

Build the Young Socialists with Keep Left

KEEP LEFT was out in front providing leadership for the Young Socialists before the election—it is out in front after the election. The fight for the Brighton conference decisions continues under conditions which were never more favourable. The Young Socialist movement is growing and expanding despite the intensified witch-hunt over the past nine months.

Tens of thousands of young people are waiting to be recruited in all parts of the country. Now is the time to provide bold socialist leadership for the youth movement, and **Keep Left** is more determined than ever to play a leading role in the months ahead.

Since the proscription by the right-wing leadership of the Labour Party of our paper in May 1962, we have been unable to hold public elections for our editorial board because of the dangers of reprisals from

the witch-hunt; nevertheless our editorial board has functioned and much has been done to improve the paper.

Now we are about to make another leap forward. The amazing growth of the Young Socialists over the last year requires that the editorial board of **Keep Left** should be once again elected publicly by all Young Socialists.

Saturday, January 2 is the day we have chosen for our annual meeting. In the evening we have booked one of the largest halls in London for what we hope will be one of the most enjoyable social functions in the history of our paper.

Our annual meeting will open with a report on the paper's activities since its proscription. This will be followed by general discussion from the floor. An audited

balance sheet will then be presented to the readers; after that elections for a new editorial board for the year 1965 will be held. Nominations will be called for from the floor and all those present may participate.

We are hoping to have some pleasant surprises in store for our function in the evening.

We are asking our thousands of readers and supporters in all parts of the country to start now making arrangements to attend both of these great functions. Let Saturday, January 2 be a day of great triumph and enjoyment, especially for those who have been bureaucratically expelled from the Labour Party during the last year.

Full details will be announced in our December issue. Meanwhile, book the date and start making arrangements to attend.

Keep Left

the paper

for

socialist youth

Apprentice Special page 3

Vol. 13, No. 9

November 1964

Fourpence

Keep the Tories on the run



Home out



Wilson in

'GET out and stay out!' That is the reply of Britain's trade union and working class millions to the Tories.

The government of Alec Douglas-Home, and before him Harold MacMillan, constantly covered up for the gravest economic crisis which has ever threatened capitalist Britain.

They stand exposed as no other Tory government has in British history. They were a government of rich idlers who own the means of production, caring only for themselves and their big business friends.

They must now be made to pay for the economic crisis for which they are responsible. Under no circumstances should the Labour and trade union movement be asked to shoulder the burdens of a crisis for which Tory rule is to blame.

Keep Left says—do not let us stop at clearing them out of Parliament, let us nationalize all their wealth and property.

Socialist planning can only commence after the Tories are expropriated. Real socialist policies for peace can only work when their military commitments are brought to an end; all British troops are brought home, and an end put to the H-bomb for ever.

Only when all these things are done can we really say that the Tories are out for good.

**BRIGHTON 1964 DECISIONS WERE RIGHT
YOUNG SOCIALISTS CAMPAIGNED FOR
Nationalisation of all the major industries
Higher wages for apprentices and young workers
World Socialist Federation and unity of all peoples
AGAINST
Police violence against youth
Reintroduction of Conscription and the H-bomb
Racialism and Tory Immigration Act
—THE FIGHT GOES ON INTO 1965—**

Young Socialists National Committee backs apprentice struggle

THE National Committee of Young Socialists fully supports the national strike of apprentices and young workers on March 29, 1965, which was unanimously agreed on at the conference called by the Manchester Direct Action Committee in Manchester on October 31.

Demands of the Direct Action Committees for higher rates of pay, a shorter working week, and better working conditions for all apprentices and young workers, are demands which the Young Socialists also agreed on at their National Conference held in Brighton last Easter.

We therefore call upon Young Socialist branches and Federations throughout the country to assist the Direct Action Committees in preparing for this strike.

They can do this by raising finance for the National Strike Fund which is to be set up and by campaigning within the Labour and Trades

Union Movement for support for the just demands of the Manchester conference.

We do not support the strike which was called for November 2, which was embarked upon with no serious preparation and with no attempt to win wide support from Shop Stewards' Committees, trade union branches and District Committees.

The National Committee is fully behind the stand taken by the Manchester conference against this strike. We are convinced that young workers and apprentices want to wage a serious struggle against the employers.

This means serious and careful preparation on a national scale and at factory level.

We salute the serious and responsible stand taken by the Manchester conference and condemn all those who by their actions split and undermine the apprentices and young workers in their struggle.

HE is in, but only just. Labour should have won by a much larger majority. By watering down its programme nothing was gained. It was precisely in the constituencies where a sharp conflict on policy took place that the Labour vote went up.

On Deeside in Flintshire where the issue was clearly steel re-nationalization, the Labour candidate increased the majority considerably in a straight fight over the Tories on this issue. Nationalization is not an election loser if explained clearly and simply to the electorate.

The right-wing leaders of the Labour Party have continuously backed away from such an explanation. They have allowed the Tories to get away with blue murder when it comes to misrepresenting the nationalized industries.

If Labour is to increase its small majority the backsliding of nationalization must stop.

Keep Left calls upon the Labour Party to now submit to the Party a policy statement which will include the extension of nationalization to the basic industries and which will then become the main campaign point of the Party's fight to get rid of Toryism for ever.

The Young Socialists stand firmly behind all those who want to fight Toryism. Our attitude towards the Labour government is that we shall support it if it is loyal to the cause of socialism.

We will, meanwhile, fight to convince the party on the great need to accept the decisions of our Brighton conference.

Change of address

The address of **Keep Left** has now changed and all correspondence, money and articles for the paper should be sent to: **D. LONGLEY, 156 LAMBETH ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1**

YS National Committee declares: Annual Conference February 1965

FEBRUARY next year will be an important month for the Young Socialists—for the first time since its inception, the Labour youth movement will be free of the tight reins of the Transport House bureaucracy and the delegates will be able to discuss campaigns, activities and policies without interjections of 'out of order'.

True to previous experience the Young Socialists will, we are sure, show that they are capable of giving leadership and formulating policies that will take them forward into big campaigns in 1965.

Letter

In a letter to all Young Socialist branches, Dave Ashby, Chairman of the National Committee calls on all areas to send representatives to the conference, which will be held on February 27 and 28.

Copies of the Manifesto 'Forward With the Young Socialists' are to be submitted to branches for consideration and any amendments or additions.

Declaring the position of the National Committee of the Young Socialists, Dave Ashby said that he and the other members were given a clear mandate by the Brighton conference of Young Socialists at Easter to organise campaigns around nationalization, better wages, shorter hours, improved training facilities, opposition to wage restraint, opposition to conscription and the demand that troops be withdrawn from foreign countries.

'It is these policies that have guided our action. These same policies must be the backbone of the development of the Young Socialists into a mass youth movement,' the letter adds.

Abetted

Referring to the witch-hunt carried out by the right wing, Ashby stated that they had been 'ably abetted' by the newspapers 'Young Guard' and 'Militant', which were suggesting that the Young Socialists should try and get peace with Transport House.

'We would like to ask supporters of the 'Militant' and 'Young Guard' what right they think they have of organising 'Save the YS rallies'. No one has given them a mandate; they do not even fight for the policies of the Young Socialists against the witch-hunt.

'They have finally resorted to the worst kind of arguments to excuse their cowardice—that we

on the National Committee ourselves bear some responsibility for the expulsions and shut-downs, because we answered back to the right wing.'

But Ashby pointed out, the 'overwhelming majority' of the YS had acted according to the decisions of the

conference and had consistently fought against any attempts to cripple the Labour youth movement. If they had not done this there would have been no movement.

It was clear that the YS was witch-hunted because it posed

real answers for the working class in opposition to Wilson, who wanted to turn attention away from the problems that faced people under the bosses.

Referring to the September 27 rally, he said that it had been based on the decisions of the YS conference and the Mani-

festos was a statement of those decisions.

'September 27 showed that the stand we have taken has the support of active Young Socialists all over the country,' the letter added, in answer to those who said that the National Committee was splitting the movement.

Dave Ashby concluded with asking all branches to send resolutions and amendments to reach him at 9 Chestnut Avenue, Leeds, 6, not later than December 19, 1964.

Arrangements for travelling to London and accommodation and the meeting place will be publicised in the near future.

YS IN ACTION—LABOUR VOTE UP

By JACK DORAN

A MAJORITY of five. That was the Labour Party's miserable reward for going to the polls with Harold Wilson's right-wing policies.

Labour could have swept the country and won an overwhelming majority in Parliament, if a real fight against the whole Tory system had been the main plank in the election campaign.

Just at a time when anger, bred by years of Tory rule, was steadily mounting, the Labour leaders went to the polls with a policy scarcely distinguishable from that of the Tories.

CANVASSERS

No wonder Young Socialist canvassers were told time and time again on the doorstep by former Labour voters that they 'wouldn't be voting this year. Can't see any difference between them, to tell you the truth'.

No wonder the Labour Party has lost around one million votes since it was last in power.

No wonder it slunk past the finishing post with a shaky majority that can only mean an even shakier term of office.

This should put paid to the lies about Young Socialists damaging the Labour Party's election 'image'.

Young Socialists warned long ago that the working class is looking for an alternative, not a rehash of Tory policy.

That is why we went out on election work for the Labour Party with the statement of our National Committee and put forward the socialist policies of our 1964 conference, not the 'scientific' mish-mash of the Labour leadership.

That is why we ignored the pathetic cries of 'don't rock the boat' and went ahead and



During the election campaign the centrists and fake lefts claimed, quite wrongly, that any demonstrations held by the Young Socialists would destroy the chances of the Labour Party in the election. However, as can be seen in this photograph of members from Coventry Young Socialists who marched through the city's only Tory-held constituency, Labour's youth were determined to show their support for the working class in demanding that the Tories be kicked out. Residents in the area showed that they supported the ideas of the Young Socialists when they went along on polling day and voted in a Labour MP instead of a Tory one in Coventry South.

organised the massive rally of Young Socialists in London and successful eve-of-poll demonstrations throughout the country.

Far from damaging any 'image' these demonstrations did much to pull in voters who felt that Labour had nothing to offer them.

Perhaps the right wing would like to tell us now in what areas of the country, where militant Young Socialists have been active, has the Labour vote suffered? They cannot, because they know that in those areas it actually went up.

ACTIVE

Take Liverpool, for instance, long a strong centre of left-wing YS activity: four Labour gains from the Tories, three seats held by Labour with greatly increased majorities, and the Tory majority halved in the two remaining seats. What kind of damage is that?

In fact the only sorry story comes from Birmingham area with the loss to the Tories of Perry Barr and the now notorious Smethwick. This is the area where the Young Socialists is known to have been dominated by right-wing elements grouped around the Campaign for Democratic Socialism, and where witch-hunting of left Young Socialists has been particularly fierce.

RACIALISM

A determined fight on the question of racialism could have prevented the Tory victory in Smethwick. No such fight was forthcoming from the right-wingers and the result was a victory for racialism.

The right-wing policies which lost Labour so many votes and which secured it so small a majority in Parliament are now going to be applied against the working class.

Without an alternative for workers to turn to, this could spell disaster for the British labour movement.

For this reason it is more urgent than ever to build up the Young Socialists movement with firm socialist policies.

With these policies we can win the support of hundreds of thousands who would otherwise turn away from the labour movement, disillusioned by first-hand experience of the plans of the Wilson government.

September 27

In October's report on the September 27 rally against the Tories, we omitted to mention that Bob Hamilton, National Committee Member of the Young Socialists, marched at the head of the demonstration. Bob was, in fact, part of the 200-strong Scottish contingent

Apprentice Special



MANCHESTER APPRENTICE CONFERENCE



Mike Hughes

FOR decades now the apprentices have been the underdogs of industry, used as cheap labour by the employers and receiving wages which hardly cover a week's bus fares and meals.

But on Saturday, October 31, over 300 apprentices and young workers from factories all over Britain met in the Milton Hall, Manchester, and took a decision to organise and fight to change that position.

Delegations from Scotland, Northern Ireland, Liverpool and the surrounding towns, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, the Midlands, Sunderland and the North-east, and London voted to take strike action on March 29 if their claims for 60 per cent of the skilled rate at 15, 90 per cent at 20, a 35-hour week, four weeks' annual paid holiday and full trade union negotiating rights, are not granted.

The resolution before the conference stated that for several years the engineering

employers had rejected the apprentices' demands for better wages and conditions.

Negative

Describing the negative role of the trade union leaders, the resolution stated:

'This National Conference of apprentices and young workers declares its determination to end this annual merry-go-round. . . .

'We are not prepared to accept a wage freeze agreement between the Trades Union Congress and the Labour government as grounds for withdrawing these demands.

'We declare our support for the struggles of all workers who are fighting for improved wages and working conditions'

Making it quite clear that the apprentice movement was not a breakaway from the trade unions, the resolution called on all shop stewards' committees to

support the demands.

It urged apprentices and young workers to join their unions and campaign for 100 per cent trade unionism.

Introducing the resolution Mike Hughes, chairman of the Manchester Direct Action Committee said that it was nearly five years since apprentices had gathered in such large numbers at a meeting.

1959 strike

He reminded the delegates of the apprentices' strike in 1959, when young workers walked out for better conditions.

'Since then resolutions have been put to the annual conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, but they have been swept under the carpet.

'As the cost of living goes up so young lads have got to pay more for meals and bus fares out of a basic wage of about £2 a week.

'People say that apprentices have got to get less whilst they

are in training. No one is arguing with that, but when a 20-year-old lad is doing a man's job, he expects to get a decent living wage.'

Training

Now that there was a strike being planned, he added, the unions were telling apprentices they could not go it alone and the employers were busy describing the wonderful training being offered to young workers.

Hughes stated that although the employers and the unions were now negotiating over a rise, all the bosses would do would be to give out with one hand and take back with the other in the form of reorganisation and mobility of labour.

'The trade union leaders will bend backwards to help the employers, in the same way that the Trades Union Congress has just agreed to co-operate with the bosses in investigating unofficial strikes,' he said.

In the present economic crisis the intention of the employers

was to increase productivity by building up the monopolies and investing in automated machinery. This would mean fewer workers and it would particularly destroy the craft jobs.

A basic rate would become more and more important since, under automation, the employers' idea was to turn out more and more products with faster production methods, they were hardly likely to continue a piece-work scheme.

Unskilled

To make large profits under automation the employers wanted a pool of unskilled labour which was not militant.

'For this reason the apprentices must organise now. In 1959 the apprentices did not have a national organisation and they had to return to work, demoralised and without a leadership.

'We have to have a national liaison committee and finance amounting to thousands of pounds, if we are to have a national stoppage.'

Hughes said that the Manchester Direct Action Committee was opposed to the calling of the November 2 strike by a handful of people calling themselves the 'National Apprentices Wages and Conditions Campaign Committee'.

'We do not even know how long the strike is going to last; the 'Daily Worker' said two days, the Midlands have been told one day but most of the lads just do not know.

'This premature strike which is not at all organised will only demoralise the lads and may result in victimisation.'

Hughes appealed to the delegates to urge a one-day stoppage only, when they returned to their factories on Monday, November 2.

'Our fight is to first of all win the support of the adult workers. We know that a lot of shop stewards will support our strike in March and that they will stand with us in the face of victimisation.'

300 young workers vote for:

- A 35 hour working week
- 60% of the skilled rate at 15
- 90% of the skilled rate at 20
- 4 weeks annual paid holiday

KEEP LEFT

THE PAPER FOR SOCIALIST YOUTH

156 Lambeth Road, London, S.E.1

FOR almost 14 years Keep Left has been in the forefront of the struggle of young people for socialism. We have never disguised the fact that in order to achieve our ends it is necessary to build a mass Young Socialist movement of tens of thousands of members in Britain.

In 1961 this paper was in the leadership of the campaign to build mass Young Socialist branches on a programme of political and social activity. In 1962 we led the campaign against youth unemployment. Young Socialists always took the lead in organising the unemployment demonstrations. They succeeded, as a result of their efforts, in mobilising the official Labour movement in a national demonstration on February 11 this year.

At Easter we protested at the vicious police treatment of Mods and Rockers by launching a campaign to recruit as many of these young people as possible into the Young Socialists.

The advice of Keep Left to the Young Socialists has always been to urge them to turn out and recruit a never-ending stream of young people into their organisation.

Without a consistent attempt to recruit all young people in struggle, no mass youth movement is possible. We say that the Young Socialists must be in the forefront of every struggle of youth, no matter how small or large its demands may be. Furthermore, we believe that our record in the struggle of youth is second to none, and that no other tendency in the Left has carried out the amount of activity that Keep Left and its supporters have over the last few years.

We believe that because of this Keep Left has earned the right to address itself now to young apprentices all over the country. Our paper wholeheartedly supports the demands of the Manchester Direct Action Committee and the conference which was attended by over 300 delegates from all parts of the country recently.

We are in favour of a showdown with the engineering employers but we insist that such a showdown must be adequately prepared. Therefore, we are in complete opposition to the Young Communist League who have organised what amounts to a suicidal adventurist strike under conditions which can only strengthen the employers.

The organisers of this strike know very well that they were embarked on such an adventure. On the week-end before the strike was called, the National Secretary of the Young Communist League admitted that the strike was doomed to fail, but claimed it was too late to call it off.

Keep Left, on the other hand, fully supports the majority of young apprentices who believe that it is necessary to begin now a most serious preparation for struggle. Such a preparation involves the maximum campaign amongst adult trade unionists so that they will provide the necessary cover against possible victimisation and the maximum finances to sustain the apprentices in a long, drawn-out strike.

In particular we appeal to those adult workers who hold responsible positions in trade unions to use their power and influence to force their leadership to wage a militant struggle for the just demands of the apprentices.

The campaign must concentrate on bridging the obvious gap between the demands of the apprentices in various parts of the country. The status of apprentices, for example, is different, particularly in the motor car industry from that of the apprentices in heavy industrial centres. One sure way to bring them together is to set up Direct Action Committees in all the main industrial areas. By linking these committees together it will be possible to convince the majority of apprentices of the need to take action in a united way, whilst at the same time fighting for support in the adult movement.

Every Young Socialist and for that matter every Young Communist, knows that Keep Left is not frightened of a fight with the employers. We have been banned and proscribed and our supporters expelled all over the country, by the right wing and its agents.

The Young Communist League leadership believes that it is necessary to have a 'power' struggle with Keep Left. This is absolute nonsense, especially since the 'power' struggle is taking place at the expense of the apprentices. Our struggle is not with members of the YCL (even though we might disagree with them politically), but with the employers. That is why we will not jeopardise the standards of the apprentices by leading them into a hopeless fight just to prove that the Young Socialists are stronger than the YCL.

The Labour movement cries out for the unity of all young people, Young Communist League as well as the Young Socialists to join together now to fight for the apprentices. We say to the misguided members of the YCL who have been pushed into the adventure by their party leaders: Drop this policy at once and join with us in preparing a serious struggle nationally behind the demand for a stoppage on March 29, 1965. If you do this then we can and will win—together.

Manchester

Young Workers national

DISCUSSION which followed Mike Hughes' speech reflected the obvious determination apprentices must have nationally to fight for their demands.

First to really express this sentiment was a young London apprentice, Dave Rigg, who told the conference: 'We must plan properly for the March 29 strike, with no messing about.'

'Apprentices of the Electrical Trades Union stand to lose their jobs if they go on strike, but we are prepared to run that risk



Dave Rigg

so it is up to everyone else to chip in.'

Joe Bush, a member of the breakaway National Apprentices Wages and Conditions Campaign Committee, tried to paint rosy pictures of the strength of the unprepared November 2 strike. Although repeatedly asked how many young workers he expected to come out and from what areas, he gave no answer.

Unable to win the sympathies of the conference delegates, he attempted to slander the Manchester Direct Action Committee by suggesting that they were going to blackleg.

Such allegations, however, were soon answered by Mike Hughes, the Direct Action Committee chairman, who said that he

would come out on strike with his factory on November 2, but he would urge the lads to stop for one day and then go back and build up support for March 29 in an organised manner.

Joe Bush and his friends walked out of the meeting after they found that the apprentices at the conference had come not to discuss wild unplanned actions, but a firm campaign that would lead to the maximum support from adult trade unionists.

A later attempt to bring up the same question by a state capitalist apprentice from ENVs, London, was ignored by the audience.

Many apprentices complained that they had not heard about the November 2 strike until they had read about it in the national press. No committees had been set up, they said, and no strike fund had been organised.

Problems

Referring to members of the National Apprentices Wages and Conditions Campaign Committee, Paul Littlehales, an Amalgamated Engineering Union member from Sheffield stated that many of his town's problems in setting up a Direct Action Committee were a result of Joe Bush and his friends.

'The Young Socialists in Sheffield went round leafletting



Paul Littlehales

and got a very good response. They called a meeting which was attended by 30 to 40 people from nine to ten firms.

'Members of the Junior Workers' Committee decided to come and that delegation suc-

cessfully wrecked a serious meeting,' he added.

Paddy O'Regan, a young London worker said that although Joe Bush had boasted that apprentices at ENVs would come out on strike on November 2, a convenor at the factory had stated that he thought the lads would only come out for an hour.

Organise

'This call for a strike on November 2 can only cause harm to the apprentice movement. We should discuss a real preparation and get a strike fund going. Joe Bush and the



Thomas Cumiskey

others are merely running away from the fight.'

Pledging his support for the March 29 strike, Thomas Cumiskey of Sunderland said that the employers knew all about the November 2 strike but the lads in his area did not. 'I suggest that we press on until we are a big movement then we can have a national strike.'

Speaking from his experience in the 1959 apprentices' strike, Michael Conroy, chairman of the Dunbarton Junior Workers' Committee said that the reason the first apprentices' strike failed was because of lack of organisation.

'You have got to have the support of trade unionists behind you, and you have got to have a large fund behind you. When we have got all that, then we will have all Scotland's apprentices behind us, in a strike.'

British Overseas Aircraft Corporation apprentice Mick Davies from Feltham (standing

October 31

ers vote for movement

in centre photograph), had this to say about the union leadership: 'Our unions have been negotiating for better wages and conditions for some time now but nothing has been said about the apprentices.'

'We are treated as a class on our own instead of part of the trade union movement. The union leaders have let the apprentices down so if we want to get a strong movement we are really going to have to fight.'

Amendment

Moving an amendment to the resolution before the conference, Dave Birchall, a building worker of Salford said that apart from the thousands of apprentices with poor pay and conditions, there were also thousands of young workers, like the young girls in the rag trade, who needed organising into the movement.

'If we can make a movement of thousands of young

workers then we can really call a strike on March 29. We can force the management to give us better conditions.'

If this was not done, he said the Direct Action Committees would be separate from a large number of youth in Britain.

The amendment calls on the



Michael Conroy

apprentice movement to go out and win the support of young workers to the strike on March 29, and to give them representa-

tion on the committees.

A second amendment urged for work inside factories and on building sites to build up Junior Workers' Committees, which have 'rights on the shop stewards' committees and rights to negotiate with the management'.

Electrical Trades Union apprentice Larry Moore, described how, when he and other apprentices went to attend a meeting in Liverpool (before the city's present Direct Action Committee was set up), he was asked to produce both indentures, union card and a note from his boss to say he actually worked at the factory he said he worked at.

Accused

'We were accused of being disrupters at that meeting because we insisted on asking a few questions and the police were called. That is why we decided that a Direct Action Committee had to be set up.'

'I am a member of the Young Socialists and I know that it is not enough just to fight the bosses on the basis of more pay. The only way that apprentices can win all demands is by uniting with the YS to fight for socialism.'

Describing the conditions under which he had worked in one factory, Tony Burn (nearest



Dave Birchall

camera in centre photograph) of Liverpool, said apprentices in engineering were expected to become part of their machines, and work for nine hours with only a half-hour break.

Colin Heeles from Yorkshire stressed that there was an urgent need for a leadership amongst

the apprentices. 'We have got to threaten the employers with a really big movement if we are going to do anything.'

One of a delegation of seven from Northern Ireland, Sam Agnew said that it was only with the help of the Young Socialists that apprentices had



Colin Heeles

been able to organise in his area.

'The bosses in Northern Ireland try to keep the workers divided between protestant and Catholic, in a country where there are 12,500 unemployed youth.'

'Only 13 per cent of the young people get worthwhile jobs and one in three go on to the dole. They get one-third less than those in England and the Labour and trade union



Sam Agnew

movement has failed to do anything about this.'

Supporting the resolution put forward at the conference Agnew said that it was only by uniting the apprentices and young workers, with the help of the Young Socialists, into a huge movement that better conditions would ever be realised.

Donations

A call for donations towards the setting up of a national strike fund brought forward a tremendous response. Apprentices and young workers dug deep into their pockets and raised over £100.

Many of the contributions were pledged by apprentices on behalf of their Young Socialist branches. To those Stalinists and Pabloites still in the conference hall this proved the point that Labour youth play an integral part in the struggles of industrial youth.

Representatives from each area were elected on to a national committee which will meet periodically to discuss the strike preparations.

After the conference 'many apprentices were interviewed by Keep Left reporters.'

Apprentices from Leicester later told a Keep Left reporter that they had attended the conference in spite of the fact that they had been warned not to do so by their management.

A meeting would be held a few days after the conference, they said, to draw up plans for approaching other large factories in Leicester.

Describing the factory in which he worked, one young Glasgow apprentice stated that working conditions were 'pretty poor' and 'very dirty'.

Day release was the exception not the rule in Scotland, he added.

Clydeside

There were many heavy engineering factories on the Clydeside, the apprentice said, which were no exceptions in the general drive of the engineering industry to increase 'efficiency and productivity'.

A number of well-known shipyards, employing young workers, had closed down and now in the fight for jobs it is a case of 'survival of the fittest'.

'While some apprentices earn reasonable wages, they have to go on piecework to do this. Other apprentices don't get piecework so they get very low wages,' he commented.

'The bosses try to split the apprentices but we must establish Direct Action Committees in every area so that we can organise for March 29.'

Describing his experience in the 1959 strike, when apprentices on the Clydeside were the first to come out, he commented: 'We don't want to go into the March 29 strike like we went into the strike in 1959 otherwise we should be totally unprepared.'

'Before we can win our demands we have to organise on a national basis and win the support of the older workers.'

Late news

The Pabloites called an apprentices meeting in Liverpool which was attended by 100 young workers. They are doing everything possible to prevent a fully prepared national stoppage and a link-up with the Young Socialists movement.

In spite of the fact that the Manchester conference showed that the feeling of apprentices nationally was that a strike should be properly prepared, these fakers have insisted on embarking on an 'adventure' that can only demoralise those apprentices who follow them.



Mick Davies (standing) addressing the conference with Tony Burn (nearest camera) who spoke later

New demands by young Yorkshire metalworkers



Free protective clothing

Free travel to work

Canteen prices scaled to wages

Keep Left Correspondent

YOUNG workers in a Leeds foundry have, with the help of the local Young Socialists, started to organise themselves.

Many of the people who work there do not live in Leeds, but are brought in on the firm's buses (for 4s. a week) from the outlying pit villages, where there is no alternative work.

Advertisements have even

been printed in Irish newspapers promising much bigger wages than those working at the firm have ever seen.

In some foundries, the only ventilation is when the windows are taken out.

For hours after leaving work the workers are coughing from the sand and dust which rises from the floor.

In the summer the heat is overpowering, in winter it is impossible to keep warm.

The majority of jobs are labouring, with virtually no chance of moving into more skilled or more interesting jobs.

Low wages

Many workers claim they receive burns from the molten metal.

The wages are very low—£4 4s. 6d. at 15, £6 14s. 4d. at 18 rising to £10 1s. 10d. for a man (these are basic rates).

All those who work in the foundries have to wear special boots with metal toe caps. These caps are actually produced in the foundry and yet the workers have to buy their own boots—3s. a week is taken out of their wages.

Because there is a large turnover of labour, it is hard to get

the shop organised into the union. The Young Socialists have helped recruit young workers into the union and a young workers' committee has been set up to fight in line with the apprentices and young workers' movement.

The conditions at the firm will never improve unless the workers there fight for them.

Recruitment

Besides endorsing the policy demands for higher wages and shorter hours of the Apprentices Direct Action Committees, the young workers' committee at the Leeds firm has put forward three demands to help recruitment to the union and improve their working conditions.

1. Boots, which are necessary protective clothing, should be provided free of charge.
2. All those workers who travel in from outside Leeds should have free transport.
3. Prices for canteen meals should be scaled according to wages received by the workers.

Like all those who support Keep Left, they are challenging the right of employers to decide wages and conditions for the working class.

Long hours, short breaks at Glasgow clothing factory

By a Glasgow Keep Left supporter

THOUSANDS of young people throughout Britain shop at the big fashion stores. At one store in particular the clothes they buy are made mostly by young girls employed by a manufacturing company in Glasgow.

Young Socialists who have recently been conducting a recruitment campaign discovered a number of facts about the conditions which the young girls in this factory work under.

The first thing the girls tell you about is the pay: £3 11s. 2d. clear is the starting rate at 15. After six months this goes up to £4 2s. 10d. and at 16 there is a further increase of 10s.

MARRIED

Over 18 there are no more increases and the girls told the Young Socialists that a young married woman of 23 is taking home only £7 a week.

The girls work a 40-hour week, 7.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with overtime as required by the company. There is a 45 minute break at mid-day and 10 minutes in the morning, which doesn't allow time to go to the canteen so tea is brought round the factory.

In the afternoon there is a

5 minute break—with just time to go to the toilet if you are lucky.

Girls sit at their machines while a belt or band holding the garments to be made, moves along beside them. They take the garment from the band, perform the necessary operation, put the garment back and the band moves on.

If a girl gets into difficulties with her machine, or is unable to maintain the pace of the band, there is a 'jam'. The band is stopped and the supervisor comes along to sort out the trouble.

Girls claim they have to buy their own overalls and scissors.

Disciplinary action in the form of suspension or dismissal can be taken against any girl for 'unsatisfactory behaviour or conduct' or for bad timekeeping.

PENSION

The firm operate a non-contributory pension scheme. The girls can't join it until they are 30 and even then they must have had five years' continuous

service with the company.

There is no trade union organisation in this factory. The workers merely have the right to appeal to the General Manager—so long as they make application through the head of their department.

ENTHUSIASTIC

When the Young Socialists went to the factory with leaflets for the September 27 demonstration against the Tory bosses and talked to the girls about the fight of the Young Socialists against dead-end jobs, low wages and bad working conditions, they received an enthusiastic response.

It didn't take these girls long to find out what the Young Socialists stand for.

A number of the girls have now joined the newly-formed branch of Cranhill and Ruchazie Young Socialists. They are convinced that through the YS they can learn how to organise in the trade unions to fight for better wages, better working conditions and proper training for jobs.

Surrey and Sussex youth join young workers' movement

WHILE there may not be unemployment in the south in Surrey and Sussex, young workers are putting up a fight on dead-end jobs and low wages.

At Croydon, Surrey, a firm employing large numbers of young people was recently fined £100 for its third offence of having unsafe machines, after a youth lost two fingers.

A girl in the Young Socialists, who works 50 hours a week as a trainee dental nurse for £3 10s. told our reporter:

'I am going to the Manchester conference because it is not only the boys who get low wages and bad working conditions.'

In the new industrial town of Crawley a 16-year-old hairdresser's apprentice told Keep Left she receives £1 18s. 6d. a week for working a 48-hour week—this was not in a back street shop but in the town's main shopping centre.

On the factory estate 15- and 16-year-old youths are receiving £4 to £5 a week piece-work rate making car batteries.

The Young Socialists have only recently formed a branch in Crawley, but already the first steps towards a young workers' committee have been taken. A number of YS apprentices attended the Manchester congress.

Youth Movement

THE September 27 demonstration was a tremendous success; however, all that has been gained as a result of it could be easily lost if we treat the next few months as a time in which we turn in on ourselves.

The Young Socialists must become a mass working class youth movement, capable of taking the leadership of the class as a whole. This means that comrades must take the responsibility, not only for increasing the membership of existing branches, but also for building new ones in areas where none exist at present.

In Leicester there are four branches in the Leicestershire Federation and four new ones are being set up. Two are in Leicester itself and one in each of the small towns a few miles from the city.

The position youth find themselves in, in the towns in the Leicester area is much worse than in Leicester itself. On average the only amenities are a couple of coffee bars and one or

Young Socialists

AROUND Willesden youth are given all the worst jobs, with low pay. In the evenings there is nothing going for young people, unless you can afford to travel out of the district all the time.

We usually just hang about, and the law comes around and starts shoving us about. The other night we were moved on four times, although we were only standing chatting on the corner with some mates.

We went along to a Young Socialists meeting because there was nothing going on. We can see that this is a movement that is really going to get things done and we think the September 27 demonstration was great.

During election time we went on a march to support the Labour candidate in South Paddington, and we went to a local Tory meeting as well.

We reckon KL is all right, but there is not enough sport.

P.R., P.D., N.M.,
Willesden.

challenge of capitalism. Now the bosses use the Labour leaders to sell us policies which are not in the interests of the working class.

Tribune was very truthful when it showed a range of former contributors to *Tribune*, including Wilson, with the headline, 'Tribune takes over from Eton in the British cabinet!' The bosses have traditionally used people trained at Eton to run capitalism now they will, in fact, be using so-called left-wingers of the *Tribune* school.

When we voted Labour, it was not for that sort of thing. We want a government that represents the workers, and which instead of attacking the dockers, as Gunter did, will attack the bosses.

We must fight now for socialist policies, and see that the labour movement is not tamed by Gunter or his colleagues.

A Labour voter
(expelled from the Party),
London.

with everybody else.

Why cannot something be done about this—there is not even a union for hairdressers. The last union was many years ago and it folded up.

Surely, with everyone else demanding more money, apprentice hairdressers deserve higher wages.

C.L.,
Sunderland Y.S.

Demonstration

BRADFORD is one of the oldest industrial centres in the world. There are a number of fairly large engineering works, but the most predominant industry is the wool industry.

In some of the older parts of Bradford the houses are not fit to live in and yet people are, very often expected to pay high rents.

There are a great majority of immigrants in Bradford, mostly from Pakistan, who have to live and work in the worst conditions and who are constantly being

A shortage of bricks

WHILE the Tory and Labour leaders were competing with each other to promise the biggest housing programme, a new crisis hit the building industry this summer—a shortage of bricks. This makes it obvious that the Labour government, with their present policies, cannot really make any promises.

Although huge sums of money are spent on trying to persuade us that nationalization is no good, the privately-owned building materials industry managed to produce this shortage in the middle of the pre-election building 'boom'.

As a result of delays in delivery—the London Brick Corporation quoted nine month delays—many housing projects are being held up.

In Oldham, the council's Collier Hill estate development site has been held back by a 12-month delay between order and delivery of bricks.

At Basildon in Essex, there will probably be a delay of up to 12 months in the completion of 1,500 houses.

The Battersea Borough Council has had to transfer its bricklayers to maintenance work.

Private builders have not been hit as badly as local councils. Many bought stocks in winter in advance of requirements, whereas councils have to wait until contracts are signed.

Some builders are doing very well out of this, selling stockpiled bricks at inflated prices.

For building workers in many areas, the shortage has brought unemployment in summer when there is normally plenty of work.

In the North-east and South Wales, local councils have not taken any men on.

On Merseyside many bricklayers and labourers have been paid off. So, in areas with some of the worst slums in Britain, men who could build new houses are now on the dole. That is capitalism.

What is behind the crisis?

It is the way industries are run. The building firms and the suppliers of bricks do not work to any co-ordinated plan aimed at providing the needs of working people. In the words of one brick firm director: 'Briefly, the country is not geared to the present building programme of both traditional and factory methods of building.'

In 1963, when building work was stopped by a harsh winter, 911 million bricks were stockpiled. Kilns were extinguished and workers sacked. When work got going again, the industry was slow to catch up by reheating kilns and re-employing workers.

In the mild winter from 1963 to 1964 the manufacturers still did not catch up with the building firms.

When the government wants to try and boost the economy it authorises more housing projects, new schools and hospitals—particularly in election year.

Labour, with its present policies, is also saddled with the same problem and, in trying to run capitalism, is using the same policies as the Tories.

It is increasingly obvious that we can only get decent housing by fighting for the policies of the Young Socialists—nationalization of the building industry, building materials and land and nationalization of the banks and finance companies, for real socialist planning.

Charlie Pottins,
London

Postbag

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

two cinemas.

Working class youth spend much of their time being pushed around by the police. For example, while canvassing recently for YS members, myself and three other comrades from Leicester spent an hour talking with about 20 lads while being continuously moved round and round the block by three policemen.

One of these gentlemen snatched a copy of Keep Left from a lad. When he demanded it back the lad was threatened.

The possibilities for starting YS branches in towns like these, as we have discovered, are enormous. In all areas the responsibility for doing this work must be taken by comrades in established branches even though these branches may be some distance away.

R.B.,
Leicester.

Reorganisation

THE fear that Labour Party officials have of socialist policies can be seen from the experience of the reformed Young Socialists branch in Hull.

For a long time the branch was just a talking shop with no action being taken. The Labour Party officials were quite happy with this but when it was decided to recruit working class youth around the policies in the Young Socialists Manifesto and to go to London for the September 27 demonstration, the officials changed their ideas.

We were immediately told that we could have no more meetings until after the election and then the branch would have to be reorganised.

Young Socialist branches in other areas that have been 're-organised' will know just what this means.

However, we decided that it was important to carry on the work that we were doing, so we started looking for other places to hold meetings.

Some dockers were very willing to let us use the 'Blue' union (National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers) club and they are interested in what we are doing.

T.P.,
Hull.

Election

AFTER Profumo, Rachman and Ferranti and all that why didn't Labour get a bigger majority at the general election? The Tories lost votes heavily, but Labour did not pick them up, after all the talk about winning the floating voter.

The last Labour Party conference was little more than an election rally, with all controversy and serious discussion shoved aside so that the television cameras could concentrate on Mr. Wilson.

The 'floating voter' ignored the tired slogan of 'Let's Go With Labour' and in many places they did not vote at all. A large number of labour voters, in some places, did not bother to vote either. So the Wilson approach didn't work did it?

When the Tories were in real trouble, the policy of the Labour leaders was to help them out. During the Profumo affair, which shocked millions of Tory church-going types, and which revealed some very dodgy behaviour, all Wilson did was to say he was worried over security and that he had been to see Mr. Macmillan about it!

While Rachman was in the news, and Paddington tenants were in struggle against the landlords, the Labour Party right wing never launched a campaign to end bad housing.

Instead they accepted the Tory line that makes immigrant workers the scapegoats for bad housing.

During the Ferranti debate Wilson could say very little, since he could not advocate nationalization of the defence industries.

When there was trouble in Africa and Aden Wilson approached Home for talks on 'defence' instead of exposing colonialism. When Maudling tried to pretend there was no economic crisis just before the election Wilson's first reaction was to join in the pretence.

If the Labour leaders had really wanted to fight the Tories they could have forced an election much sooner and pulled off a big majority.

But they did not want to raise issues which would lead to a real

Apprentices—1

READERS of Keep Left may be interested to know that the latest attack on the Young Socialists in Coventry originated from a Communist Party convenor at a local engineering factory.

It appears that the Communist Party and the Labour Party right wing combined at the local district committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union to send a resolution to the Labour Party condemning the Young Socialists for leafleting factories in connection with the apprentices' movement.

They accused us of using the AEU Junior Workers' Conference decisions to 'encourage industrial action'.

This attitude from a leading member of the Communist Party in Coventry typifies the role of that Party which will assist the Labour government in its betrayal of working class struggles.

M.H.,
Coventry.

Apprentices—2

IT is all very well that the apprentices in the shipyards and factories are having a raw deal, but what about the apprentice hairdressers?

The starting wage of an apprentice hairdresser is 39s. a week and there is a rise every six months of five shillings if you are lucky. Also the insurance stamp is deducted from this amount.

What is left for the apprentice after bus fares and meals are deducted?

The apprentice hairdressers do a hard week's work running after the qualified hairdresser and also if she is over 16 years of age, she has to work at least one late night a week. Some hairdressers are known to stay open until 9 o'clock at night.

The apprentice is indentured for three years, but after two years are over she can very well do what a first-year 'improver' can do and in some cases better, although she is still paid a meagre wage.

With the cost of living getting higher and higher, and the younger generation being more fashion conscious than they ever were, it is very difficult for a young hairdresser to keep up

D.K.,
West London.



NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Wal Hobson suspended for six months

(Below he tells how)

Kensington North officers expelled



Three expelled YS members Dave Greenberg (centre, facing), Linda Blend (only just seen), Avril Blend (nearest camera)

Young Socialists branches defy the witch-hunt

THE first expulsions of Young Socialists under the Wilson government took place at the end of last month.

The North Kensington, London, Labour Party expelled three officers of the Young Socialists: Dave Greenberg (chairman), Avril Blend (secretary) and Linda Blend (treasurer).

The charge made against them was that they held an unauthorised Young Socialists meeting in September in the Labour Party rooms.

As the Young Socialists pointed out the charge was a weak attempt to cover the real reasons for the expulsions.

In North Kensington there are some of the most appalling slums in London. White and coloured workers are crowded into these slums because there is no other place for them.

Racialism has increased and racist propaganda aimed at dividing and weakening the struggles of these workers has flooded the area.

The Labour Party in North Kensington has never fought against racialism.

During the 1958 race riots in Notting Hill, George Rogers, the Labour MP, said that the government should have the power to restrict the entry of coloured Commonwealth immigrants into Britain. A few years later the Tory government passed the Immigration Act which did just that—and the present Labour government gives the Act its blessing.

Because of these policies, the North Kensington Labour Party have never been able to tolerate a strong Young Socialists branch that has been fighting against racialism around the Young Socialists conference decision; to recruit many more working class youth.

A WEEK after the General Election, the executive committee of the South Shields Labour Party called me before it to discuss taking disciplinary action against me. At the beginning of this month I was suspended by them for six months.

This is part of the attempt now going on to destroy the socialist leadership of the Young Socialists. Expulsions and suspensions of the majority of the National Committee were planned by the right wing to take place immediately after the election.

I was called before the EC of South Shields party a few weeks before the election. They wanted to discuss my attendance at a day school called by the Sunderland Young Socialists. The Sunderland YS was declared 'unofficial' by the Regional Organiser after it refused to accept the suspension of one of its members who attended the lobby of the NEC.

Letter

At this time the EC decided to leave the whole question over until after the election. I received a letter the day before their meeting on Thursday, October 29.

At this meeting I refused to discuss the Sunderland school, declaring the EC had no right to stop me from speaking there. I told them that any action taken against me would be against my politics, and I was not going to discuss whether I went to Sunderland or not.

I had received no charges to answer before the meeting. I told members of the EC that I represented the majority of the Young Socialists and the decisions of their last National Conference at Brighton. No repressive action by them or any one else could kill my politics.

I was asked to give a pledge not to associate with unofficial groups. I said I did not know of any. I was one of the majority of the National Committee of Young Socialists elected at a National Conference and we intended to continue

fighting for the the Brighton conference decisions.

This conference called on a Labour government to nationalize the basic industries; to withdraw troops from colonial and ex-colonial areas. The conference was firmly against a wage freeze.

I am proud of standing for socialist policies. We will fight these attempts to gag us.

To date, two members of the Regional Committee elected by

Young Socialists in the Northern Region have been suspended. They supported the Brighton conference policies. The chairman of the Regional Committee—Glad Hobson—is now threatened with action against her.

Mobilised

The chairman intends to call a meeting of the Regional Committee to face these attacks and we shall ensure that every Young Socialist in the region is

mobilised to carry on the struggle for socialist policies.

I am confident that Young Socialists in this area will not allow the YS movement to be closed down or leading members expelled for fighting for socialism.

Already my YS branch has passed a resolution supporting me. The officers of the party have refused to accept the resolution, which also supports Glad Hobson.

Tyneside Federation Secretary suspended

IN Ryton-on-Tyne, Co. Durham, the Labour Party has suspended the secretary of the local Young Socialists branch and South Tyneside Federation, Alan Rutter, for 12 months.

He arrived at the 'suspension' meeting completely unaware of the charges against him—he was asked to attend the meeting only two days before.

It became obvious that the meeting was nothing more than a vicious witch-hunt against him since only the Regional Officer, Mr. G. Foster, seemed to know what the charges were.

Rutter was questioned about allegations he has made about police violence in the Newcastle area. As soon as he said he had proof of these allegations and would be pleased to present

it, these questions stopped.

Questions then ranged from his attitude towards the September 27 demonstration to his activities as secretary of the Federation.

'Eventually,' Rutter told Keep Left, 'when they realised they were going to have great difficulty in finding a constitutional loophole through which to expel me, someone shouted: "What do you think of Wilson?"'

'I pointed out that my loyalty lay with the working class, not with a careerist who had made his loyalties known by condemning dockers and that in line with this I had supported the September 27 demonstration called by the National Committee for a fight around real socialist policies.'

It took the chairman's casting

vote to decide that Rutter be suspended.

The talk of 'suspension' is complete nonsense. The only reason Rutter was not expelled outright was because of a fear of pressure from the rank and file labour movement, many of whom support the Young Socialists.

Ryton YS has unanimously decided not to accept the suspension.

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