and the riot squad was brought in against us.

They picked on elderly pickets and ran them in for obstructing footpaths and throwing missiles.

Before the strike our basic wage was £11 10s and our claim was for a £20 basic. We were eventually offered an interim award of £3.

After the strike was over we decided on a democratic right to elect the shop stewards we

thought were fit for the job. We put a vote of no confidence in the previous stewards and elected our own.

But this was turned down by the G&MWU so we decided to withdraw from that union and join the Transport and General Workers' Union but we were turned down by the T&GWU as well.

A man at the Cowley Hill works in St Helens was suspended from work when he refused to allow a G&MWU steward to represent him before the management.

A mass meeting was called at the works and it was voted unanimously for a token stoppage for three days.

### Sacked

The men who walked out the gate were warned not to go out. They all got the sack. When other workers in other factories heard this they came out in support of the sacked men.

Of those men who walked out 350 who were re-employed.

Two hundred and fifty are blacklisted and Pilkington's won't take them back.

We are still fighting for reinstatement both for the men outside the gate and for those 350 who were re-employed.

This is not an inter-union battle. It is a question of the right of a worker to withdraw his labour.

With the Tory government in power I think the employers sacked us knowing quite well they would have the backing of the government. Other firms will use it as an example if they are allowed to get away with it.

Now that the Tories are in we must convince the youth that they mean business.

We want the Tories out and get on the way to socialism.

## Belfast

Continued from page 3

The girls thought that British troops should be withdrawn because there could be no hope of unity while they remained.

Alice said: 'The Unionist government doesn't do anything. Government officials have their big houses and yachts but they don't give a damn. It's all our money anyway.'

Her friend Mary Meigham, who at 16 is still at St Gemmas secondary school, said that the Unionists feared that if the protestants and catholics got together they'd put in a working-class government.

She said: 'We want a government that's for the people and wants equality, not a government that's for themselves. I'd clear out Stormont and put the people in power; a state run for workers by workers—not by Tories.'

'It's not fair that a few people at the top should be getting all the money. The capitalists are getting everything in N Ireland and the people are getting nothing.'



# Special London area YS conferences to prepare—

# 'Fight to defeat Tories' campaign

## MIDDLESEX

A SPECIAL conference of the Middlesex Region Young Socialists attended by delegates and visitors from all the federations in the region, was the centre of the political preparation for a massive anti-Tory rally planned early next year.

Opening the conference, held on September 27, Sheila Torrance emphasized the very sharp relations between the working class and the Tory government and the need to build an alternative leadership if a return to the thirties is to be avoided.

'If the Tories and their friends can murder thousands of workers and peasants in the Middle East and Vietnam, do you think they will hesitate to do it in this country if their property is threatened?

'The working class can be defeated if it is left in the hands of the treacherous union leaders.'

The keen discussion which followed, revolved around the programme of the YS to lead the campaign to force the Tories to resign.

Members of the YS brought their experiences in building the branches into the discussion.

Some members who had been to other parts of the country with the recruiting teams made contributions regarding the results of the national campaign.

The conference passed an

By Keep Left Reporter

emergency resolution on the Middle East pledging its 'fullest support to the struggle of the Palestinian and Arab workers against imperialism and its Zionist agents'.

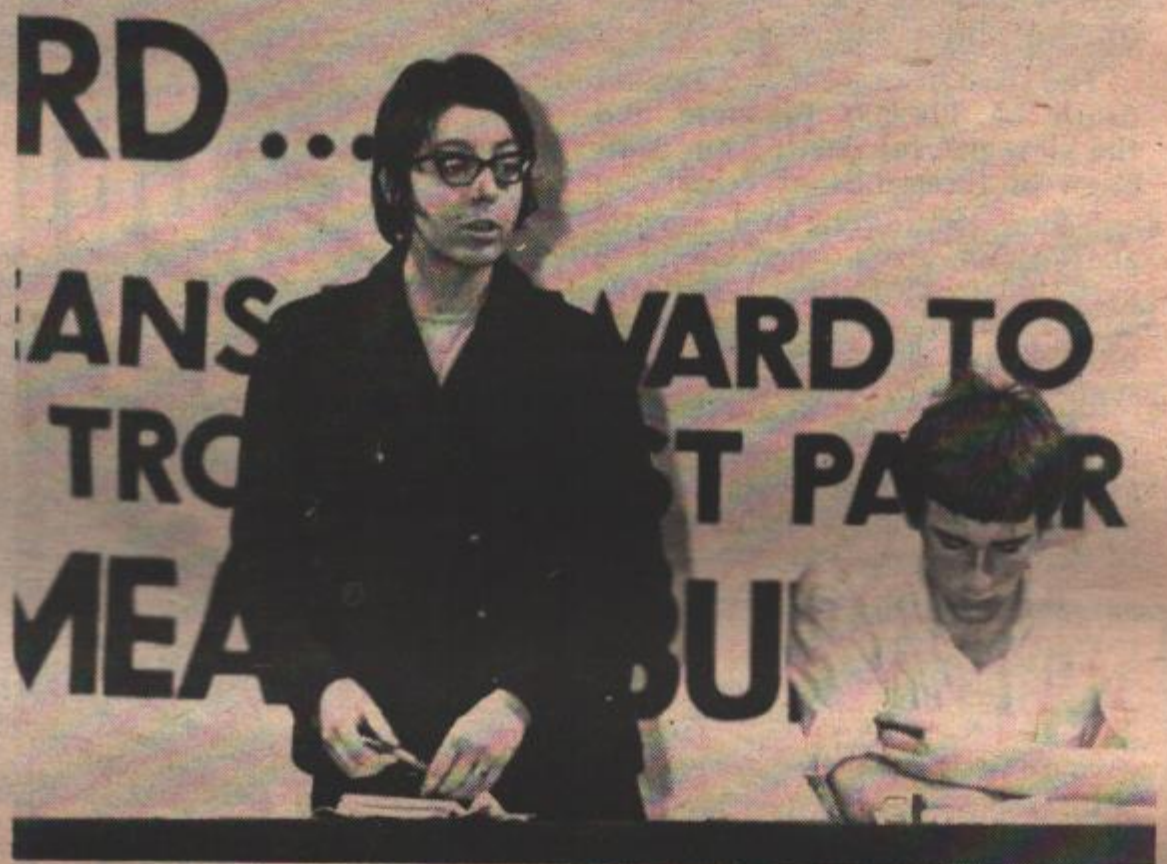
Other resolutions passed were those concerning the expulsion of Rudi Dutschke, the All Trades Unions Alliance Pilkington Conference and the publication of the six-day 'Workers Press'.

A regional committee was elected to plan out and lead the work in the whole of the region.

Conference came to a close with the showing of the film 'Salt of the Earth'.

Sheila Torrance, assistant secretary of the Socialist Labour League gives the main report.

## INTERNATIONAL



Report by Sarah Hannigan

## LONDON



'SINCE the last conference of the London Region Young Socialists, the Tories have come to power in Britain.'

Speaking at East Ham Town Hall on Sunday, September 27, at the special London Regional Conference of the Young Socialists, Keep Left editor Aileen Jennings stressed the changed nature of the political situation since the Tory government was elected.

The proposed trade union reform bill meant that the Tories were challenging the rights of the working class.

### Court

The bill proposed an industrial court to back the Commission of Industrial Relations, cooling-off periods before an imminent strike, compulsory strike ballot and the appointment of a registrar.

'There is no going back — the working class is faced with struggles which pose quite concretely the question of power.'

'The Regional Conference,' she continued, 'has as its prime concern the preparation for such a task'.

It was with this perspective that the conference discussed the work facing the Young Socialists in the preparation for the Anti-Tory Festival at Alexandra Palace on February 14 next year.

### Six-day

An emergency resolution welcoming the forthcoming six-day publication of Workers Press and pledging the support of everyone at the conference for the extension of the circulation was passed unanimously.

Another emergency resolution called for full support for the struggle of the Palestinian and Arab peoples and for an end to secret diplomacy between the Soviet bureaucracy and US imperialism.

Other resolutions passed called for support for the All Trades Unions Alliance October 3 Conference on Pilkingtons and for the right of Rudi Dutschke—who led the German students in 1968—to stay in Britain.

Federations reported on their

A section of the audience listening to discussion at the London Region conference.

programmes in the coming months and discussed plans for new branches in preparation for the Anti-Tory Festival.

It was stressed that the YS Scarborough conference would be the second stage of the campaign to build a mass base for the organization among youth.

The plan for a weekly Keep Left would also play a big part in this campaign.

### Election

Last item on the agenda was the election of the Regional Committee which would be responsible for carrying out the programme outlined at the conference.

Later a film called 'Hell's Riders' showed the lives of long distance truck-drivers in the United States.

## ORDER YOUR



## NEW BANNER

Young Socialist Branch banners made for only 10s. This includes the material and the name of the branch painted on. If slogans or anything extra is required, the cost will be slightly greater as more material will be used. Estimates will be given if requested.

Complete form below :

BRANCH .....

Name of Secretary.....

Words for banner.....

Address of Secretary .....

(if necessary enclose your own design)

Amount enclosed £.....s.....d.....

Send to Art department :  
Young Socialists  
186a Clapham High St.,  
S.W.4.



**Science Survey**  
By Gary Gurmeet

**TWENTY-FIVE** years ago the world's first atom bomb to be used in war was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki—a tragic reminder of the death agony of capitalism.

The explosive power of this bomb was 15 million times that of its weight in TNT, equivalent to thousands of tons of high explosive.

The bomb caused the instant death of 110,000 Japanese and the slow painful death from radiation of thousands of others.

Genetic mutations and somatic aberrations from the energetic particles from radioactive decay and nuclear reactions were some of the after effects of this deadly bomb.

The head sizes of some of those born in the second generation were smaller than average and suffered from a higher degree of mental retardation.

**First ever**

Some of the scientists involved in the making of this bomb had earlier been engaged in the project which saw the first ever nuclear explosion in the history of science.

To hold an atomic explosion in the middle of a continent (America) was no easy task because the radiation would kill anyone within a mile radius of the site.

The desert site of Alamogordo (also called Jornada Del Muerto—Spanish for 'Journey of Death') was chosen for this experiment.

Some of the scientists felt sure that the test would be successful and that a considerable part of the fissile material would undergo fission within a millionth of a second, before the material expanded sufficiently to stop the chain reaction.

**JIMI HENDRIX**, the American rock 'n' roll musician, died last month,

Hendrix, born in Seattle, Washington, first became known and noticed as a musician in the middle 1960s.

He was a back-up man then, and his break-through did not come until he emigrated and formed a group in England.

Their first record was a success and so was each succeeding album.

At this point, a critical opinion must be ventured. Hendrix, despite all the exaggeration, extravagance, publicity, arrogance, absurdities, has to rank as one of the great rock musicians.

**teeth**

With one hand behind his back, with his teeth he could accomplish on a guitar what most musicians are incapable of wringing from their instruments with two good hands in front of them.

He made the Eric Claptons, Jimmy Pages and Keith Richards of this world seem pale and feeble by comparison.

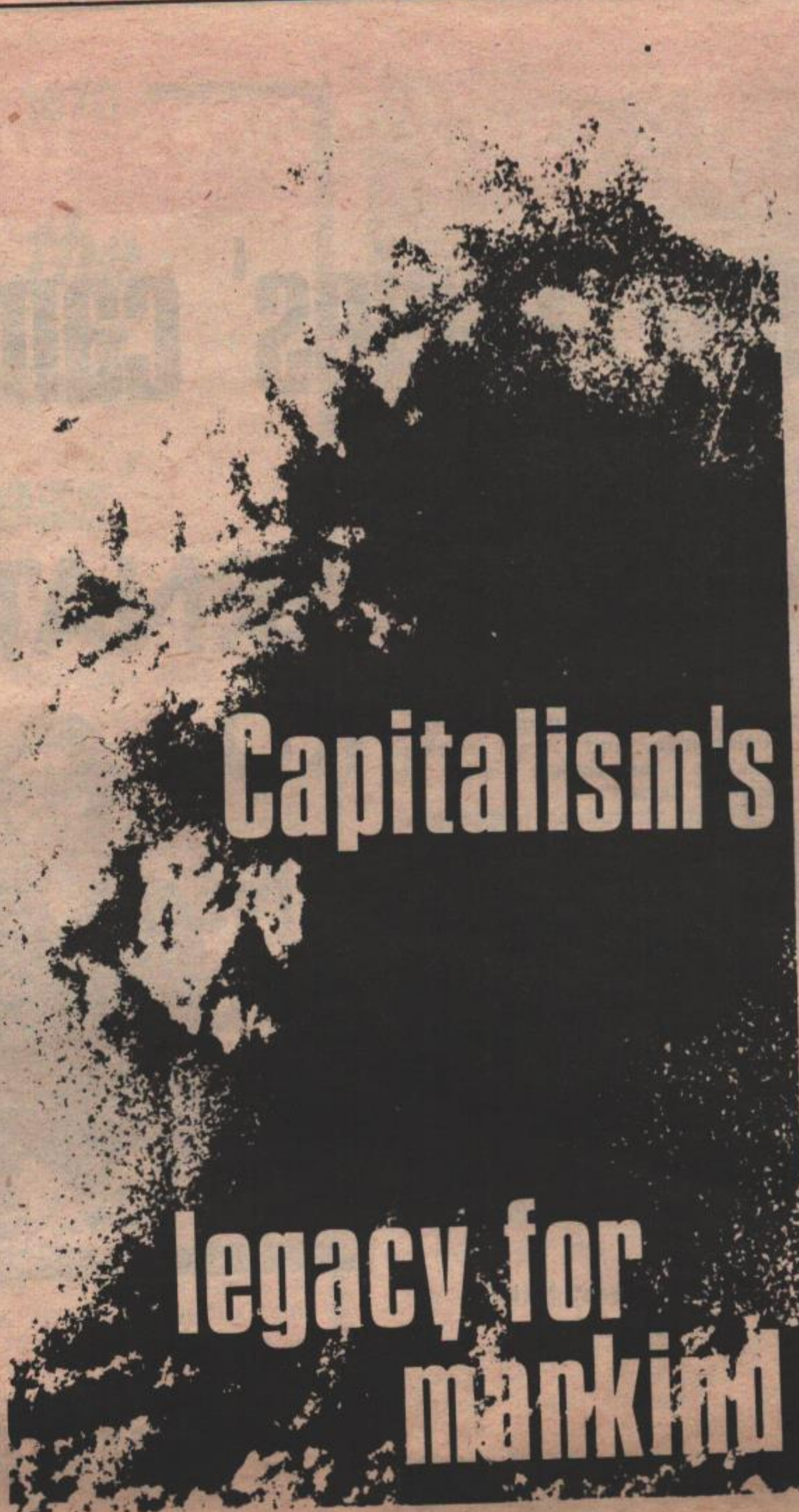
Of course much of the music was over-done, carelessly performed—it became mere noise.

But when Hendrix concentrated on a piece of music, when he played a song as he could, he soared.

On 'ALL ALONG THE WATCH-TOWER', for example, each note is clear and distinct. A simple tune becomes haunting. This is Hendrix at his best. But there was always the other side.

The other side is a necessary product of capitalism. Hendrix became big business. His records sold in the millions.

When he performed at the



**Capitalism's  
legacy for  
mankind**

But to calculate precisely the destructive capacity of such an explosion would have required far greater knowledge of conditions of high pressure and temperature, higher than those ever achieved in the laboratory.

On July 16, 1945 at 5.00 a.m. the countdown for the historic explosion began.

Professor Otto R. Frisch, present at the site, described it in this way:

'At the word zero the desert and the distant hills lit up as if the sun had been turned on with a switch. I had no goggles and had taken care not to face the explosion.'

'Even so the sudden light was

Hendrix played up to it. He played the part to the hilt. He became everything they imagined him to be.

The more contempt Hendrix expressed for his audience, the more suburbia loved him.

But still he was a great artist. That fact couldn't be shaken off. How could he develop new forms trapped in that vice?

To answer simply—he couldn't. There is no exit, no productive 'escape-route' under capitalism.

Every development is hindered and deformed by the relations of private property.

The dealers, the middlemen, the producers and managers, all the buyers and sellers of human flesh must have their cut. And Hendrix capitulated entirely to them.

**surrendered**

Instead of a conscious struggle for his music, he surrendered to the machinery.

Hendrix' music served capitalism in another way, which he was quite aware of.

The aggression and violence of the music served as a safety-valve, re-channelling the aggression and violence of his youthful audience.

'We can play violent music, and in a way it's like watching wrestling or football for them—it releases their violence.'

Hendrix' dilemma is by no means unique. Every artist faces it. Popularity multiplies it geometrically.

Only when the working class takes power and wipes out the old social relations, only under a socialist society will the energies and abilities of every human being be released.

Every attempt to by-pass this fact is a delusion, and such delusions are doomed to fail.

**Jimi  
Hendrix**



By Brad Ives

Fillmore East in New York City, the audience of 5,600 for two shows would be paying three, four or five dollars to see him.

He cultivated the image of the sweating, leering rock giant. He cut a swath through the white middle-class suburbs with his electric guitar.

He terrified the teeny-boppers, the week-end hippies—and they loved him for it.

Instead of a black man playing the role of Uncle Tom or little black Sambo there now develops the image of the omnipotent magical-sexual black man.

But the two images form two sides of the same coin. Both are middle-class fantasies, patronizing and degrading.

overwhelming. This shimmering light lasted for about two seconds and then began to fade, but when I turned around I still could not face the incredibly bright spot on the horizon, like a very bright, very small sun.'

Some people had seen the flash of light 150 miles away and the noise reached them a quarter of an hour later. An ammunition store in Alamogordo was blown up.

Ever since then nuclear tests, placed in the hands of the system of private property, have been carried out regardless of the short- and long-term damage inflicted on man and nature.

**Disturbances**

The disturbances caused at the surface of the earth by underground nuclear explosions were recently analysed by Dr P. J. Barosh of the United States Geological Survey.

Using as datum, the relationship between energy released and disturbance caused by earthquakes, Dr Barosh found that nuclear explosions at a shallow depth will be more damaging than earthquakes releasing equal energy at a greater depth.

The Hiroshima bomb was made at the Hanford reservation in the State of Washington where most of the research was carried out.

Now the vast majority of the radioactive waste produced by the work of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), is buried there in 140 huge steel and concrete tanks.

**Radioactive**

A private investigation revealed earlier this year that this waste—50 million gallons of radioactive material in all—may be directly above an earthquake fault in the geological structure of the ground.

An earthquake at the location would release as much radioactivity as would be released in a world-wide nuclear war!

The AEC had failed to carry out any practical research or drilling in the area as precautionary measures, according to the investigators.

The everyday radiation pollution of the environment plays a major part in deterioration in the general health of the population.

The present permissible levels of radiation exposure, if allowed to continue, could cause the death of 64,000 people in the United States in one year alone.

The recent plan, to blast out

a sea-level canal across America from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean using nuclear explosives, was opposed by a group of biologists.

The radioactive fallout from this operation could have increased, by 50 per cent, the world's level of tritium—a form of hydrogen produced by some nuclear processes—and would increase the chance of earthquakes in populated areas.

The plan has since been dropped for financial reasons.

Just how much money is spent by capitalism to produce this lethal commodity?

The cheapest way to produce a nuclear weapon is by the use of plutonium. This is produced in reactors burning either natural or enriched uranium under controlled conditions.

The known world production of plutonium from power reactors will reach 7,000 kg this year and 100,000 kg per year in 1980.

A plant designed to produce about 8 kg of 95 per cent PU 239 (a fissile isotope of plutonium) would cost something in the region of £11 million.

About 1,300 engineers and 500 scientists would be required to build installations in which nuclear warheads could be produced on a continuous basis.

**Manpower**

This enormous amount of money spent on manpower is directed towards what is an exclusively war project.

The development of the A-bomb has very little to do with the 'preservation of the free world', but the real targets of these weapons have always been the Soviet Union and China—the two countries which, in spite of Stalinism and bureaucratic distortion, have made huge leaps in science ever since the socialist revolution.

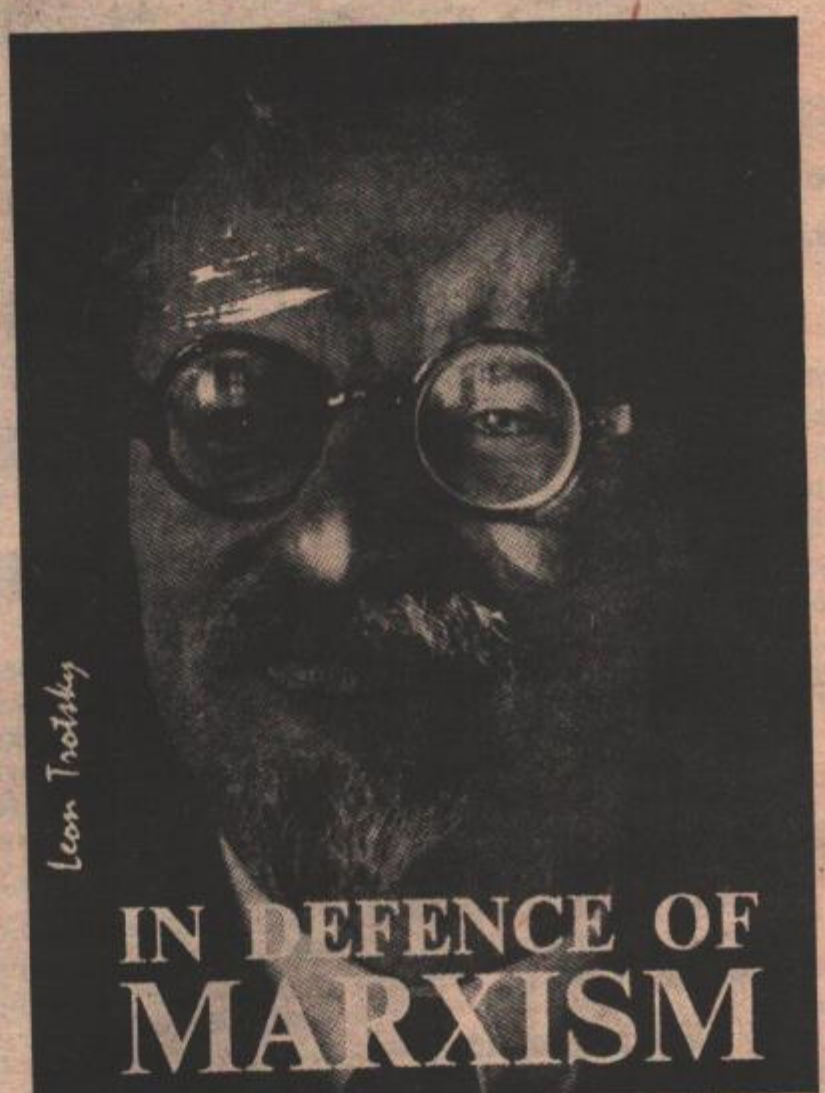
The ruinous state of sections of the Soviet industry after the war did not stop the USSR producing and testing an atomic device in 1947.

**Agreement**

It is also 25 years since the Potsdam agreement which was signed by the Soviet Union, Britain and America and was given the official seal after a series of meetings between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt.

Stalinism carried out this collaboration with imperialism while America was planning to bomb Hiroshima off the map of Japan.

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# VERJAT: LEPETIT: LEFEBVRE

IN SEPTEMBER last year three revolutionaries, three young Frenchmen, were drowned in the cold waters of the North on the route between Russia and Norway: the civil war embraces the whole world and its tragic episodes unfold not only on dry land but on water too.

Over these years every one of us has lost many friends in battle. In all countries the number of such losses is huge

and it continues to grow each day.

And yet the death of Lefebvre, Lepetit and Verjat stands out from even the background of our time by the exceptional nature of its setting, by its (if one is permitted to say it) tragic romanticism.

Out of the three deceased comrades, so different one from the other and yet so fundamentally kindred, I knew Verjat least.

I had seen him only in Moscow, and fleetingly at that, and only just once did I speak to him at great length.

The charm of simplicity and honesty radiated from him. He

had come to see with his own eyes, to find out and to fight.

As far as it seemed to me Verjat was not the enthusiastic sort. Despite his youth there could be sensed in him a calm confidence which looks about itself alertly, distinguishes the trivial from the important and the superficial from the fundamental and has no need of fervency in order to display a lofty courage at the decisive moment.

The French proletariat needs such people.

I knew Lepetit back in my Paris days. A short stocky figure, an intelligent and distinctive face and an alert and suspicious expression marked him out at once.

A metallic voice forced you to listen to him. This navy had been made out of fine, fighting material!

Lepetit, a vivid personality, at the same time embodied in himself the principal traits of the French and particularly the Paris proletariat.

In him there lay the inborn revolutionary leader who awaited his hour for stepping forward.

In France there have been and are a lot of talented workers who, having raised themselves up on the backs of the proletariat, became the upstarts of bourgeois parliamentarism or of pet syndicalism and hand in hand with the lawyers and journalists betrayed the working class.

## Indignation

Lepetit concentrated in himself the indignation of the deceived masses against not only the capitalist class but also against their numerous agents in the proletariat itself.

Lepetit did not wish to take anything on trust.

Though doubtless of an ardent inner nature he was reserved and distrustful. Too many times those whom he had represented had been deceived!

He had arrived in the Soviet Republic with his stock of distrust, his sullen glance and with a thirst to find out in order to act.

He looked everything over two or three times, checked, once again asked a question and once again checked.

Lepetit regarded himself as an anarchist. His anarchism had nothing in common with that drawing-room, priestly-intellectual, individualist claptrap which is so widely spread round France.

## Villainy

His anarchism was the expression, though theoretically incorrect, of a profound genuinely proletarian indignation at the villainy of the capitalist world and at the baseness of those socialists and syndicalists who crawled on their knees before this world.

But precisely because at the root of this anarchism there lay an indissoluble link with the masses and a readiness to fight to

## LEFEBVRE

the end, Lepetit would have by the course of things, the course of the struggle, and the course of his own thought, inevitably arrived at the dictatorship of the proletariat and the Communist International had not the waves of the northern ocean swallowed him up on the way.

Lefebvre was an intellectual and, unless I am mistaken, came from a completely bourgeois family.

He was the pure form of the revolutionary enthusiast. With him also I only became acquainted in Moscow during the Second Congress but I observed him at close quarters as I was to work with him in the commission on parliamentary activity.

## Benefit

I recall incidentally how, at one of the commission's sessions, in a discussion with the Italian communist Bordiga, Lefebvre, after recognizing that in our era parliamentarism could not have a decisive significance, added softly as always, looking through his large horn-rimmed spectacles: 'But all the same you can't deny the benefit and pleasure from the opportunity of saying to Millerand in parliament, at only a metre's distance from his face, "you are a scoundrel".'

Lefebvre always got agitated and worried during the congress that he would miss someone or something, would not manage to hear something or not say something necessary to someone.

And equally he strove to absorb everything the congress could give him and at the same time his thoughts, hopes and expectations.

## Russian-style

Already on the second or third day of the congress I noticed Lefebvre in a Russian-style blouse.

He strove by his external image



to carry the stamp of his trust in Soviet Russia and his link with it.

He did not seek verification like Lepetit. In the past he had belonged not to that class which was deceived but to that class which deceived.

But he had broken from that class to the end. And he stood alongside Lepetit.

True Lepetit looked upon him a little suspiciously. But they would have come together a month sooner or later.

They would have come together at the combat positions of the proletarian dictatorship had not the wave of betrayal swallowed up the bark on which this trio, Lefebvre, Lepetit and Verjat attempted to cross the line of the imperialist blockade.

So different in origin and in personality these three fighters will for ever be united together in the memory of the French and the international proletariat: in the end they took one and the same path to one and the same goal and perished at one and the same stage.

We will not forget them.

February 26, 1921

Leon Trotsky

Where  
Is Britain Going?

The Permanent  
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and

Results  
and  
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Leon Trotsky

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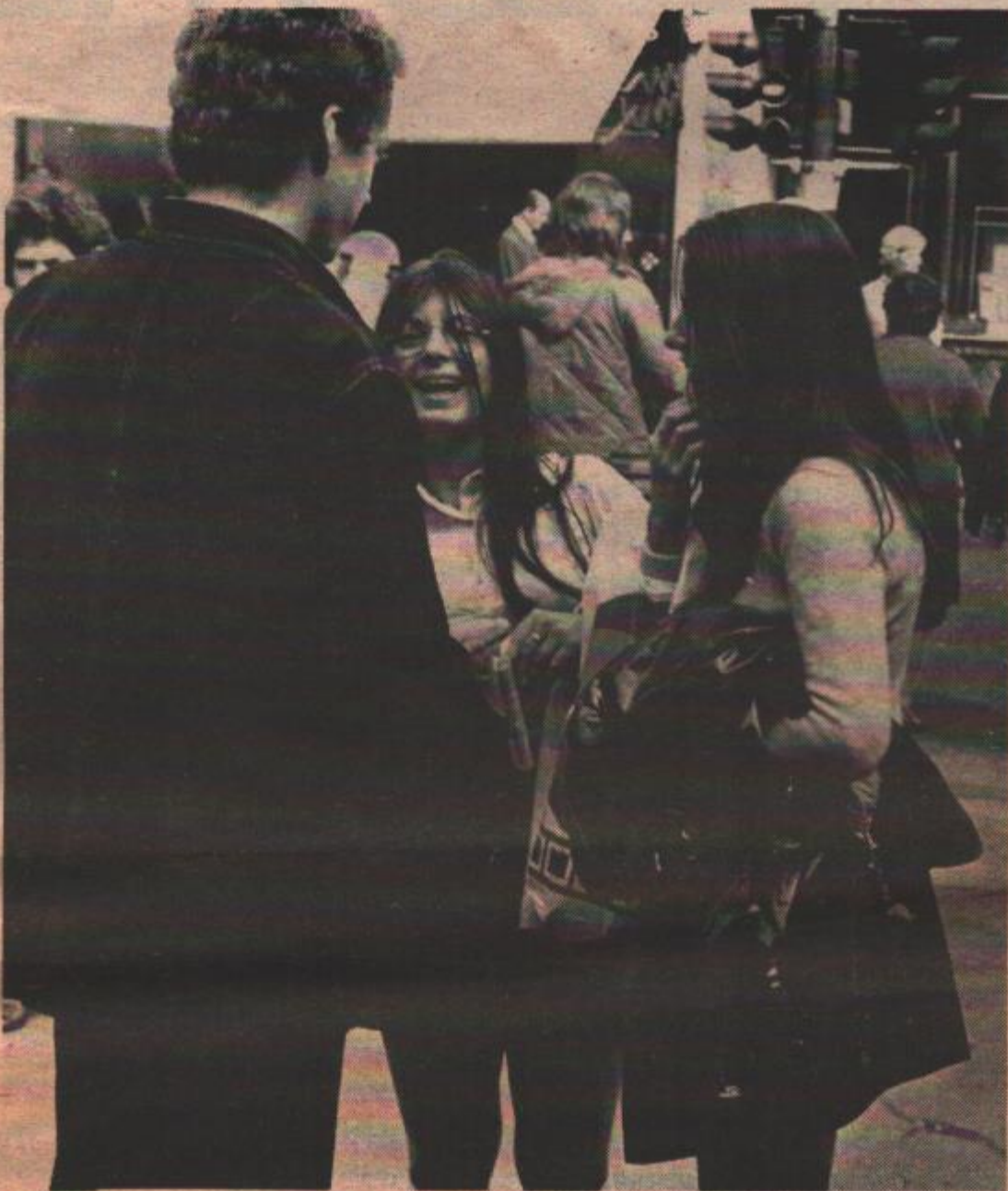
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# our nation-wide campaign

# Build YS to

## WALES



THE YS recruiting team has, over the past four months, been to several places up and down the country in the campaign to build a mass youth movement.

Everywhere the team went it met with extremely encouraging support from all working-class youth directly affected by the crisis of capitalism and the biggest Tory offensive since the 1930s.

S Wales, where the traditionally mining industry is gradually dying, was no exception.

Youth in Wales do not have to be told who the Tories are, in spite of the illusions created by 'left' labour leaders that alternative employment can be found for the jobless miners.

### FORCED

Most of the youth, unable to find jobs in the mining industry, have been forced to move to more industrial towns like Port Talbot and Cardiff.

The labour force in the mines has been drastically cut in recent years through the

closure of many mines and the modernization of those that remain.

The team strengthened, through its active work among the youth, the already existing YS branch in Port Talbot which boasts the biggest steel works in Europe.

At Ebbw Vale also the majority of youth are employed in large steel works.

### RESPONSE

The policies of the YS to provide leadership and perspective attracted a large section of working-class youth to the first meeting of the Ebbw Vale branch.

A similar response awaited the team in Merthyr Tydfil, another new branch, where John Simmance—who led the team throughout the campaign—explained at the first meeting the YS plans to build up the Wales region in preparation for the Alexandra Palace Rally in February next year.

The determination to fight the Tories was reflected in the number of youth who joined the team and who showed enormous enthusiasm to build up the branches.

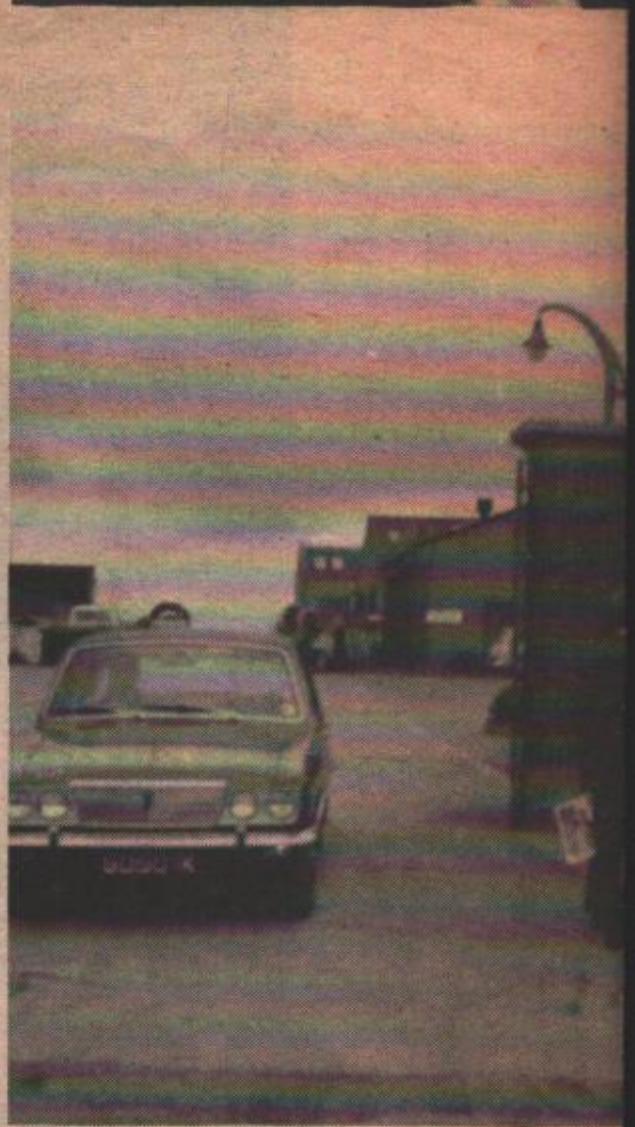


Ebbw Vale steel works stretch along the entire floor of the valley.



A group of young prospective miners talks to the YS recruiting team.

## IRELAND





# Defeat Tories!

## AND

BRITISH troops and indiscriminate use of nerve gas may not be the order of the day in Southern Ireland as it is in the North, but both countries have suffered from imperialist domination and are therefore affected by its crisis.

In this situation youth are at the centre of the struggle of the working class against the capitalist government of Jack Lynch.

Most of the young people from working-class families have to get a job as soon as they can—usually at 14—because of the low standard of living.

## CONCENTRATE

The YS recruiting team found that these youth could be won over to the programme of the Irish Young Socialists—newly-formed YS sister organization embracing both N and S Ireland.

The team concentrated its work around the massive housing estates on the outskirts of Dublin.

Here there are no recreational facilities at all besides the Bingo Halls run by the Tenants' Association.

The IYS found tremendous support among these sections of working-class youth deprived of adequate education and a decent life.

## EMIGRATE

The unemployment among the youth is high. Many youth who cannot find a job with a living wage often emigrate to England.

About 3 per cent of the total population is unemployed.

The IYS will hold their first conference in January 1971, and will prepare for it by building the youth movement around socialist policies of nationalization of the monopolies and opposition to British troops.

The development in their movement and their paper 'Young Bulletin', goes hand in hand with the growth of the Young Socialists and the preparations for the weekly Keep Left.

Top: Young factory girls read Keep Left. Middle: The recruiting team outside a Dublin factory.

Bottom: Held up for inspection—one week's wage packet.

## SCOTLAND



THE effect of the depression of the 1930s has never really left Scotland.

The slab tenement houses on road after road in most of the cities like Glasgow bring into focus the grim, slum-like conditions during a period of inevitable crisis of capitalism.

The future facing youth in Scotland is a grim one. Work in the massive factories during the day—if you happen to be one of the lucky ones still employed—and a return to the slums at night comprises the daily grind of most working youth.

Unemployment and redundancies haunt their lives.

## 'DOLE'

Tommy at 18 years of age is one of the unemployed. He has been unable to find a job for six months and consequently signed on for the 'dole' which comes to a demoralizing amount of £3 10s.

'You can't live on that. Every day I have to go to the employment office, I sit there and sometimes have to wait for over an hour only to be told that there aren't any jobs,' he said.

Tommy lives in East Kilbride and so does Danny, 17, who is also unemployed. They were both in the forefront of the campaign to set up a new Young Socialists branch in East Kilbride, when the YS recruitment team went to Scotland as part of its 'build-the-YS' campaign.



The team spent a lot of time in Glasgow where the Clydeside, with its shipbuilding industry, has a long tradition of hatred for the Tories.

A new branch in Springburn—once famous for its railway industry—found the ready attention of a large section of the youth who are forced to roam the streets with nothing to do and no money to spend.

Similar was the response in Paisley, another new branch, where thousands of young girls work in the mill industry for extremely low wages.

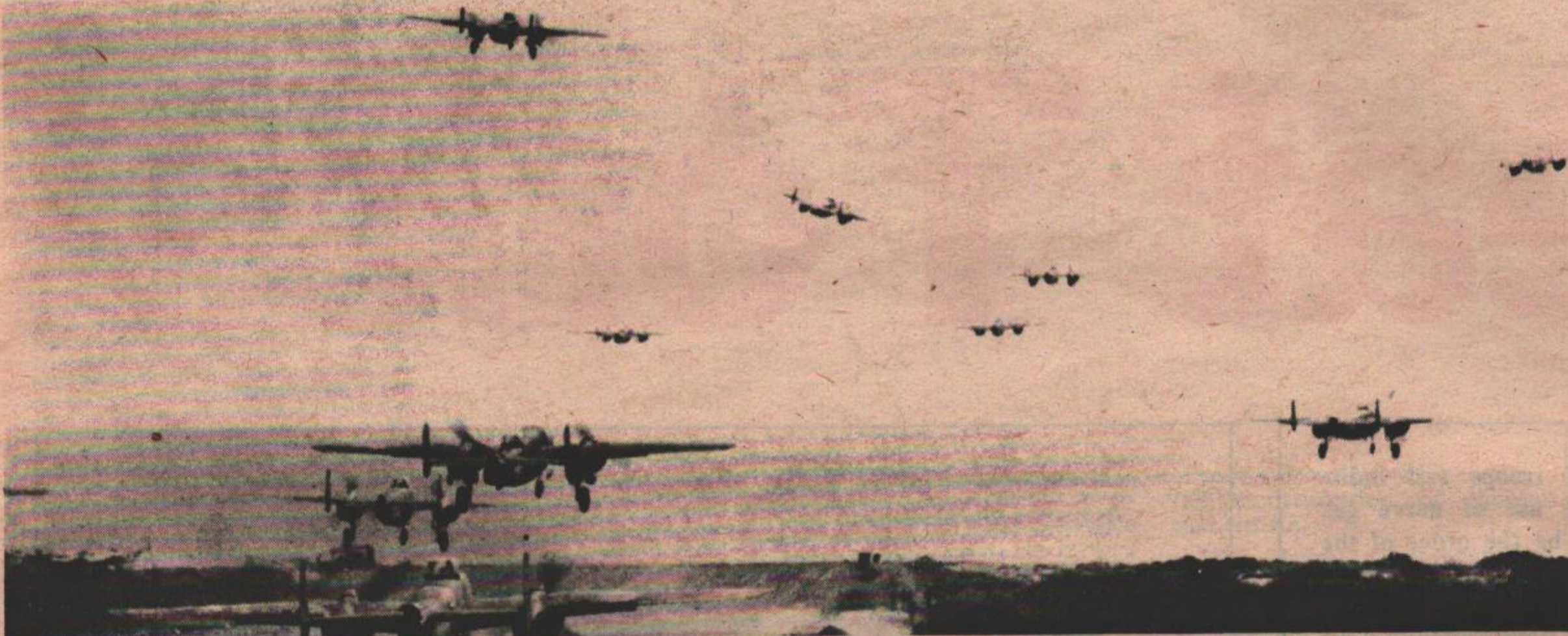
Top: The recruiting team in Scotland.

Below: One of the unemployed—a young boy waits outside the DEP hoping for a job.



# review

## films: books: theatre:



B29s set off on another mission.

# 'CATCH 22'

'Catch 22' directed by Mike Nichols  
'CATCH 22' is out to explode the myths about why the Second World War was fought and to destroy the ideas about heroism.

The film is based on a book written by Joseph Heller in 1955.

Although the action takes place in an island off the coast of Italy, during the Second World War, when the allies were bombing Italy, Heller's satire is most relevant to the war in Vietnam, and all wars fought by the American army today.

There is a scene in the film, where one of the soldiers talks to an old pimp in a brothel about whether or not America is going to win the war.

Nately, the American, thinks that of course America must win the war—'America is the best fighting force, America must be the best.'

The old man replies—'Italy is poor and weak, that is what makes us strong'.

The logic of the film is best expressed by the meaning of 'Catch 22'.

Yossarian (played by Alan Arkin), who is the hero of the film, asks the doctor to ground him by declaring him to be insane so that he will not have to fly any more missions.

'There was only one catch, and that was Catch 22, which specified that a concern for one's own safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind. Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions.'

'Catch 22' is built up around this desire to escape from the routine of horror and aimless destruction.

The scene is set from the very start when the film opens with a peaceful sunrise over the sea that is suddenly broken by the deafening roar of bomber engines.

Every avenue of escape is cut off. When Yossarian dances with a beautiful Italian girl, memories of the brutal death of Gunner Snowden break through.

Milo (Jon Voight), the mess officer, is the officers' blue-eyed boy, because he provides them with exquisite food.

He turns them around his little finger, as he organizes the most outrageous schemes for making profit out of the war.

By appealing to their greed for profit, he is able to use as many planes as he wants for black-market trading with every country in the world.



Yossarian (Alan Arkin) and Nately (Art Garfunkel)

He turns the air force into a company in which everyone is a shareholder whether he wants to be or not.

While discussing his schemes about obtaining food, a plane crashes a few yards away and explodes; the officers don't even look at it.

He even deals with the 'enemy'. The war is not separate from capitalism, but allows the employers to carry on their drive for profit on a much more ruthless scale.

The problem with Yossarian is that he can see this corruption and destruction going on, even to the extent where, when his plane is hit, and he tries to help the wounded gunner, he looks for morphine to relieve the pain, Milo has taken the morphine, and replaced it with a company share.

But the only solution he can think of is to try to escape. He does not understand the reasons for what is happening. He is an observer and a vic-

tim, and can only fight back with questions.

Yossarian's supreme gesture of protest is when he appears nude in front of the whole squadron to accept his medal.

General Dreedle (played by Orson Welles) does not object and awards him the medal.

Even this cannot break through the routine of mission after mission and death after death.

'Catch 22' is constructed, not as a straight story, but through the piecing together of Yossarian's experiences; one episode merging into the next, the past reappearing in the present, the memories of love and happiness appearing at the moment of death.

It shows the extremes of fear and pain and madness to which war drives human beings; but with great irony and humour to set off the horror and place it in perspective.

Reviewed by Cissy Lodge

# Exploding the myth

Reviewed by Mary Healy

Brendan Behan by Ulick O'Connor

Published by Hamish Hamilton 1970 £2 10s.

THE English ruling class have a useful myth about the Irish.

The Irish, they have argued, are too drunk and eccentric to govern themselves, but they can produce some interesting and amusing art.

### Success

This of course is a fallacy. The so-called 'Irish character' is formed by the people's position in an exploited nation.

But if an Irishman who is talented also plays the part of an eccentric this will increase his popularity in England.

The late Brendan Behan may have found that his bouts of drinking, combined with verbal brilliance, increased the immediate success of his plays in England and New York.

But after three very successful plays he wrote little else and was dead within a few years of receiving popular acclaim.

### Tamed

Ulick O'Connor shows how Brendan Behan's plays, particularly 'The Hostage' were in fact altered in order to make them acceptable to West End audiences.

Large pieces of interesting and important dialogue are reported to have been taken out and contemporary allusions and clichés put in their place.

In 'The Hostage' the additions included two homosexuals and a social worker.

Brendan Behan was able to use his own experience in the

army and in prison in his plays—he had spent long periods in jail as a member of the Irish Republican Army.

Characters in his plays criticized war and capital punishment but they did not effectively attack the ruling class.

A programme note to 'The Hostage' stated: 'If a stranger attacks Britain no one will support this country more strongly than Brendan Behan.' Thus the former 'rebel' had been tamed.

But Behan did have great talent. Ulick O'Connor shows how well he used language, forcefully and sometimes brilliantly.

There is little discussion of the plays themselves however. O'Connor spends more time describing how the audiences of different countries reacted to them. More analysis of the plays would have been valuable.

### Noticed

It was always extremely important to Brendan Behan to be noticed and accepted. But his drinking became more acute and attempted cures failed.

The tragedy of Behan's life was increased by the fact that he himself was aware of what was happening, of the way in which he was being used and exploited.

He was never able, however, to understand the social forces which had trapped him.

# 'CROMWELL'

Reviewed by Martin Mayer

AT A TIME when the crisis of capitalism is becoming increasingly acute, more and more people are driven to question the very basis of this society.

When the Tory Prime Minister talks about defeating a general strike, the question of who the Tories are and where they come from becomes a burning issue for millions of workers.

To understand these questions one has to go back to Oliver Cromwell and the English Revolution of 1640.

This is where it all started. For the first time in the world the merchants, bankers and manufacturers took the power away from the land-

lords and set up their own state.

Under religious banners and with the demand for the freedom to worship as they wished, they established the freedom to exploit workers and accumulate capital.

It was no peaceful process and many died along this road.

The film 'Cromwell', now running to capacity audiences in the West End, presents a liberal view of Cromwell.

Some bourgeois historians deny their own birthright and call Cromwell a brutal dictator.

The liberals, as in this film, try and turn him into a harmless fighter against tyranny.

The true Cromwell was quite different.

His greatness lay in his ability to grasp the historical moment to overturn the exhausted feudal society and



# What is a young actor's future in British theatre?

asks Hugh Spencer

THERE are more behinds sitting on theatre seats than at any time this century.

So suggests a famous theatre impresario and owner of several West End theatres.

Yet he faces the same problems as Messrs. Grade, Tennants, Bernard Delfont and all the other theatre owners whose considerable financial interests in television and film-property puts them in the ranks of the monopolists of this society.

The problem for them is an insoluble one—how to maintain enough profits to line their pockets with, in the face of a raging inflationary crisis that their own cut-throat competition with each other helps to stimulate.

## Unemployed

How is it that with more people attending theatre and watching television that there are more actors and actresses unemployed than at any time in the last 20 years?

In a profession of between 17,000 to 18,000 there are approximately 15,000 Equity members unemployed, 80 per cent of the union; reflecting the depth of crisis in the profession.

This is not confined just to the theatre and actors.

In Associated Cinema and Television Technicians (ACTT), the film and television technicians' union, there is 50 per cent unemployment; in National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees (NATKE), theatre technicians' union there is 60 per cent unemployment.

## Empty

The crisis of profit rages throughout the whole entertainments industry leaving empty studios, theatres and unemployment in its wake.

The problem of inflation in the USA has meant that a vast

amount of finance used in production has been withdrawn from this country because of the economic crisis.

Television drama and projects have been cancelled or shelved. Film production has dropped to an all-time low. Radio drama has almost ceased to exist.

## Closures

The take-over of MGM by EMI has meant vast studio closures in Hollywood and in this country—we have recently witnessed the closure of Borehamwood studios and the threatened closure of Shepperton. Borehamwood is of particular importance as it constitutes 20 per cent of the studio space in Britain.

Further closures would virtually mean the end of film making in this country.

Thousands of pounds-worth of working machinery is being arrogantly ripped out of the studio leaving a shell and over one thousand workers on the redundancy rubbish dumps.

## Feature

This crisis is not, of course, something peculiar to the entertainment industry. Redundancy and factory closures are a common feature of the class war waged between the working class who sell their labour and skills for wages and the capitalist class who suck the profits and own the means of production.

Of course the cultural and communications media do not constitute actual production of real wealth but however it is an industry that relies on short-term investment with quick profit returns and the bourgeoisie ideologically and physically do own the property of the media.

In this sense when inflation, the international crisis of capitalism, devalues and slows down the circulation of paper money,

then the surplus capital necessary to make the industry function cannot be found.

This makes it imperative for managers, owners, investors and the like to protect at all costs their profit capacity and this they do by cutting back on their production costs. The main production cost is, of course, the workers' wage packet.

It is at moments of crisis such as this that actors, technicians and film makers find themselves the first to be drastically hit by the international bankruptcy of the whole capitalist system.

## Rotten

As a friend of mine said: 'When the icing on the cake dries up and cracks open we are able to see that the whole cake inside is rotten and decaying. The entertainments industry is the icing on the cake; the cake is capitalist society.'

So now the members of these unions, the workers of the industry find themselves in the same camp, on the same dole queues as the working class.

They may have pretensions of being above industrial workers but the reality of their present economic condition is becoming so severe that they will not be able to turn their backs on the situation.

Although they cannot as yet draw political conclusions they are compelled to look more and more towards the working-class movement.

## Strike

At one ACCT meeting I attended, the recent National Docks strike was mentioned several times.

The fact that it was being discussed in the context of what is seen to be the specific problems in the industry shows this transition is taking place.

Another important fact to be



drawn from the above meeting is that there was little faith being placed in the official union leaderships.

The old forms of negotiation with the bosses is being put under severe strains and stresses and calls for strike action. Sit-ins and street demonstrations are coming out into the open.

## Battlefield

The union floor itself is becoming a battle-field where differences and divisions are being pushed to their sharpest point and all the old illusions and clap-trap are being slowly but surely challenged.

A genuine fear for the future of the industry under monopoly capital ownership is steadily growing.

Can there be any future under this system which seems to offer nothing but the dole queue?

Can the problem be resolved by the capitalist system and can

the leadership of the unions be relied on to fight for or protect any of the enormous trade union gains previously made for some sections of the entertainments industry?

These are the questions that are now being seriously posed before this industry and great dangers lie ahead unless the fight is taken up to call for nationalization of the entertainments industry under workers' control without compensation to the former owners and to call for an alignment with the working class in the great struggles that lie ahead.

Obviously the crisis opens up other questions of the roles of culture and communication under this system, where the workers in this field are not only exploited but are used as the tools and safeguards of exploitation by the capitalist class of the working class.

This will be discussed in further articles.

set about with complete singlemindedness the task of establishing power for his class.

To do this he forged the most ruthless and invincible weapon—the New Model Army, whose troops in the words of Macaulay 'moved with the precision of machines—while burning with the fanaticism of crusaders'.

The first half of the film is good. It shows in a series of short, sharp scenes how Cromwell, in spite of himself, has to take on the task of leading the revolution.

He has to deal with all the compromisers in the ranks of the opposition and, almost single-handed, build up the weapon for victory, the New Model Army.

After showing Cromwell's first victories however, the film quickly degenerates into a long debate on democracy and tyranny.

Nearly half the film is taken up with Cromwell's hesitation in cutting off the king's head and the film ends trying to make Cromwell into the first of a long line of fighters against tyranny.

A real estimation of the role of Cromwell the revolutionary can only be made today, at the end of the capitalist era, by those engaging in the struggle to forge the New Model Army of today—the revolutionary party—for the overthrow of all class society.

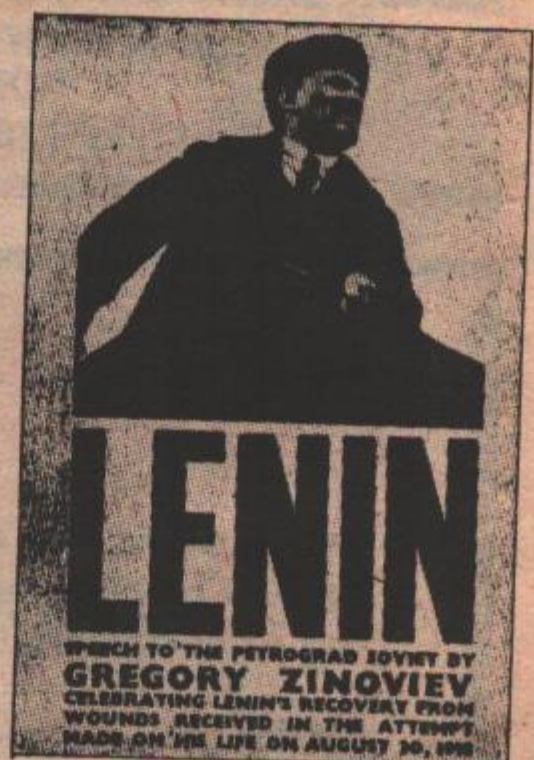


Richard Harris as Cromwell.

LENIN: Speech to the Petrograd Soviet, 1918

3s. 0d.

By G. Zinoviev



Illustrated with many photographs, this was a speech delivered by one of Lenin's closest associates on the occasion of his recovery from wounds received in an attempt on his life. It gives a remarkably clear picture of Lenin and what is required to be a revolutionary.



# EDITORS POSTBAG

## Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Paper of the Workers' League USA  
NOW WEEKLY  
Room 8, 243 E.10. St. NYC 10003, USA

### KEEP LEFT

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### The politics of People's Democracy

I NOTE that you occasionally devote some space to the N Ireland crisis and I think you ought to be aware of the current activities of the Peoples' Democracy in Belfast. This movement began in 1968 as a spontaneous reaction among young people, mainly students, to the policies of the N Ireland government.

Since then the PD has degenerated and is nowadays merely a clique of revisionists and republicans.

Within recent months its members have been threatened in Catholic areas when they tried to put up posters condemning the proposed increase in bus fares.

One could quote many instances of intimidation when republican bully-boys have threatened individual members of the PD.

Whether or not these bully-boys have any connection with the official republican movement is not known for certain.

But it is strange indeed that the PD has not uttered one word of protest.

The fact is that the PD has been infiltrated to such an extent by republican sympathizers that criticism of these incidents is stifled.

Unlike genuine socialists who could condemn this sort of behaviour, the PD nowadays seems to think that the only thugs are the Orange thugs.

There are plenty of the latter in Belfast but thuggery is not the monopoly of any one faction.

Socialists can judge for themselves whether or not these efforts on the part of PD are calculated to raise the political consciousness of the workers.

Henry Bell  
Belfast IYS

### An appetite for philosophy

IN PERIODS of intense class struggle the working class grows an enormous appetite for philosophy.

One may not have determined this but be frustrated by the practical knowledge of it.

Let us determine our knowledge through a study of the objective matter.

A wave of demands for a £20 basic wage and the exchange of Tories for Labour

ites are the expressions of the two sides of the class struggle and of its intensity.

Its continual deepening along with the worsening international crisis in politics and economics are the conditions for enquiry and explanation.

The old order is challenged to justify its existence, no longer through productive expansion, nor through economic reforms but ideologically.

Now, when the idealists shrivel up and the empiricists slip on the surface of things, is the time for change.

It is the inability of capitalist ideology to explain away the banality of its system that provides youth with the stimulus to enquire of other philosophies.

Especially the youth, because its adoption of ideas, is in its infancy, its experience fresh and unformed by pressures of the past. The separation of theory and practice for them is stupid.

Their every question is directed to expose just this discrepancy and in this light their opinions fall far short of conviction.

The objective understanding and explanation of the problems of youth is necessary for the victory of the working class over the bourgeoisie.

This can only be through the method of dialectical materialism.

P Lahe  
N Hull YS

### Living in South Africa

EVEN with only a scant knowledge of apartheid, people are quick to condemn it for its neo-fascist nature.

By having viewed these laws subjectively—by having to abide by these laws—I gained a greater knowledge of the implications and functioning of apartheid.

Unfortunately very few people, other than those suppressed and silenced by these laws, ever bother to protest, and when they do, they are soon silenced.

I was one of the privileged 'white' minority for some years in South Africa. I had an identity card with all the important words like 'blanke-white', as proof of this.

Approximately 80 per cent of the population are classed as 'nie blanke—non white', second class citizens.

It is on this colour classification that the laws of apartheid hinge.

Compare the two standards of living.

As an average middle-class 'white' I lived with my family in a £15,000 house sprawled over half an acre of green lawn.

We had in our employment—as did all the white families—a maid, a non-white woman commonly referred to as 'girl'.

She lived in a ten-foot-square, white-washed house with a corrugated iron roof and a cement floor. The house was adjoining our garage and compost heap.

Her husband lived in a mining compound, crowded into a dormitory, along with frequently consumptive men.

Her child, a malnourished ten-year-old, lived with his senile grandmother, in a two-roomed house with no electricity, running water or sanitation.

The shack was similar to the other thousands cramped together on the dusty location.

To earn a wage of £10 a month, a maid had to work six days a week, 12 or 13 hours a day.

Her job would include preparing and serving three meals a day, cleaning the house, making beds, doing the laundry, minding young children, chopping wood and any other such tasks that the house-wife wanted done.

As a miner the maid's husband toiled in the clammy mines under the strict surveillance of the 'white' foreman, earning a ridiculous wage of less than £1 a day.

From this meagre income, food for the child and the grandchildren had to be bought, clothing and medical

supplies paid for as well as the child's schooling fee.

Unlike our well-balanced diet, the staple diet of the child and his granny was ground maize porridge, bread and lam and a small amount of third-grade meat.

The child's mother could easily choose between five pounds of 'servant's meat' with maize porridge and eating the left-overs from the house-holder's table after meals.

The child lived with the constant and very real threat of contracting polio or diphtheria.

No effort is made to inform 'non whites' of the perils of disease.

The cost of medical and dental treatment is so high as to force 'non whites' to seek the help of witchdoctors rather than professional medical aid.

Legislation concerning 'non white' education is atrocious. Unlike the laws compelling white children to attend school until the age of 16, there is no compulsory education for non-white children.

All the schools which were run by missionaries have had to close and now the only schools which exist for non-whites are the government schools.

As in white schools, fees must be paid. School uniforms have to be bought as well as all the text books. These essentials amount to a small fortune for the non-white and are frequently unobtainable.

Once enrolled what sort of education do they receive? It is certainly not the standard of the 'white' schools.

There are laws permitting a maximum of 50 pupils to a 'non-white' class.

Text books in an African language are seldom used, and lessons are generally in English or Afrikaans.

This creates some confusion for children who have not spoken a language other than Afrikaans.

The result of such education? Of the 200,000 children who started attending 'non-white' schools at the same time as I started at the 'white' school, approximately 0.25 per cent passed the same qualifying examination which I took 13 years later.

By no means has this been an accurate or a complete account of apartheid in S Africa.

The laws of apartheid concern far more people in much more vicious ways with one sector receiving a greatly inferior treatment than the other sector.

S African

### An answer on Black Power

MICK HUMPHREY'S article ('Blind-alley politics of Black Power') in the June issue of Keep Left contained some misleading remarks.

The Black Panthers, it is true, have engaged in some adventures leading to battles with the police.

This however is not a direct service to the ruling class.

The courage shown by the Black Panthers in their confrontations with the police... serve as diversions from the building of a revolutionary party, and in fact strengthen the ruling class,' writes comrade Humphrey.

Courage is surely an essential part of any struggle against the ruling class.

The Black Panthers have had to bear the brunt of the repression carried out against the working class by American imperialism.

It must be remembered that the black power movement has its origins in the defence groups formed against the Ku Klux Klan and all the other reactionary forces of the state.

Witch hunts, mass arrests, house raids and the shooting down of innocent black people have all been carried out by the American police.

Bobby Seale and other militants have been locked up in the American jails without any proper trials.

This has brought forward a very sharp and militant move-

ment of Negro workers led mainly by the Panthers.

The courage displayed by this movement must be welcomed by all Marxists. It is our duty to defend the Black Panthers against these brutal attacks of the police and to call for the release of the persecuted Panthers.

At the same time we must point out the political differences which we have with the black power movement.

This would not in any way mean a political capitulation to, or a compromise with, this movement.

Youth with a black power and ghetto background coming into struggle against the Tory government and Powellism cannot be won over to the Marxist movement simply by denouncing their struggle as a strengthening of the ruling class.

What is needed is a clear Marxist explanation of the black power movement which would mean taking into consideration the state-of all sections of the working class.

The courage and the militancy of the black power movement can only play its contributory role in so far as it unites with the rest of the working class in a common struggle against capitalism and its political representatives.

We should therefore welcome the determination of the black youth and fight to bring them into the Marxist movement.

For it is only through the Marxist movement that the workers, both black and white, can win a victory against the ruling class.

Clarence Baker  
Southall YS

### The future Toryism offers us

THE world capitalist system is in a state of deep and mortal crisis.

In order to stave off the effects of this crisis—a sharply-reduced rate of profit, falling investment and roaring inflation—the employers must drive down the living standards of the working class.

Above all, the employers want to break the strength and militancy of the working class.

They plan to do this by means of legislation against the trade unions and by creating a massive pool of unemployed labour.

The Tories succeeded in doing this during the last great economic crisis in the 1930s.

These years saw the awful ravaging effects of a system in its death agony—unemployment, poverty, insecurity on a scale never known before—wrecking the future of young workers, poisoning their lives.

The British government of the time, as a necessary step in crushing the resistance of youth to this crisis, began to set up slave labour camps or 'hardening centres' as they were called.

In some of these camps thousands of youngsters quarried stone for roads eight hours a day and were paid one penny an hour—4s per week.

They all had numbers and were treated like convicts. They were drilled like soldiers. Boys were sent home—for having gone insane.

These places were modern concentration camps, chain gangs and lunatic asylums rolled up in one.

Now the Tories want them back again! They want a return to the 1930s.

The 'Western Daily Press', leading conservative paper in the West of England, in an editorial headed 'Change the Thug Laws' published on August 17, 1970 said:

The Home Secretary Mr Reginald Maudling '... should sit down now and frame new laws so that when the police have done their work, those they have arrested are so dealt with that not only will they never misbehave themselves again but their associates will also be deterred.



'Having drawn up the legal charges Mr Maudling should then order the setting up of hard labour camps for thugs and hooligans.'

The Tories are determined to go to any lengths in order to save their reactionary system from going under in the face of the rapidly growing economic crisis.

Their attacks can only be answered by building the revolutionary alternative to take the power.

- No return to the 1930s!
- Build the mass Young Socialists!
- Force the Tories to resign!

Richard Wintle  
Bristol YS

### N West youth want to organize

IN THE last week in September the YS National Recruiting team came to Merseyside

This was a big step forward for the YS in the area.

A lot of work was centred around St Helens, where a good foundation for a new branch was formed and the first meeting held.

After the experience of struggle against Pilkington's, where police viciously attacked the pickets and the right to strike, the youth saw the face of the Tories.

Many of the youth at the technical college whom the team spoke to were sent there on release by the employers all over the area.

Most of them faced low wages, long apprenticeships and unemployment.

At a time when the Liverpool docks faced a crisis (the threatened closure of South End and Cammel Laird of Birkenhead) and with the firemen and public employees on strike, youth of St Helens were willing to fight for the policies of the Young Socialists and build up their own new branch.

A big campaign was launched for the Regional Conference around the factories and schools.

In Liverpool the 'dole' office is large and busy and a campaign around this included the ATUA conference in support of the victimized Pilkington workers held at the beginning of October.

We got a big response from young unemployed workers in the expansion of the Liverpool branch, where a new committee was elected.

In Birkenhead many of the youth saw that with the threatened closure of Cammel Lairds and the docks the future for the working class in the town was that of large-scale unemployment, as these two industries are what the whole town depends on.

A new committee was elected at the branch meeting and a social programme planned. All the youth decided to come to the Regional Conference.

The campaign has laid the basis for an expansion of the YS in the North West to fight against the Tory anti-union laws and go forward to the rally of youth at Alexandra Palace next year.

Elaine Keep  
Birkenhead YS

### Good response in Glasgow

AS PART of the nationwide campaign to build and expand the YS in the coming period, a recruiting team recently visited Glasgow.

The depression-like conditions in this major city in the north are often compared with those of Naples.

The blackened Victorian slums reveal the true face of stagnant capitalism.

Youth leaving school face this and months—possibly years—on the dole. Unemployment, at over 7 per cent, is double the national average.

But all this forms a background to a whole history and tradition in the working class of struggle against Toryism.

The YS team from London and Edinburgh met with solid class consciousness and determination amongst the youth to defeat the bosses' plans.

Recently in the 14-week BSR strike young girls were savagely attacked by police while picketing, and one was run down by a scab driving a lorry.

But through their tenacious struggle the young girls won union recognition.

In the mills especially the Young Socialists found huge support for our policies and there was complete agreement on the question of the right to strike—which the Tories intend to take away.

The team held branch meetings in four areas—Maryhill, Paisley, E Kilbride and Springburn (two for the first time)—all of which had very large attendances.

Through a campaign to explain the nature of the Tory attack on the rights of every worker, many of the new members came forward to give a lead in the branches.

Most important was the setting up of branch committees to train new members to organize and lead the work.

A federation meeting was also held and targets set for a big regional conference in a few weeks, which the branches agreed to fight for.

Not just in Glasgow but throughout the country big changes are taking place amongst workers and youth.

They are beginning to see that the old leadership is preparing a sell-out similar to 1926.

Heath and his cabinet and the whole employing class have actually announced their intentions to smash the strength of the trade unions even in the teeth of a general strike.

We must proceed urgently to build, strengthen and expand the YS in the new political situation — towards the 5,000-strong anti-Tory rally in February next year.

On the basis of this changed situation and our encouraging experiences in Glasgow and other parts of the country we urge all YS members to join the team and take part in this campaign.

Steve Small  
Uxbridge YS

### We must answer the challenge

THE election of a Tory government in Britain poses an enormous challenge to the youth.

This Tory government comes to power at a time when the crisis of capitalism, not just in Britain but internationally, grows worse every day.

The youth of Britain and the world are faced, for the first time, with a ruling class that is determined to take away the standard of living of the working class.

Since they came to power the Tories have been preparing and laying the basis for a massive battle with the working class.

The Young Socialists recruiting team in S Wales—which I was a member of—had a fantastic response from the youth.

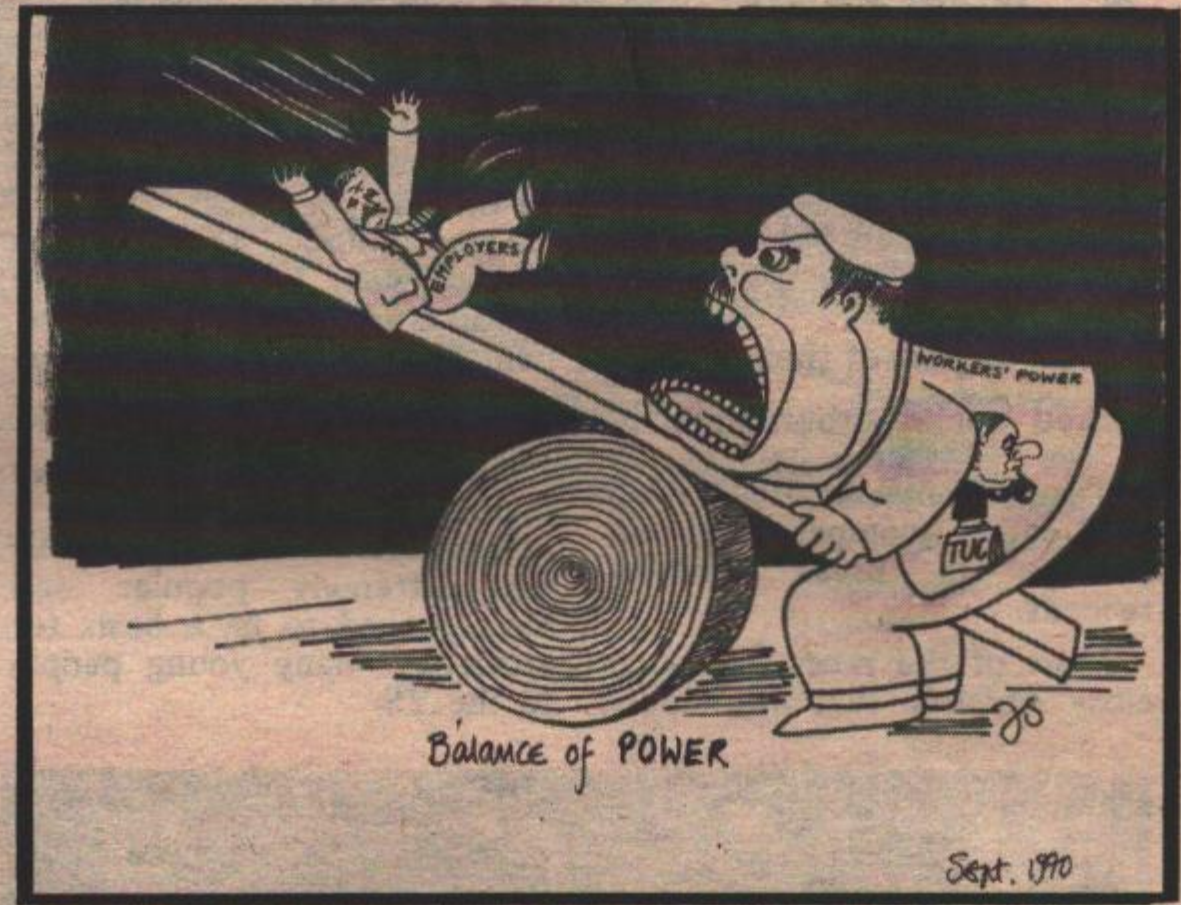
Youth in Wales, as in many parts of Britain, are faced with either long dole queues or dead-end jobs with low pay.

The only way the youth can build a better future is by joining the YS and forcing the Tories to resign through preparing for the working class to take power.

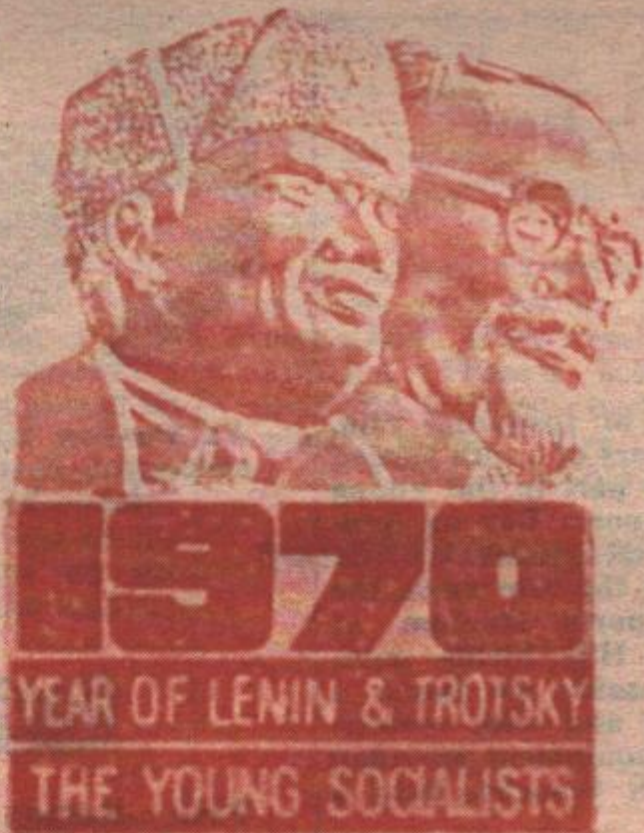
Brian Connolly  
E London YS

## Keep Left cartoon competition

### A selection of drawings



# BUY THE NEW YS BADGE



Price 2s 6d : Nine for £1

Post your order and money to John Simmance, YS National Secretary, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4.

Name .....

Address .....

Order .....



# YS news

## Close wins at London gala

THE London area Young Socialists organized a very successful swimming gala last month, as part of their action-packed social programme.

Teams from every federation in London competed in an attempt to break existing records.

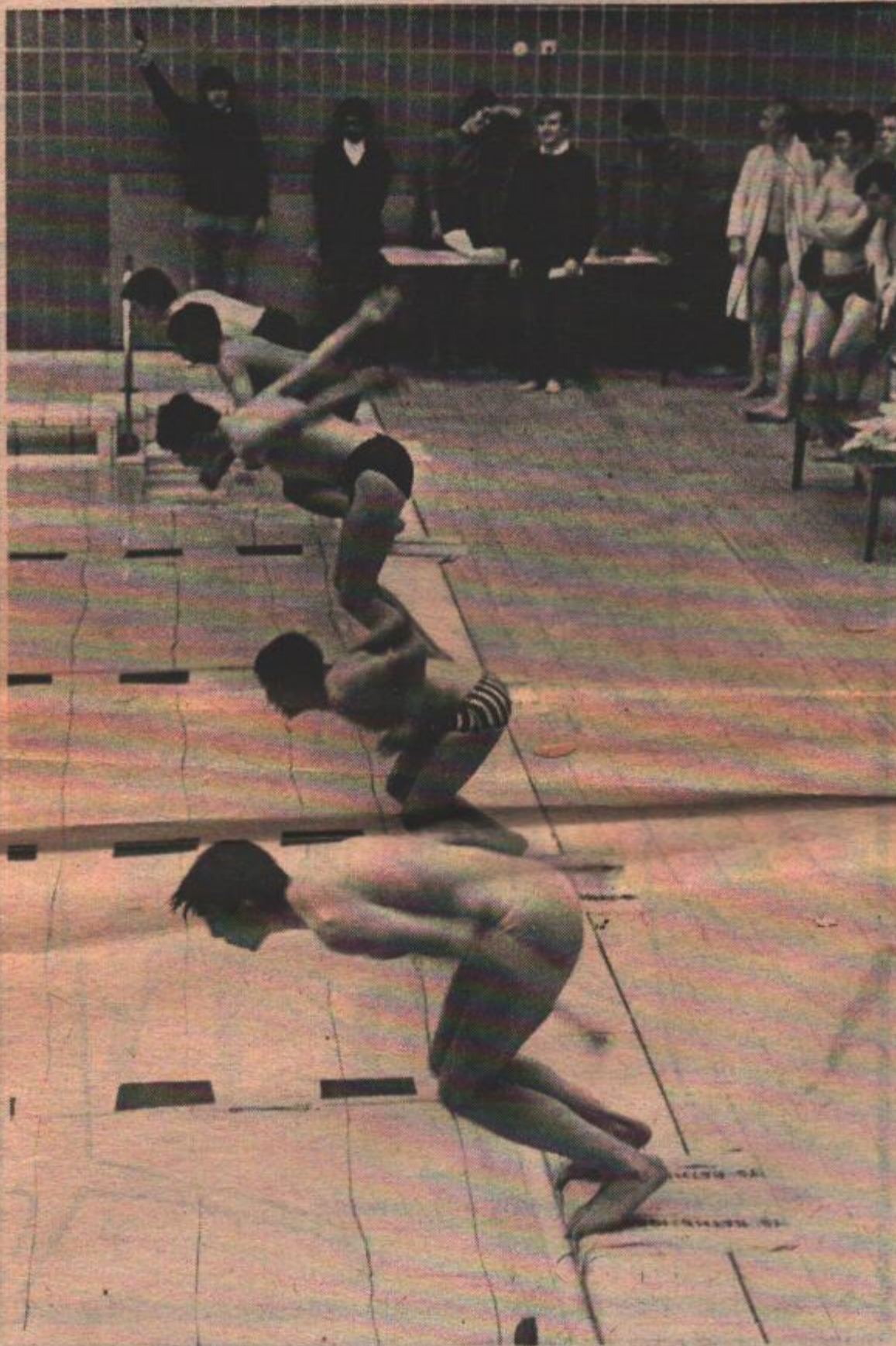
Most of the races had such close finishes that the spec-

tators were kept just as busy as the competitors.

Outstanding performances were given by Tony from Acton and Jean from Willesden. Tony broke the YS freestyle record by swimming a length in 20.4 seconds.

The diving was of a very high standard.

Swimming galas such as this are extremely popular and have proved to be a basis for attracting many young people to the YS.



Ready for the starter's pistol at London gala

### RESULTS

- FREESTYLE BOYS**
1. Tony McDonald—Acton 20.4
  2. Frank—South East 21.4
  3. Jeff—Willesden 23.0

- BREASTSTROKE BOYS**
1. Tony McDonald—Acton 27.4
  2. Jim—Crawley 30.0
  3. Steve Lewis—Clapham 34.2

- BACKSTROKE BOYS**
1. Tony McDonald—Acton 24.0
  2. Jim—Crawley 31.8
  3. Steve Lewis—Clapham 36.8

- BUTTERFLY BOYS**
1. Tony McDonald—Acton 22.2
  2. Dave—Crawley 36.5
  3. Steve Lewis—Clapham 49.5

- 2 LENGTHS BOYS**
1. Tony McDonald—Acton 45.0
  2. Mick Hennessy—Clapham 55.5
  3. Iqbal—South London 57.6

- RELAYS BOYS**
1. Crawley/Acton 42.6
  2. South East 45.0
  3. Clapham 47.0

- RELAYS GIRLS**
1. Willesden 59.6
  2. Dagenham 98.0
  3. Southall 129.0

- FREESTYLE GIRLS**
1. Jean—Willesden 26.0
  2. Jill Parkes—Dagenham 29.6
  3. Jean Dixon—Southall 34.5

- BREASTSTROKE GIRLS**
1. Jean—Willesden 33.2
  2. Lulu Kolstranis—Southall 52.2

- BACKSTROKE GIRLS**
1. Jean—Willesden 32.0
  2. Lulu Kolstranis—Southall 42.6

- BUTTERFLY GIRLS**
1. Lulu Kolstranis—Southall walk over

**TEAM RESULTS**

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Acton      | 43 |
| Willesden  | 36 |
| Crawley    | 33 |
| South East | 23 |

- DIVING FINALS**  
100 points out of 120
1. Penny—Willesden 82
  2. Jim—Crawley 82
  3. S. Sanotra—Watford 74

**DIVING RESULTS**

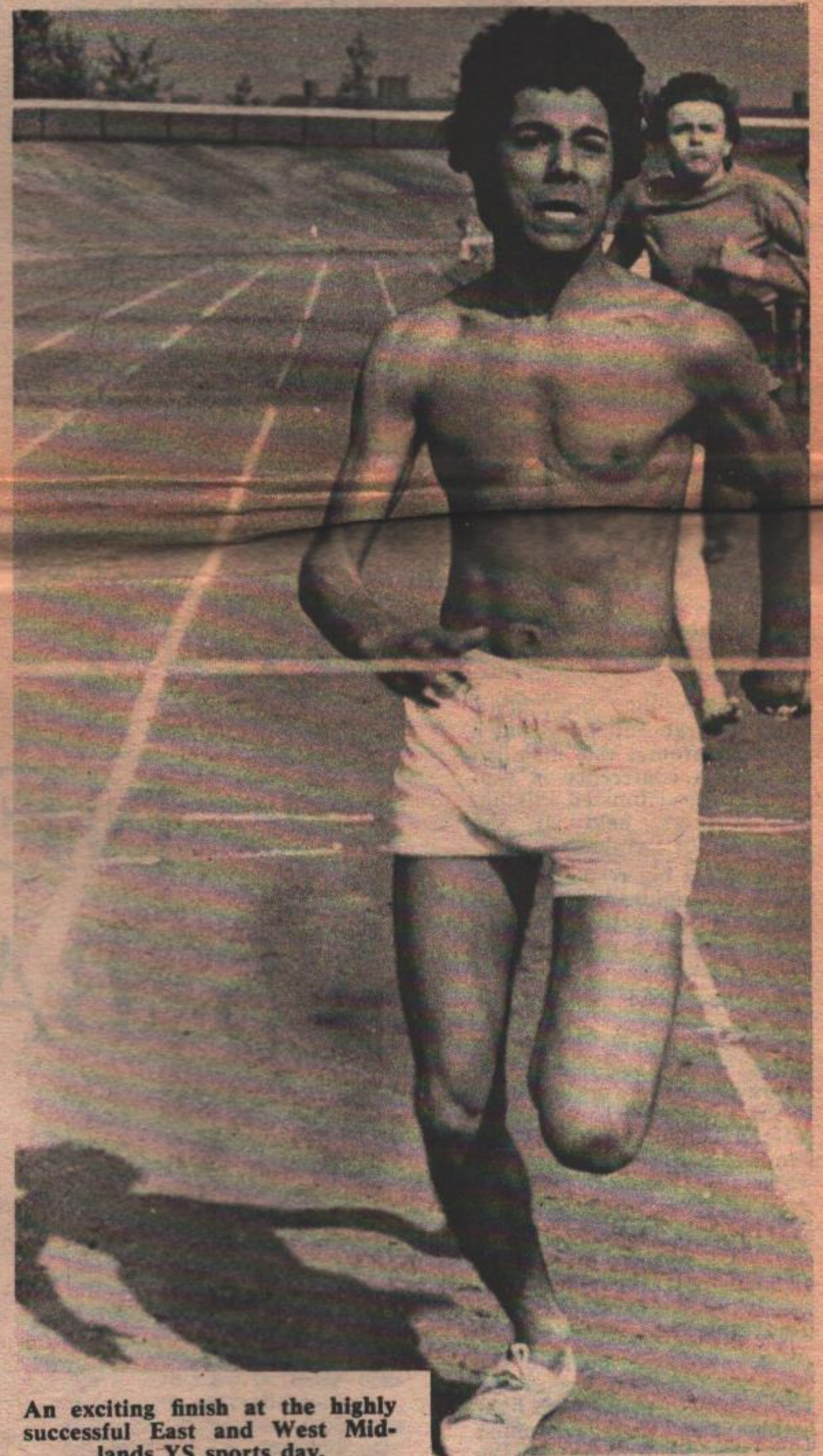
|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Willesden | 101 |
| Crawley   | 82  |
| Watford   | 74  |



Tony McDonald



Lulu Kolstranis



An exciting finish at the highly successful East and West Midlands YS sports day.

### Rain stopped play

IN SPITE of torrential rain, large numbers of youth turned out to take part in the Young Socialists Sports Day on Sunday September 13.

Although the rain made the open-air sports stadium at Parliament Hill Fields completely unusable we found a hall nearby and with records and sound equipment provided by local YS branches held a disc-social.

### FILM

At 6 p.m. buses were waiting to take us to the hall where we were showing a film by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of the United States — 'The Inheritance'.

YS National Committee member for Middlesex, Maureen Bambrick thanked everyone who attended for their patience and co-operation which had helped to make the day enjoyable even though the sports programme had to be cancelled.

Help the Young Socialists make their

## GRAND XMAS BAZAARS

a great success

If you are able to sew, knit, paint and can make goods for our bazaars. If you can give us jumble, gifts, tins of grocery. Please contact Young Socialists Bazaars, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

THE BAZAARS ARE AT:

**LONDON**  
Saturday, November 28  
Plasnet School  
(nr East Ham tube)  
Doors open 12 noon

**LEEDS**  
Saturday, December 12  
Corn Exchange  
Leeds  
Doors open 12 noon

## North-East Region Sports Day

THE Regional Sports Day for the North East Region of Young Socialists held at the Lightfoot Stadium in Newcastle on Sunday, September 27, was enjoyed by all who participated or came as spectators.

The event proved to be quite successful with an attendance of about 100.

In all the items on the programme, which included track events, high jump, long jump, shotput, discus and 5-a-side football, there was an enthusiastic

response from the youth present — this was most noticeable in the football.

The potential of football as an attractive social activity for use in building YS branches was clearly evident.

In the athletics events the team from Birtley, a newly established YS branch, gave an outstanding performance, winning many of the races, the boys' shot and long jump.

Newcastle East won the boys' high jump and the girls' long jump.

In the 5-a-side football finals Newcastle East 'B' beat Newcastle East 'A', 1-0 (Seniors 17 and over) and South Shields beat Newcastle East 'D', 5-1 (Juniors 14 to 16).



# & pictures



A lucky save at the Western Region sports day . . .

## Oxford have clear lead at Regional rally...

reports Keep Left Correspondent

BERISFORD MEADE, of Rose Hill, Oxford YS, at school: 'The Western Region sports day and disco that we had was a great hit for the YS. What we need to fight the Tories is more support, more people coming to our meetings and the sports day was a big step towards that.'

line which scraped them through the thrilling semi-final against Blackbird Leys 'C' by scoring from a corner a minute from time.

This was after Henry O'Connor had given Blackbird Leys an early lead.

The only challenge to Oxford

came from Southampton 'B' in the Plate Final.

Oxford YS now have their eyes on the national YS knockout cup!

After the tournament, a very successful discotheque was organized in Littlemore Community Centre.

### RESULTS

FIRST ROUND : Rose Hill A 5 Rose Hill C 1

#### FOOTBALL CUP

Rose Hill B 6 Rose Hill D 0  
Reading A 0 BB Leys C 6  
Reading B 0 BB Leys B 2  
Southampton B 1 BB Leys A 3  
Southampton A 0 Bristol 2

SECOND ROUND : Rose Hill A 7 BB Leys A 0  
Rose Hill B B v BB Leys B (BBL disqualified)  
Southampton B 1 Bristol 3 (BB Leys C a bye)

SEMI-FINAL : Rose Hill A 3 Bristol 1  
Rose Hill B 1 (+ 1 corner) BB Leys C 1

FINAL : Rose Hill A 0 Rose Hill B 3

FOOTBALL PLATE : Southampton B 3 Southampton A 2  
Rose Hill C and Reading B, byes  
Rose Hill D 0 Reading A 2

SEMI-FINAL : Rose Hill C 3 Reading A 1  
Southampton B 2 (+1 corner) Reading B 2

FINAL : Rose Hill C 5 Southampton B 0

ENGINEERING apprentice, Jo Edwards, also of Rose Hill YS: 'The Western Region sports day was a good idea because it brought together the Young Socialists in the region.'

'On the whole, the football was a great success, with our branch doing well. The sports day mobilized young workers who want to fight the Tory government, which wants to raise unemployment and lower our wages.'

These were the comments of two enthusiastic Oxford YS members after the Western Region sports day in September.

With a large attendance of youth from Bristol, Southampton and Reading at the sports day the Western Region autumn programme got off to its best start ever.

In spite of the heavy rain, which meant that the athletics had to be cancelled, everybody enjoyed an exciting five-a-side football tournament.

All those who did not play had a grandstand view of the football from the large windows of the Horspath sports stadium pavilion.

Rose Hill YS won both finals. It was Rose Hill 'B's forward



This one wasn't so lucky.

## An LEB apprentice talks to Keep Left

Interviewed by Keep Left reporter

TONY, a 17-year-old apprentice electrician, at London Electricity Board spoke to Keep Left about his job.

He has been working for the Board for three years, and gets £9 10s for a 40 hour week after taxes.

Where I work the trade union leadership is not very good. The men wanted to get them out.

With leaders like that the government will be able to make the anti-trade-union laws work.

They can't be stopped until we get these leaders out and someone else in.

There are people like these throughout the LEB.

### PRODUCTIVITY

At the moment we're half way through a trial period of two months to bring in productivity.

Everything is timed. I was told I spent too long Rowl-plugging a wall.

You're meant to do a yard in 14.2 seconds. Most of the men don't like it—you have to fill in a form every day saying how long you spent traveling, how long it took to lay a cable . . . I didn't know what the stop-watch was for. The shop steward should have stopped it.

Most of the mates have gone. They're using apprentices for what mates should do, instead of the apprentices just watching and learning. So it cuts the labour costs.

There's one older man who recently lost his balance and fell on two phases—received a 11,000-volt shock.

### SCARRED

He was very badly burnt and badly scarred and in hospital for six months.

I've been burned by conduits.

Speed-up will make men take more risks for a few extra bob.

When you do installations, you make a check first; you can't hear or see electricity. So there is bound to be danger.

Someone gets a bad shock about every two weeks.

Because the men go home early if they finish a job the employers want to re-time all the work so they can make sure everyone works a full day.

### GRADING

The Board hasn't accepted grading; I think because the old timers have been in so long. If there was grading, a newly-trained apprentice could do the old timer's job.

Apprentices haven't got any rights.

When you sign your indenture, the Board says they train you but they cannot guarantee you a job.

Then the only complaint you can make is if they put you on a job against the indenture agreement.

What we need in this situation is leadership.

London Area Young Socialists

**WEEKEND SCHOOL**

WINTER GARDENS MARGATE

Saturday and Sunday  
October 24 & 25

2.30 p.m.

Guest Speaker John McGrath—author of recent films 'The Reckoning' and 'The Bofors Gun'—on 'POLITICS AND THE COMMERCIAL CINEMA'.

Also: Cliff Slaughter, Socialist Labour League Central Committee member on 'HOW TO DEFEAT THE ANTI-UNION LAWS'.

Cost £2.

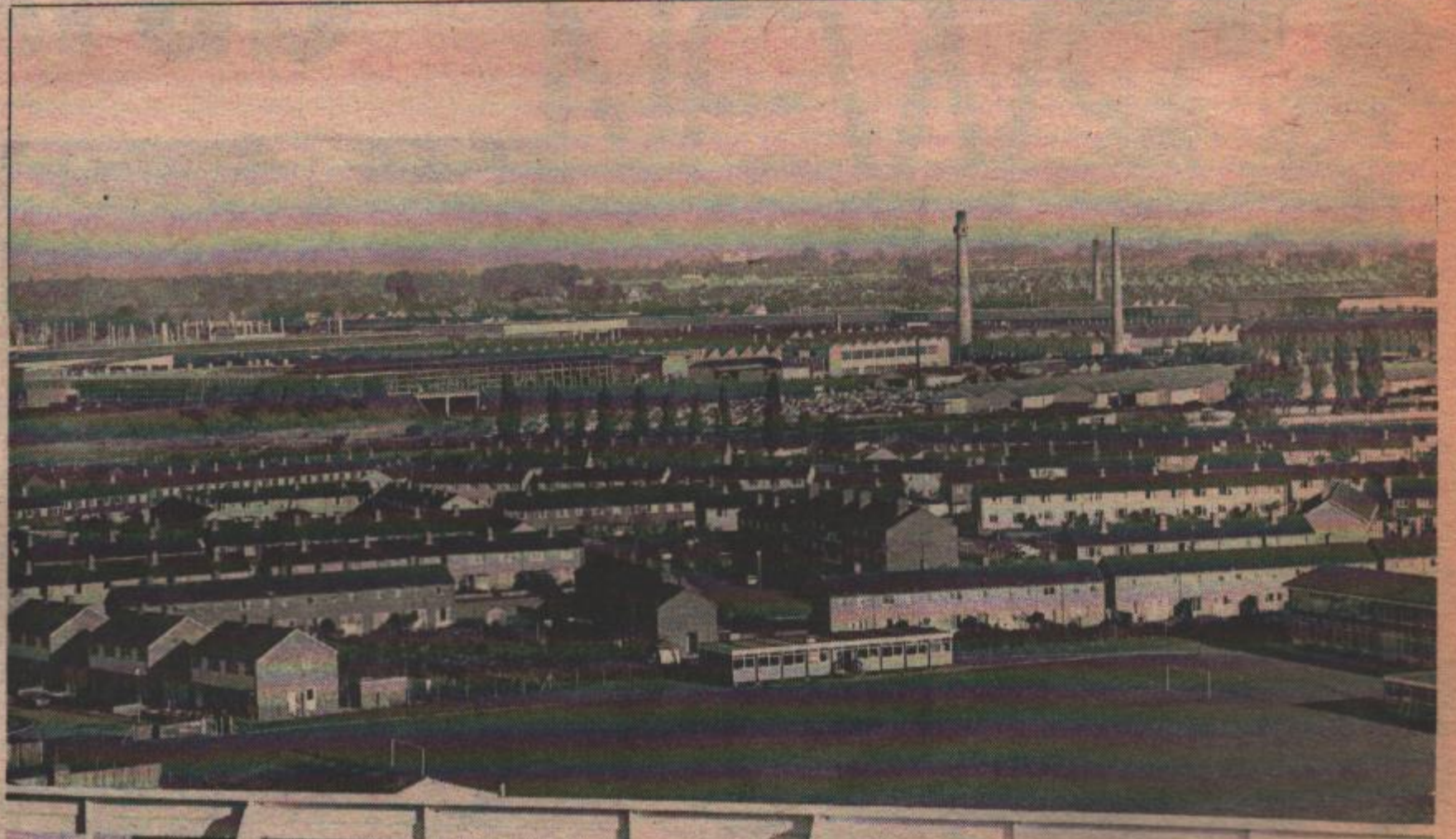
Write to Young Socialists, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4.



# oxford young socialists say:

## workers' fight against Tories and employers means...:

# Youth must build socialist leadership now!



An Oxford housing estate—in the background Pressed Steel Fisher

THE car-plants of British-Leyland and the effects of the employers' falling profits dominate the estates and the lives of the working class in Oxford.

20,000 work in the car plants, while many young workers work in small supply factories for low wages and in bad conditions. 1,500 workers at the Morris Motors plant have just entered the sixth week of a strike in defence of the piecework system.

The British-Leyland employers, encouraged by the Tory government, have boasted that they will make Oxford 'a depressed area' if the men do not return on their terms.

Many young workers in Oxford are now realizing that the only alternative to the employers turning the clock back to the 1930s, or worse, is to join the Young Socialists to build a socialist leadership in the working class.

### Shut-downs

Brendan O'Connor, a member of the Blackbird Leys Young Socialists, at present doing a pre-apprenticeship course, told Keep Left:

'My Dad is laid off because of the strike. The papers are against the strike, but the men at Morris's don't want to be out, it's the only way of getting fairer terms.

'It's like skinheads and the sewage workers, the papers are against them. They don't tell you about their bad jobs and low wages.'



The other side of Oxford—chauffeured limousine



Car workers' solid vote to continue strike

A member of the Rose Hill Young Socialists, Allan James, a young engineering worker, commented:

'Today in Oxford Morris's are shut out and the Corporation is going out at midnight. The way things are going on, most of Oxford will be unemployed, if we don't give a political lead.'

As our answer to the Tories, the Oxford Young Socialists' Federation has begun a big campaign to build up existing branches and to set up new ones.

We have just established a new branch in Banbury.

Next year the employers are going to shut down the Alcan factory in Banbury, making over 700 redundant.

The union leaders have lobbied the local Tory MP on this question—this approach is supported

by the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Ron Purcey, a member of Banbury YS branch who works at the British-Leyland Export Packing factory near Banbury, told Keep Left:

'We had a strike for two weeks and got the best increase we've ever had. Then we found the company could move us anywhere they wanted to. The union official never told us anything about that.'

'This is the situation under the Tories. The Labour Party Young Socialists, out of power, talk a lot of "left", but it's all just talk.'

'The Young Socialists is building something, that's why I'm in it. We'll build a real Communist party.'

We have also opened a new branch of the Young Socialist Student Society in the Oxford Polytechnic, and we are aiming to expand the University Young Socialist Student Society through a series of nine lectures on Marxist philosophy and history.

### Other side

The opposite to the factories is the 'dreaming spires' and the port-sodden dining halls of the university.

This is the home of the most sophisticated ideologists of imperialism.

The Young Socialist Student Society will win all those students who want to force the Tories to resign by a fight for Marxism in the working class.

The real power in Oxford is the working class: armed with Marxism, it is the decisive revolutionary force in history.

Students must recognize this fact, and fight against all reactionary ideas of 'student power'.

The YS Federation has planned a big programme of social activities and education in Oxford for the winter.

This includes campaigning for big attendances at the nine lectures on Marxist theory. We shall show the capitalist class that the working class will defeat their attacks and go forward to socialism.



# JOIN THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS TODAY!

Join the socialist movement which fights against Toryism, anti-union laws, unemployment and low wages.

For details of how to join fill in this form and write to YS National Secretary, John Simmance, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4.

Name .....

Address .....