

# KEEP LEFT

ORGAN OF THE WEMBLEY LABOUR LEAGUES OF YOUTH

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## EDITORIAL

The American decision to "de-neutralise" Formosa by the withdrawal of the U.S. Seventh Fleet is but the first example of the Republican Administration's intention to "get tough with China". Who is naive enough to believe that the new policy will end there?

Is the intensive training and re-equipment of Chiang-Kai-Shek's mercenaries by the U.S. another step to "defend the peace?" Or are they to form a part of an all-out attack on the Chinese mainland, with the almost certain result of starting another World War?

The situation does not call for the replacement of the U.S. Navy; or for the "neutralisation" to be made a British responsibility, as some people think. As sometimes happens, John Foster Dulles has the right idea but for the wrong reasons.

The Labour Movement must not restrict itself to vague mutterings about the U.S. "playing with fire." Instead, we should demand that "de-neutralisation" be taken even further - the withdrawal of all foreign powers from Korea.

Only then will we see the end of the senseless slaughter in that devastated land.

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The loss of lives and homes in the recent floods is a national tragedy. When will the energy and money now used for destroying human life be devoted to protecting and prolonging it?

## WHAT ABOUT THE MIDDLE-CLASS?

This question arises in many discussions on the future of our Movement, and it is especially important in a 'marginal' district like our own. Those in our party who set themselves up as apostles of gradualness, of 'socialism at a snail's pace', are always telling us that we must take care not to frighten the middle class. In my opinion this is not the real danger.

In modern society the two main sections are the big capitalists, owners of the means of production, and the workers, those who must sell their labour power in order to live. Between these lies the middle class.

In many other countries this consists mainly of peasants, but in Britain it is an amorphous collection which includes small business men, doctors, lawyers, managers, technicians, shopkeepers, independent craftsmen and white-collar workers. These groups form the basis of the 'floating vote'. The upper strata are indistinguishable in their way of life from the ruling class itself, and provide it with many of its leaders. At the lower end we find people who are really workers, but who like to feel that they are closer to the boss than the so-called manual worker.

By its very nature, the middle class is precluded from taking any successful political action which does not depend on one of the two main groups. In the heyday of capitalist expansion it formed the mass basis for the victory of the capitalists over the landowners, but as the system declines it finds its standard of living threatened more and more. Being unorganised it is less able to defend itself than the working class.

Thus it tends to align itself with left wing movements in an attempt to find a way out. But if the left parties appear to be unable to solve its problems, it swings over to the extreme right which plays on its prejudices and pretends to put forward radical measures.

The classical examples of this are in Germany, France and Spain. After the betrayal of the Labour Movements in these countries by the Socialist and Communist leaderships, the middle classes, sickened by the vacillations of the Left, went over to the side of Capital in the shape of Fascism.

A milder form of this sequence took place under the Labour Government, which came to power in 1945 with considerable middle class support. When this support was lost it was not because of too much socialism but, on the contrary, because the Labour programme was not drastic enough to dispel the nightmare of insecurity. The middle class did not want Socialism, but what it did want could only come through socialist measures.

I believe that the support of large sections of the middle class is essential if we are to get socialism. I do not mean that we should bow down to every whim and prejudice of the floating vote: this is to 'lead from behind'! We must try to see the middle class not as it is, but as it could be.

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What is needed is a bold socialist programme which could get Britain out of her economic difficulties and which alone could hold out the possibility of world peace. In this way we could show the middle class that capitalism is its real enemy and the Labour Movement its natural ally.

CYRIL SMITH  
Wembley South L.O.Y.

\* \* \*

POUNDS    SHILLINGS    &    PENCE

The county of Middlesex alone, is to spend £101,000 on coronation celebrations. A large proportion of this £101,000 is to be spent on giving each schoolchild a medallion, mug or spoon or similar token to commemorate the coronation. And there are 52 counties in England and Wales.

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The annual grant to the V.E.A. has been cut by 10%. As a result, those who are trying to increase their education in their won time will have to pay higher fees and many classes will be forced to close down.

This cut will save the Government £30,000.

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By June 1952, plans for an elaborate coronation of Her Majesty, in Westminster Abbey, were well under way; extensive stands were to be erected along the route of the coronation procession.

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On the 27th of June 1952, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, issued a circular to local authorities on "Coast Protection". This stated:

"Coast protection works in general are costly in money, labour and materials - particularly steel, and only works of exceptional urgency can be allowed to proceed at the present time ..... it is inevitable that many schemes using substantial amounts of steel will have to be deferred or slowed down."

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Many people lost their lives in the recent flood disaster. More than 30,000 are homeless. Over 25,000 houses were flooded and nearly 1,000 completely destroyed.

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The articles in this paper are purely the personal opinion of the writers and not the Editorial Board.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

Someone who wants us to get nowhere very quickly is how I might describe Roy Morris after reading his comments on a recent article of mine. The points he made are all very well but each one of them is a very small cog in a very big machine, and before we determine how we are to fit in the cogs we must know why we fit them.

I did not say that every one must be a Socialist before Socialism can be brought about. What I did say was that those who are attempting to bring about Socialism must believe in it, and that until those who profess to believe in it are willing to carry it into their everyday lives, the task of bringing it about will be very difficult.

You can build the finest house imaginable, but if the foundations are weak the house is useless. The same yardstick must be applied to the building of a Socialist Society. Nationalisation, with or without compensation, the abolition of profit, fair shares and all the rest are useless unless those people who are putting them into operation have sufficient belief in them to know that they will work.

Those, briefly, were the points I made. There is no questioning the fact that we must do all within our power to bring about a Socialist Society. There is no need to wait for a change of heart of the general public. Once we have shown them that Socialism is the best sort of society that change will come, but unless the foundations are strong and our belief is firm the sort of Society to bring about that change will not come, and the foundations of such a Society can only be strong if we are prepared to carry our Socialism into our every day lives.

If we do not believe in it sufficiently to do that, the future for a Socialist Society must indeed be dim.

MONTY SOLOFF  
Agent Wembley North

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\* OYEZ! \*  
\* OYEZ! \*  
\* OYEZ! \*

\* This is to announce that the Wembley North L.O.Y. is holding its first \*  
\* dance of the year on 1st APRIL 1953 (Wednesday). This is a FOOL'S DAY \*  
\* DANCE, with crazy dances, spot prizes AND GOOD COMPANY. It is to be \*  
\* held at the GREEN MAN (Public House - with BAR), Kingsbury, N. W. 9. \*  
\* from 7.30. Tickets price 2/6d. are available, from any L.O.Y. member. \*

\* \* \*

\* FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT!! The North L.O.Y. are also running a coach trip \*  
\* on EASTER MONDAY - 6th APRIL. This is a circular trip following the \*  
\* picturesque route of the Thames to Oxford. Seats are 7/6d. ( as it \*  
\* will be a continuous trip) but weekly payments may be made to the \*  
\* Social Secretary: John Martin, 48, Elmstead Ave. Wembley, Middx. \*

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## HISTORY OF DOPYNGTON COURT.

One of our local newspapers is serialising a detailed account of Wembley's historical background. This has raised many interesting questions and led our readers to enquire if we can tell him anything about the early history of Dopyngton Court. We could, of course, make up a pack of lies and pretend we know all about it. Or, fellow sufferers, we could tell the truth.

Dopyngton Court was named after the famous French family D'Opinton the sixth baron came over with William the Conqueror in 1067, having had trouble with the emigration at Calais as his visa had not been approved in Washington. He came to live in the district and his charm, tact, dignity and dirty great sword soon brought him riches and authority. In fact he had only been here four months when he became Alderman, Town Clerk, Registrar of Births and Deaths and Local Fuel Overseer. This is even more remarkable when it is remembered that he never learned the native tongue; he lived to a ripe, almost rotten old age.

Many other members of the D'Opinton family came to these shores. There was, for instance, the seventh baron's spinster great-aunt Mary le Bone, a particularly thin individual who made her home in the booking hall of the station that was named after her. Her daughter, Nora, was a great temperance worker and founded the Anti-Mead League (a sort of medieval Coca-Cola). This was in 1305 and during the following year the D'Opinton family escutcheon was besmirched when some of the younger members were discovered frequenting a zythepsary. The full story of the family's humiliation can still be traced in the early copies of "Ye News of Ye Olde Worlde".

As a direct result of this unfortunate incident, several of the young men were disguised as officers and gentlemen and sent off on the Crusades or to sail to some of the lands that were about due for discovery. In this way the D'Opinton family was amongst the first to set foot in New Zealand, Panama and the Folie Bergero. The D'Opintons, returning from the Near East, did not come back empty-handed. They accepted, reluctantly, the many presents of gold, silver and rare jewels that were forced upon them during their journey home. As most of these gifts came from churches and monasteries it was easy for them to establish (c.1510) the good old capitalist precept that "private property is sacred".

About this time Richard D'Opinton had spent several months near the North Pole and he was impressed with the icy vastness and its commerical possibilities. A Battle had been planned with a strong Scottish team for the Winter of 1512 on a neutral ground near the Border. Immediately on his return Richard D'Opinton proposed that the game be fought on a nearby lake. The only reason why history has not recorded "The Battle of Badden Field on Ice" was due to the non-fulfillment of armament contracts by the Autumn of 1512. The fight had to be postponed and eventually took place the following September, which even today is a closed season for ice-shows.

(To be concluded)

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R.H.T.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

I read with very great interest Roy Morris' pungent comments on my letter (K.L. Feb.) supporting the re-introduction of flogging as a potential deterrent against crime. He contends that I have missed the point of his comments in the December issue on this controversial matter.

One must note that statistics when urging a certain line of action have a nasty habit of smothering the true facts causing the cases of crime with or without violence, to pass unnoticed. I cannot agree with Roy Morris that flogging would not help to lessen crime activity, but I will agree with him that the police force needs to be greatly enlarged and given better conditions to work under, this could be done.

However, let us enlarge on the broader aspects of flogging. A child is sometimes naughty, misbehaves itself. The reaction of the parents to such misconduct is to punish the child by smacking it. Firstly, as a punishment for wrongdoing, secondly, as a deterrent to repeating such behaviour. When it comes to adults committing offences against the laws of society, drawn up for peoples' guidance and protection mark you, such offences are punishable by fines, imprisonment and in very grave cases such as murder, by hanging.

In the dark ages crimes against the law were dealt with by great severity. One may ask why; because the common people could neither read nor write but they felt pain. Therefore, the only means available to impress the wrongdoer with the enormity of his crimes and to deter him from repeating such offences was to inflict corporal punishment. In the case of the child unable to read or write the smack administered to him acts as a deterrent, or should do, so does flogging act as a deterrent to the adult; an endeavour to turn them to living a straight life from a life of crime.

Today millions of pounds are spent on education, to improve the intelligence and the minds of the masses; to gain an understanding of the proper and sensible ways of living; to live a healthy and useful life; to be an asset to the general and social life of the community. But, in spite of education, or because of it, crime is still with us. I ask Roy Morris why must we suffer these misfits in society? If 48 million of the population in Britain can lead the lives of good citizens why cannot the other 2 million misguided souls? The cost of keeping the wrongdoers in 'durance vile' is now £7.10.0. per person. Rate-payers please note.

Yours faithfully,

E. W. JACKSON.

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