

# KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER  
OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1972  
VOL 21 No 25 ● PRICE 3p

CENTRE PAGES

The life of  
Leon Trotsky



# THE TORIES HAVE



James Prior  
Lord President  
of the Council



John Davies  
'Mr Europe'



Sir Geoffrey  
Howe, QC  
Minister, Trade  
and Consumer  
Affairs



Peter Walker  
Secretary for  
Trade and  
Industry



Robert Carr  
Home Secretary

# NO MANDATE

**NO ONE** voted for the Tories in order to be victims of a vicious attack on basic rights.

When the Tories came to power they said they would deal with prices at a stroke. Now they have decided to implement a law against wage increases 'at a stroke.'

This government has no mandate for wage control, anti-union laws and measures to put millions into the pockets of speculators. It has no right to let prices increase at the astronomical rate they have done in the last two years.

This government must be

replaced. There is no other way to defend rights and living standards.

Councils of Action must be built throughout Britain to unite all workers to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

● See page two editorial.



# Time for action is now!

THE TORY government has made it illegal for workers to fight for higher wages.

The new Inflation Bill which was introduced into the Commons last Tuesday is a hostile declaration of war by the Tories and their big business supporters.

In a completely unprecedented piece of action the government has not only dealt a serious blow to the living standards of millions of people, but has also taken a big step towards a corporate state and dictatorship.

The wages law will be implemented with the full backing of the Industrial Relations Act, with the industrial court ready to take action against any industrial 'lawbreakers'.

It is now illegal for workers to win wage increases just as it is illegal for the trade unions to fight freely for better standards and jobs.

Prices have already shot up. When the big chain stores and retail merchants heard about Tory intentions they immediately put their prices up before the Bill was introduced.

In only two weeks before the Bill was announced over 500 household goods went up in price!

In order to bring about this legal move against workers' standards of living Edward Heath has made some ministerial changes.

Two new ministers take over special responsibility for the operation of the wages law. Sir Geoffrey Howe, author of the Industrial Relations Act and a legal right-winger in the government has been made Minister of Trade and Consumer Affairs.

And Peter Walker, the property tycoon, is to be Secretary for Trade and Industry.

Heath's new cabinet, with some new faces, is a cabinet of war. It was formed to coincide with the introduction of the 90-day 'freeze' and came at the end of talks between the government and leaders of the trade union movement.

Victor Feather, TUC General Secretary, after 10 sessions with the government emerged virtually on his knees before the Tory attack.

'We shall not go out looking for trouble,' he said. 'If trouble comes our way we shall have to cope with it like we always do. But we are not the ones to stir it up.'

This is the language of class collaboration which has prepared the way for the Tory measures. Trade union leaders agreed during talks to accept control over wages in principle. They did not sign because they knew the working class would not have any of it from their own leaders.

The Labour government's so-called opposition to the Tory dictatorship has also collapsed. Edward Heath ignored the Labour amendment to the Bill. Instead it was made clear that the standstill could be extended to twice the 90-day period.

In other words for anything up to one year, the Tories have made it a criminal offence to fight for a better standard of living.

This is no ordinary crisis. It is an emergency situation for the working class and a thorough political programme is needed to meet it.

The need for Councils of Action is now more urgent than ever before. These Councils should be organized to unite all sections of the working class in a fight to remove the Tory government.

The aim should be the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. There is no other choice apart from an immediate General Election to bring about this change.

A Labour government elected in this period should be forced to nationalize all industry and banks under workers' control.

It should immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, the Housing Act and all other anti-working class measures.

A Labour government should immediately put an end to moves into the Common Market and fight for the Socialist United States of Europe.

The working class has to make sure that all movements of capital into the Common Market are halted.

Spending on defence should be stopped and all troops withdrawn from Northern Ireland and all foreign countries.

The fight for this programme demands a revolutionary leadership to replace the reformist class collaborators who head the trade union and Labour movement.

A revolutionary party built under these conditions is the only answer. We call on all young people to join the Young Socialists now and take up this fight.



## Letter from Australia

# More than meets the eye in sunny Australia

THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS in Australia have just learnt of a new campaign by Australia House in London.

Apparently the Australian government is spending about \$A377,000 advertising for migrants.

A little strange, you might say, that this is happening when there are already thousands of British workers on an indefinite waiting list to come to sunny Australia — 'land of hope and sunshine'.

But there is more than what meets the eye in this new campaign. Australia House officials in London have said that, in fact, it is to discourage the type of immigrants Australia no longer wants.

And what types of people are these? Australia House says it is the unskilled and semi-skilled workers, particularly in the building and metal trades.

This is because the prospects of jobs in these fields are now very grim here.

The Australian government is so determined to make sure that this scheme works that British workers are now being subjected to the same type of 'special skills' test that was previously reserved for keeping out unwanted Asian workers, in line with the 'white Australia policy'.

The aim now is to select workers to land on the shores of a country that already has the highest unemployment figures for 20 years.

The new moves are but the latest and most dramatic act in the great migration swindle that has been going on for decades.

For years now, the Australian ruling class and its Liberal government have been luring British workers and youth to Australia with all sorts of lies about the great opportunities that exist here.

For Australian workers

and youth the future, if left in the hands of the Liberal government, is indeed a grim one. When, at the end of the year, the schools and colleges throw thousands more youth onto the labour market, the unemployment figures are expected to double.

The Liberal government has introduced a wage freeze and the right to strike has been smashed on the head by the anti-union lynch laws.

Workers are being made redundant overnight in the printing and metal industries as new machinery is introduced to replace them.

Apprentices are being used merely as cheap labour and there is no guarantee of a job when they have finished their time.

Because they are denied the right to strike they are being used as scab labour to break the strikes of other workers. Youth are subjected to continuous harassment by the police.

When you examine all these developments you find that Australia has not been somehow exempted from the international crisis of capitalism, but stands poised with the rest of the world on the brink of a return to the depression years.

The attacks now being launched on prospective British immigrants are but a further step by a desperate ruling class to take away every right that the workers have won.

The struggle of the Young Socialists in Britain for the right to work, of the YS in the US to build a Labour Party, and now of the YS in Australia to put into power a Labour Government pledged to socialist policies is the only answer for working class youth.

Valery Murphy  
YS National Secretary  
Sydney  
Australia

Young Socialists in Australia lobby trade union leaders.



# Peace talks denounced by radio Hanoi

NORTH Vietnamese leaders have denounced Nixon's delay over the peace treaty and accused the United States of wanting to continue the war.

Radio Hanoi said last week that the Americans were not prepared to sign the peace treaty because they wanted to continue 'negotiating from a position of strength, continuing to prolong the war of aggression and maintaining the yoke of US neo-colonialist domination in South Vietnam'.

In spite of pressure from Soviet leaders the North Vietnamese have refused to negotiate any further. They published the peace document when Nixon failed to meet the agreed deadline of October 31.

Nixon's special representative Henry Kissinger said in America that the US had not signed because of problems in Saigon.

Peace, he said, was 'within reach in a matter of weeks or less.' But as he spoke the American Presidential elections were also only a few days away.

And as the Vietnam peace plot gradually unfolds it is becoming increasingly clear that Henry Kissinger's efforts have been a huge part of Nixon's election campaign.

Nixon's public declarations for peace do not go anywhere near his real—and secretly preserved—intentions of continuing the war. As one correspondent recently reported, Nixon in private is 'tougher than Spiro Agnew.'

During a private briefing with one conservative columnist Nixon is said to have vowed 'never to bug out of Vietnam'.

The treaty which the Americans drew up in Vietnam includes nine major points. It calls on the US government to respect the independence of Vietnam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. Twenty four hours after signing, the plan would bring about a cease fire throughout South Vietnam. All American troops would be withdrawn within 60 days.

All prisoners of war would be returned at the same time and the South Vietnamese people would decide their own political future through 'genuinely free and democratic general elections under international supervision.'

The plan also calls for reunification of Vietnam 'step by step'.

As the deadline for the signing reached, the Americans were caught in a trap of their own making. They had clearly hoped to continue the discussion until after the elections, when Nixon, if elected would be in a far stronger position.

The North Vietnamese ultimatum put them in a bit of a panic. When the news reached Washington, Henry Kissinger called Nixon and told him what had happened. Early next morning he met Nixon personally and a short while later he was addressing a press conference desperately trying to calm down pre-election fears.

'Various problems', he said, had delayed the whole affair.

OVER 400 American Indians last week occupied the headquarters of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington demanding food and shelter in the capital.

They asked for improved economic and social benefits during the protest which they called 'the trail of broken treaties'.

## Build Keep Left!

Can we top our weekly £30 fund?

LAST WEEK you raised £34. Thank you very much. Keep it up and make it a new record next time.

Post your donation to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

## Get your Keep Left by post!

An eight-page socialist youth paper every week with plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now! Yearly subscription £2.86. Get bulk copies for your factory, college or university.

Write off to 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

No. of copies..... Money enclosed.....





Left: A section of the audience at YS weekend school in Margate last week. Right: Francis Wyndham.

# London youth discuss Tory wage law

By Keep Left reporters

THE TORY plans to implement a law against wage increases showed that the British ruling class has decided to go to war on the working class.

The 'freeze' was dictated by the economic crisis and was a big step towards dictatorship, Mike Banda, Socialist Labour League Central Committee member, told a large meeting of Young Socialist members and supporters last weekend. He was speaking on the open-

ing day of a weekend school in Margate organized by London and Kent Young Socialists. Youth from four regions—London, Middlesex, Southern and Kent—took part in two days of intense discussion on the need for a revolutionary leadership.

Francis Wyndham, co-author of the pictorial documentary on the life of Trotsky, also attended the school on the second day and answered questions on his book 'Trotsky'.

Mike Banda's opening report on the political situation sparked off by the anti-inflation measures led to a serious discussion.

He told the school that since the introduction of the Industrial Relations Act the Tory government had prepared for a showdown.

It was an unprecedented situation because in spite of all the manoeuvres between union leaders and the government it was impossible to reconcile the working class to the needs of the capitalist state.

Now the leaders of the TUC had openly lined up in support of the government.

Sheila Torrance, assistant secretary of the Socialist Labour League, opened the discussion

on the history of the Young Socialists. She described how the YS had to fight against the Labour Party leadership for its principles.

The Young Socialists were the only youth movement who intervened amongst the 'mods' and 'rockers', who expressed the frustration of youth after 13 years of Tory government.

Determination, she stressed was not enough. It was the fight for Marxist principles that was the driving force behind the YS's successful history of struggle.

In the discussion, Mohammed Raza, an engineering shop steward at a West London firm, said that members of the YS should join unions, because 'they are in a mess.'

'We must have a new leadership which doesn't compromise. The YS should fight for Marxism and explain to the working class what is going on.'

Jim Fagin from Glasgow, said: 'Glasgow is the city of no work. My father, brothers and sisters are all out of work. I've been through it all.'

'I've been in the depression. If you don't do anything about it, it will happen and you'll be

in the depression. In Glasgow, religion is used to get Catholics fighting Protestants. Heath put Powell there to make propaganda against immigrants.'

He urged YS members to read about Marxism and Trotskyism.

Special meetings were held to discuss building the Young Socialists in the universities in London. Regions met to make plans about building new branches, expanding Keep Left, and to work out social activities and football.

Francis Wyndham (see also interview page 4) made a special trip to Margate to introduce his new book on the life of Leon Trotsky.

Answering questions from YS members he said Trotskyism was increasingly important for youth. His book, he said, tried to show Trotskyism not as a dead issue but a living one.

The discussion on the book raised a number of questions regarding the Russian revolution and Stalin's rise to power after Lenin's death.

'The task,' said Wyndham, 'is to interpret Trotskyism in the light of its application in the present situation.'

## Young people at work



TOM McCARTHY, 24, is a plasterer and a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union. He had just finished his apprenticeship two and a half years ago when he started working for a firm which did general flat sub-contracting.

The pay was far below that of plasterers working for other firms, and the firm wanted them to go on the 'lump'. When Tom and his mates kicked up a fuss about this, 'the next thing we knew, we were moved to a site on Chancery Lane.'

'While we were on Chancery Lane, they proposed to "borrow" us out to another firm on St

Paul's Cathedral. We refused, because we knew we would lose redundancy money. We jacked it in and left.

'I'm a person who doesn't like being pushed around. I know my own rights and I know what I'm worth. If I think I'm worth 50 bob an hour, I'm not going to work for 45. There is a shortage of skilled plasterers who are union men. Most are sub-contractors.'

Tom was one of the building workers who struck on a site in Westminster, a number of years ago. The strike held up work for a long time, but the union got the painters, bricklayers and

labourers to go back, so that the plasterers were forced to return.

'It was a total sell-out. I think the Stalinists sold it out, but most of the other men didn't.'

'The recent builders strike was different. Everyone knew what they wanted. We were all out for the same thing. If everyone comes out, they must be right, because there are so many ways people think.'

'If they all agree on one thing, they must be right. A leadership like that of the Transport and General isn't worth anything. They should get out. We put them in. We have to start with people working next to us and change the leadership.'

'The government back everything worth over £1m in property. They are not interested in council flats and houses, only in hotels. They have been promising a big boom in the building industry and nothing has been happening.'



'I've worked for nine years as a plasterer. In that time, I've worked on one hospital, eight police stations, 50 blocks of flats and 75 hotels in London.'

'It's all right for the Tories but not for the people living here. If you're working on a hotel everything has to be spotless. If you're working on a council house, anything goes.'

'They're fiddling you, but there's nothing you can do about it. You're not free to do what you want, or to say what you think. If you strike, you're threatened with the sack.'

'One union can't go on its own. They can be forced to pay fines. We won the last case on fines, but we won't win the next one.'

'The Common Market only means cheap apples to me. I've got two kids. It is not helping me with my kids or my wages. It helps my governor, but it's got nothing to do with me.'

## 'Chronic unemployment in south east London

By Simon Pirani

'CHRONIC unemployment and the continuous run-down of industry threatens to turn south east London into an economic desert', announced the main front-page article in the 'South East Mercury' last week.

Under the headline 'Slump threat to S E trade' it forecast 'an exodus of young people who see a future without hope and a consequent drastic fall in the number of apprenticeships.'

Many people have often considered south east London to be one of the most 'prosperous' areas.

But since the closing down four years ago of a large factory—AEI in Woolwich—a long stream of closures has ended in a situation where eight unemployed men are chasing after each vacancy. There are over 500 unemployed youth in the area.

In the same newspaper article Labour MP for Greenwich, Guy Barnett, said no-one could blame 'fathers who dissuade their sons from following in their highly skilled footsteps, by taking on apprenticeships which may lead to an insecure future.'

The secretary of the South East Action Committee against closures and rising unemployment Arthur Wellard, was also interviewed.

'There are simply no opportunities for youngsters leav-

ing school, children with 'O' levels, even for graduates in this area,' he said.

This problem is not confined to south east London. Keep Left interviewed apprentices from other parts of London where their jobs are also threatened.

Granville Kemsley, 21, from Clapham, said: 'I agree that when you go to school and get your qualifications, or when you have finished your apprenticeships, you are not going to be better off than kids who haven't got any qualifications.'

'You either have to do some dirty old job on the streets or spend your time on the dole.'

Bob Cole, 18, from Orpington, is training at a firm which designs chemical plant. 'There is no work. I'll probably be all right until I finish my apprenticeship. But if the situation stays the same, all apprentices are likely to get paid off. Already the draughtsmen and designers are being laid off.'

'Usually the firm takes on 15 apprentices every year. This year they recruited no apprentices.'

Have you joined the Young Socialists yet?

**HAYES F. C.**  
NEXT HOME GAME  
KICK OFF 3.00

**WRITE OFF TODAY!**

Join the socialist movement which fights against Toryism, anti-union laws, unemployment and low wages. For details fill in form and send to YS National Secretary, 186A Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....



A dramatic biography

# The Life of LEON TROTSKY

Interview by Gary Gurmeet

Documentary by  
Francis Wyndham and David King  
Allen Lane The Penguin Press  
Price £1.50

Obtainable at the 'Paperbacks Centre'  
Charlotte Street, London W1

IN JUNE 1970 David King was in Moscow trying to obtain information for a special issue of 'The Sunday Times' colour magazine on Lenin's centenary.

The Russians were most helpful. But soon he became a little more inquisitive and started asking around for photographic information about the life of Leon Trotsky.

To this the Russian officials were less helpful. They were blunt. They told him Trotsky was no longer a historical figure and did not warrant a special place in the information libraries of Moscow.

Trotsky's name had been obliterated from all official places and no pictures were to be seen around.

So David King, art editor of 'The Sunday Times' colour magazine, decided he had to do something about this 'obvious suppression of Trotsky's ideas and his work'. He travelled to various European countries looking for information. He made three trips to the American continent—including Mexico—and emerged with a colossal collection of photographic material.

Two years later—in collaboration with writer and critic Francis Wyndham—he had produced the manuscript for 'Trotsky', a magnificent pictorial documentary on the life of Lenin's closest ally in the Russian Revolution, founder of

the Red Army and the Fourth International.

The book, published two weeks ago by Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, brings together a unique collection of pictures and information from some of the most important periods of Trotsky's life.

For both David King and Francis Wyndham the production of the book is more than simply an exercise in informative writing. They both recognized the responsibility of producing an accurate and vivid account of Trotsky's life.

'You cannot divorce Trotsky the man from Trotsky the revolutionary,' says David King. 'We were both so interested and even obsessed in the subject that we worked much more carefully than we have ever done.'

Francis Wyndham: 'Our book is an introduction to the life of a man whose ideas have been so blatantly suppressed by all political parties. But Trotskyism is a very real alternative.'

'It is the only hope to indicate the way along which action should be taken.'

'By reading Trotsky we saw for the first time the vast knowledge which the Stalinists had tried to destroy. A real understanding of Trotsky can clarify some of the political confusion that exists at all levels.'

David King: 'I can see the book being enjoyed by a liberal audience who will probably find it interesting.'

'But we have tried to produce a book which is more than just interesting. It can be an instrument if taken as an introduction to revolutionary politics.'

'One copy of the book in a factory is worth 100 times more use than in Charing Cross Road.'

'Trotsky' is a book extremely valuable, to a basic study of Leon Trotsky's life. It will be particularly useful for youth who want to find out about the struggle for Marxism in the past 60 years.

After Lenin's death in 1923 Trotsky was in the leadership of the struggle to continue the traditions of the Russian Revolution.

His struggle for revolutionary politics has particular relevance today for thousands of youth now coming forward to build the revolutionary party to lead the working class to power.

Francis Wyndham: 'The material that we collected manages to document every major event in the life of Trotsky. We tried to present Trotskyism as a living force.'

'That is what makes the book so different from the usual things that emerge from the "media". We felt we were part of the work.'

'For me it opened the whole thing up politically. It helped me to understand some of the most involved points in the political situation.'

David King: 'Without a clear understanding such as that provided by Trotsky, the whole world can be ugly and unbearable, because all you see around you is either capitalism or the Stalinist bureaucracy.'

'That is why Trotskyism is, I think, a very real alternative.'

Francis Wyndham's commentary in the book is well documented from Trotsky's main





writings. The pictures, some of which have never been published in Britain before, came from private albums, libraries, public record offices and people who worked closely with Trotsky.

Wyndham says he is conscious of the fact that the book does not make any direct link with the tasks posed today. But he feels the text of the work and its character will encourage young people to study Trotskyism further.

'There is a vast amount of material, and this book is only a tiny fraction of it.'

Trotsky's life was devoted to the central task of building revolutionary parties throughout the world. As the 'Transitional Programme' of the Fourth International says: 'The Fourth International, already today, is deservedly hated by the Stalinists, Social Democrats, bourgeois liberals and fascists.'

'There is not and there cannot be a place for it in any of the People's Fronts. It uncompromisingly gives battle to all political groupings tied to the apron strings of the bourgeoisie. Its task—the abolition of capitalism's domination. Its aim—socialism. Its method—the proletarian revolution.'

Throughout his life Trotsky argued for the extension of the Russian Revolution to other countries of Europe and the world.

In opposition to this the rising Soviet bureaucracy, under Joseph Stalin, carried out a basic revision of Marxism in the theory of 'socialism in one country'.

The full fruits of this revision

can be seen today firstly in the bureaucracy that dominates the Soviet Union and secondly in the counter-revolutionary activities of this bureaucracy throughout the world.

After the 1905 revolution—in which Trotsky played a leading role—he was deported and spent the next ten years in exile in various countries.

He returned to Russia in May 1917 and rapidly emerged as a powerful figure in the Bolshevik Party and a close collaborator with Lenin.

The book deals in some detail with the vital role he played in the October Revolution and events that followed.

During the civil war and the wars of intervention Trotsky made one of his most outstanding contributions.

He transformed the Red Guards into the Red Army. Wyndham puts it this way:

'Trotsky's plan for transforming the undisciplined Red Guards at his disposal into an efficient fighting force drawn from the untrained Russian masses had necessitated a complex scheme of rigid centralization which exploited the valuable experience of former Tsarist officers...'

David King spent considerable time finding photographs of Trotsky's work during the war and especially of his train, from which he conducted many military operations.

'The book,' he says, 'would have been incomplete without the best possible pictures of his train.'

In January 1923, during his last illness, Lenin became seriously worried about the growth

of bureaucracy within the party. In his famous 'Testament' he called on his comrades to remove Joseph Stalin from his position as Party general secretary.

'... Comrade Trotsky... is distinguished not only by his exceptional abilities—personally he is, to be sure, the most able man in the present central committee...'

In the years that followed Trotsky conducted a determined struggle against the growth of bureaucracy under Stalin, who represented the counter-revolution.

He was exiled and finally expelled from the Soviet Union. He was never to return and entered 'a planet without a visa'.

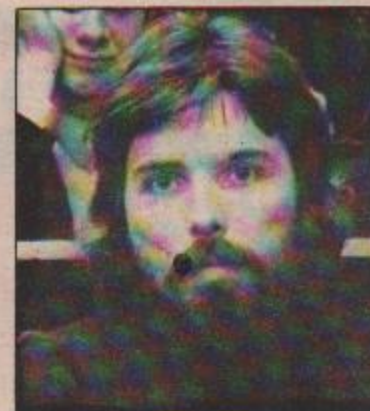
Once outside he continued the struggle to regroup all the communist forces which Stalin had tried to destroy. His writings during this period include the 'History of the Russian Revolution', 'The Revolution Betrayed', and 'In Defence of Marxism'.

His strenuous work found its climax in the formation of the Fourth International in 1938 to continue the revolutionary traditions which Stalin tried to destroy.

On August 20, 1940, Trotsky was struck by Stalin's agent Ramon Mercader (alias Jacson). As he lay dying the next evening he made his last statement: 'Please say to our friends... I am sure... of the victory... of the Fourth International.'

This message summed up the whole essence of his life.

Trotsky's optimism about the victory of the Fourth International was the product of a profound Marxist analysis of the



Authors of the book: Left: Francis Wyndham, assistant editor on the 'Sunday Times Magazine.' The book's designer David King—right—is art editor of the 'Sunday Times Magazine'

imperialist epoch and the revolutionary role of the working class.

The book deals in some detail with the assassination as a political act planned by the Stalinists.

This is in contrast with some recent attempts at falsification of history—in particular Joseph Losey's film 'The Assassination of Trotsky'.

Francis Wyndham says it is impossible to make an accurate film about the assassination of Trotsky isolated from the rest of his life.

It was the murder of a revolutionary who had spent his life struggling to build the revolutionary movement to destroy

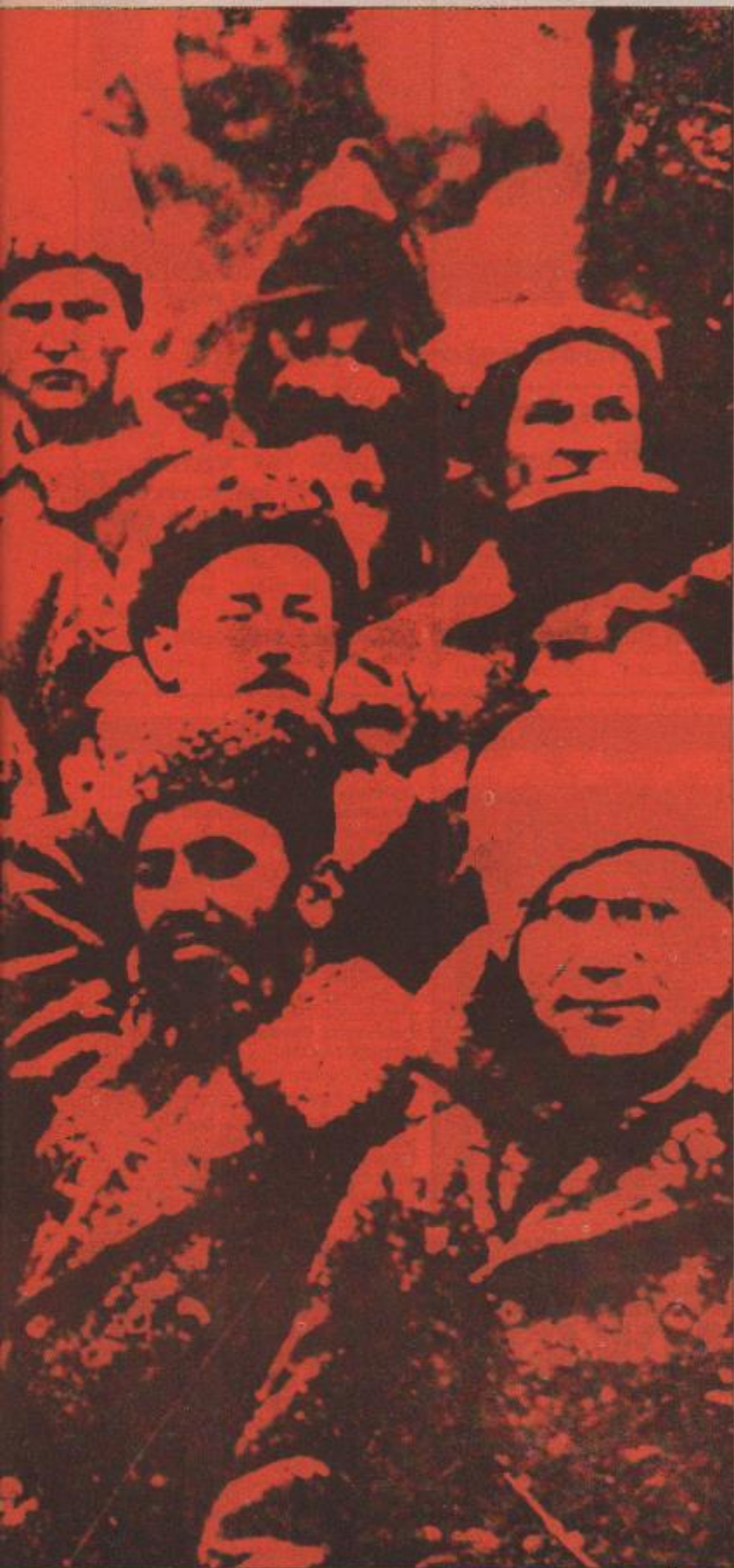
capitalism and the Stalinist bureaucracy.

The text of the book ends with an extract from the speech 'In Defence of the October Revolution' delivered by Trotsky in Copenhagen in 1932:

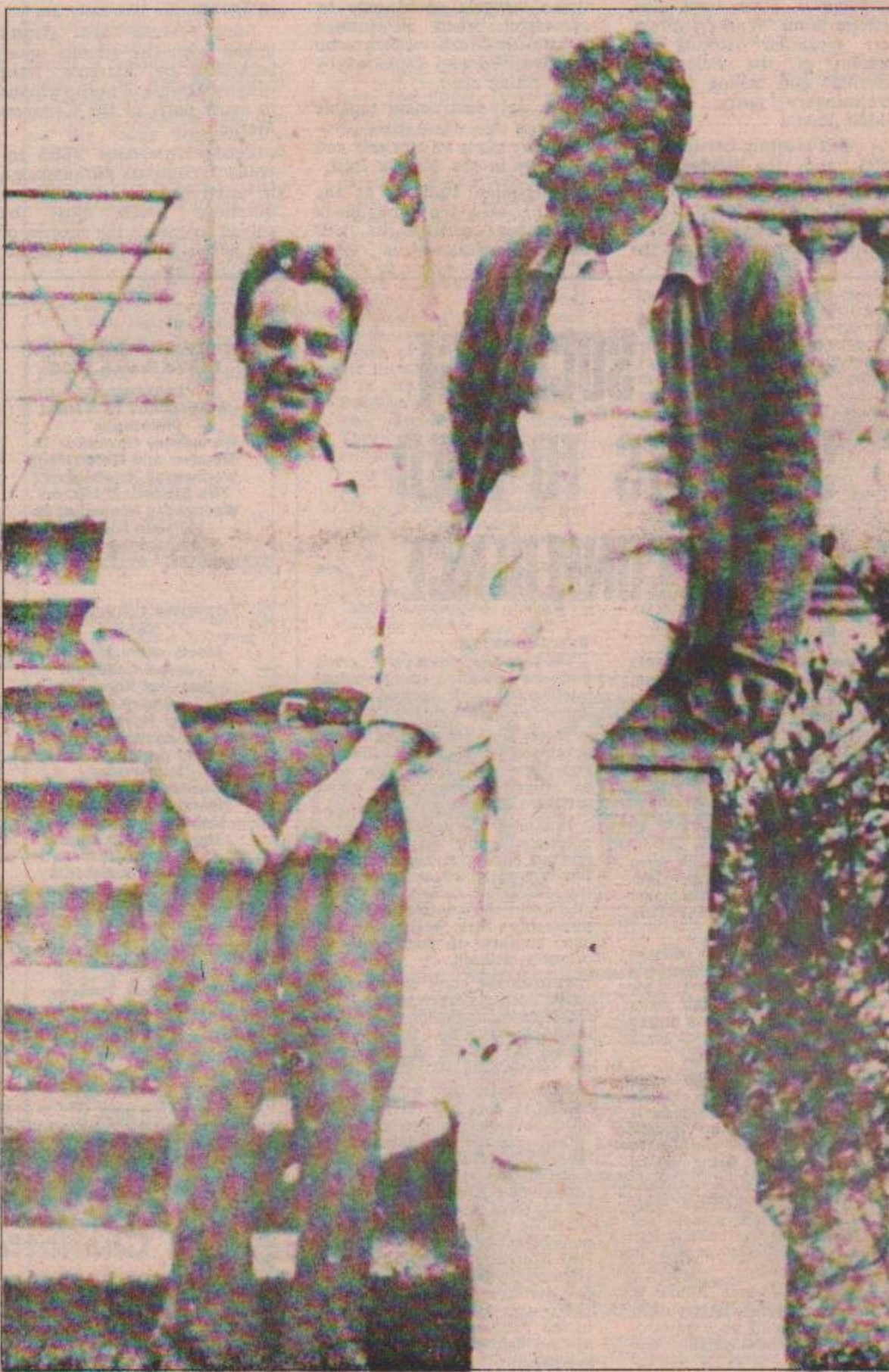
'Once he has done with the anarchic forces of his own society man will set to work on himself... Mankind will regard itself as raw material, or at best as a physical and psychic semi-finished product.'

'Socialism will mean a leap from the realm of necessity into the realm of freedom in this sense also, that the man of today, with all his contradictions and lack of harmony, will open the road for a new and happier race.'

Trotsky with Lenin at the Second Congress of the Third International in 1920



Trotsky with his son Sedov whilst in exile in November 1933





# spotlight on students

## Leeds YSSS in Palestine campaign

THE Young Socialists Students Society at Leeds University has launched a campaign against the persecution of Palestinian students and workers in West Germany.

At a recent meeting of the students' union, YSSS members proposed a motion on the recent events in West Germany. The motion opposed the anti-democratic measures of the Brandt government and expressed its solidarity with the expelled and imprisoned Palestinians.

The motion was eventually drowned in amendments from the Zionists who wanted to 'condemn all violence' and be 'fair to all sides'.

The debate showed clearly that those who pretended to be 'neutral' on this issue ended up being on the same side as the forces of reaction.

Among those who voted against the YSSS motion becoming policy of the union were prominent members of the Communist Party.

The YSSS continued its campaign in other ways also. Articles from 'Workers Press' were reprinted saluting the heroism of the Palestinian guerrillas and calling for the revolutionary party in the Middle East.

A joint meeting between the YSSS and the University's Palestine Solidarity Campaign was also organized.

At this meeting a speaker from the YSSS tried to put the

West German repression within the context of the drive towards dictatorship and monopolization in the Common Market.

He said no one could be neutral in the struggle of the uprooted and persecuted Palestinians against the Zionist state.

The YSSS did not equate the revolutionary violence of the Palestinian freedom fighters with the murderous bombing raids of the Israeli Phantoms.

The YSSS speaker said that Zionism was an enemy not only of the Arab people, but of the Jews as well. The Palestinian struggle could only be successful when it formed links with Israeli workers who are deceived and exploited by their ruling class.

The only instrument capable of doing this was a mass revolutionary party of workers and peasants in the Middle East.

Palestinian students at the meeting said that the Black September guerrillas in their recent operations in West

Germany had not wanted to kill anybody.

They had simply aimed to secure the release of those freedom fighters in the jails of Israel and Germany. By their refusal to even consider negotiations on these questions, it was the Israeli government that was responsible for the deaths at the Munich Olympics.

Other Palestinians said they had recently heard of new examples of repression against Palestinians and Arabs.

Some had been refused entry to Italy, even though they held valid travelling documents. Others faced similar problems in France.

Such events are clearly linked with the attacks being launched by extreme right wingers against minority groups in many parts of the Common Market.

Leeds University YSSS intends to continue the campaign in order to raise the political questions which must be solved to ensure the success of the heroic Palestinian struggle.

## Swansea students fight for representation

STUDENTS at University College, Swansea, South Wales, have carried out an 'illegal' election for official students' union representatives to the college Court of Governors.

The executive of the 3,600-strong students' union called on its members to boycott an 'official' poll staged by college authorities on November 9 because they were angered by the college Privy Council's approval of student representatives to the Court of Governors to be elected on the basis of one student from each of four faculties.

The students have refused to accept this method of choosing their representatives. Union president, Mr Chris

Proctor said they believed all elections should be completely free and open, regardless of faculties.

'We cannot possibly accept the situation where the college can elect our representatives,' he said. 'By running the election they seem to be taking over the affairs of students and we are pretty annoyed about it.'

And he added: 'The college will not accept that the election should be completely free so we will elect our own representatives who will be recognized as official union candidates to the Court of Governors.'

The students' union held their election on November 8.

**YOUNG SOCIALISTS STUDENTS CONFERENCE**  
Saturday November 18  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Imperial College, London  
2 pm—10 pm

**JOIN THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS**  
**STUDENT SOCIETY**

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Fill in this form and post to:

YSSS 186a, Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

## YOUNG SOCIALIST STUDENTS TO HOLD FIRST CONFERENCE

THE Young Socialists Students Society holds its first national conference on Saturday November 18.

The conference—to be held at Imperial College, South Kensington—will take place in the midst of a rapid movement towards major class battles in Britain.

Delegates and visitors from universities and colleges throughout Britain will discuss a socialist policy against the current Tory attacks on education.

In the universities and colleges the crisis of capitalism finds its reflection in every sphere. Low grants together with high rents and Common Market entry means increased poverty for large numbers of students.

This, together with the already announced cut backs in higher education, means that students will not be allowed to remain apparently outside the main political questions being raised now.

Graduate unemployment now at its highest level, means that even with a degree behind him the student is not secure in employment.

He faces the same future as millions of working class youth—life on the dole or an unrewarding job both intellectually and financially.

On another level the crisis finds its reflection in the actual intellectual work carried on in higher education.

In the physical sciences all the developments of new techniques and their application can only be used progressively under socialism.

In biology the problems of food production and starvation can find no answer under capitalism. For it is only when the productive forces of society are liberated from the control of private ownership that both old and new sources of food can be properly utilized.

Further the crisis extends into those departments which are responsible for the production of ideologists whose task is to spread the idealist philosophy of the ruling class.

New layers of students are having to confront their past in order to meet the new crisis.

Only in the development of the YSSS and the fight for Marxism can students play their biggest part in the working class.

The YSSS has to fight against all those revisionist and centrist tendencies which seek to diminish the fight for theory and who attempt to belittle the nature of the developing trade war.

We urge all students to come to the YSSS conference and take up the fight for a revolutionary movement.

**MIDDLESEX POLYTECHNIC**  
Enfield Branch YSSS  
Lectures on  
'Introduction to Marxist Philosophy'  
Wednesday November 15  
Marxism and Materialism  
Wednesday November 22  
The Dialectical Method  
Wednesday November 29  
Marxism and the Revolutionary Party  
Room T87 2.00 p.m.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY**  
YSSS

Meets every Monday  
Jesus College  
Seminar Room 'A'  
8.00 p.m.

Monday November 13  
'The death agony of student protest. Crisis of leadership.'

Monday November 20  
'Marxism or Terrorism'

Monday November 27  
'The fight for a Labour Party in USA'

Monday December 4  
'The extreme right in Britain.'

**OXFORD POLYTECHNIC**  
YSSS

Meets every Tuesday  
'Cape of Good Hope'  
The Plain  
8.00 p.m.



Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½  
Where Is Britain Going?  
Paperback 37½p  
Revolution Betrayed  
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.00  
Problems of the Chinese Revolution  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½  
Permanent Revolution:  
Results and Prospects  
Paperback 75p  
In Defence of Marxism  
Paperback 75p  
Lessons of October  
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.

**PAPERBACKS CENTRE**  
28 Charlotte St  
London W1



BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

NOW OPEN  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Fri 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.



FILM

'HAMMERSMITH IS OUT'

# Panic at the centre



Beau Bridges as Billy Breedlove and Richard Burton as Hammersmith

Directed by Peter Ustinov  
Produced by Alex Lucas

CAPITALISM may be in its death throes and the film industry struggling for day-to-day survival but the parasites are still having fun, feeding off the carcass while it is still stirring.

And it produces films like 'Hammersmith' at the Odeon St Martin's Lane, London, which will presumably be bound for the circuits soon.

With Peter Ustinov lending his cultivated cynicism as director and player of a German Psychiatrist-in-Charge, we endure some supposedly comic moments in a lunatic asylum where the star patient is Richard Burton (Hammersmith) registering some sort of glossy-eyed lockjaw to indicate that he's sold his soul to the Devil.

Which endows him with all sorts of mystical gifts like murder and a good karate chop: other gifts like acting unfortunately having been withheld.

We are soon off on a ride up the ladder of success through a succession of millionaire locations and glamour spots of the kind Burton and Taylor feel most at home in.

Spots where Liz can be shown to full advantage in various unlikely costumes as the working-class girl made good through the ambitions of her lover, Billy Breedlove (embarrassingly overplayed by Beau Bridges), the crass young fascist, exploited by Hammersmith to rise to Great Heights (a few cynical references to American politics, Vietnam and other

fashionables thrown in along the way).

Naturally Burton brings about Billy's downfall by crippling the lad and gets Taylor en route before being whisked back to the asylum.

As this execrable piece collapses about its own ears, a few wretched intentions can be seen in the rubble—parable, allegory, black comedy, satire waver in the tired script by Stanley Whitmore which spews up semi-digested morsels of politics, philosophy, moral values, violence and other titbits which are served up with all the patronage and contempt that so-called wit and urbanity can produce.

It subscribes as a whole to every corruption that the writer, director and producers obviously deemed themselves too 'subtle' and 'enlightened' to condemn outright.

And will it rake in the profits it was intended to: Such work embodies the finest illustration of the utter bankruptcy of the old propaganda machine in Hollywood—the masses are refusing to be fed in the same mindless fashion that production companies have always arrogantly presumed upon in the past.

The film reveals a panic at its centre—the convulsions of dead formulae are all that can be seen; Burton, Taylor and their producers can try every squalid trick in the book but they too are being forced to face the massive changes that are going on around them.

# POST BAG

## Student strike not a reform issue

THE PRESENT round of rent strikes by students in many universities and polytechnics cannot be won under the present reformist and revisionist leaderships which dominate student politics.

These student struggles cannot be viewed separately from the fight of the working class in defence of its basic rights and against the reactionary Conservative government.

The increase in grants has already been eroded by the cost of books, rents and food, which have all gone up.

At Hull University for example students have to pay £280 out of an annual maximum grant of £445 towards university lodgings.

In most polytechnics, accommodation is generally non-existent, the majority of students living in 'digs' at exorbitant rents.

This lack of accommodation and cut backs in education generally are not isolated attacks on students. Rather they are merely one facet of the Tory attack on the working class and certain sections of the middle class.

The international economic crisis is forcing capitalism to take on the working class in a struggle for survival.

In this situation the role of the Young Socialist Students' Societies is not to lead students towards adventurist politics but rather to pose the question of working class power.

This means the removal of the Tory government and its replacement by a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. The purpose of the YSSS first national conference on November 18 is precisely to mobilize students on this programme of building a revolutionary party.

YSSS member

## It's a dog's life in the poodle parlour

WHEN I left school I became a 'poodle clipper' and they made me sign a contract for two years.

In that two years I only learnt to bathe dogs and carry dustbins up and down the stairs.

The place was badly ventilated and it often got so hot we practically collapsed. When we did have air conditioning we got bad headaches because of the noise.

Our working hours were from 9.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. with a half-hour lunch break. We were paid 5p for each

dog and £9 wages. So the harder we worked the more we got. Two of us used to bathe about 20 dogs a day. It cost the customers £2 for little dogs and £4 for the big ones.

The dogs were treated far better than us because they were always upstairs except when being cleaned.

As I did not have a very good education it was very hard to get another job. But now I've left and someone else is going to go through that.

Christine Beavis  
Brixton YS

## Getting involved in the YS

I ATTENDED the meeting held by the Young Socialists in London about Joseph Losey's film 'The Assassination of Trotsky'. I thought the meeting was good, and wanted to find out more about the Young Socialists.

I want to get involved in the work of the YS and tell my friends about it. I'm going to tell them the facts and see what they think.

Negussie Goullilat  
South Paddington YS

## No to the Tory state pay plan

I DON'T agree with a state pay plan. The Tory government has not the right to hold down wages and at the same time put up workers' rents and prices. Housewives can't afford to buy things for their families' need.

The Tories want to take the working class into the Common Market which will mean more attacks on workers' standard of living. The cost of living will eat into wages. Unemployment will be used to attack wages.

The question posed is the building of an alternative leadership to the present one which stands by while all the rights of the working class are threatened.

In my YS branch, North Paddington, the youth in the area have hardly any money. They are forced to hang around the street corners with their mates, and are subject to police provocation. There is no entertainment for youth in most places.

We must build a mass youth movement that will fight to bring down the Tory government and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Paul Russell  
North Paddington YS

## Marxist principles are a must

I ATTENDED a weekend school at Margate organized by the Young Socialists and I think it is a must for all YS members to grasp the fundamental principles of Marxism.

Before I came to the YS I thought that the reasons for inflation and all the present troubles of the economy were entirely the fault of workers and trade unions.

This is the kind of Tory propaganda that pollutes the minds of millions of people.

The weekend school had some leading speakers who told us that the corrupt union leaders were not really fighting for the working class.

And in 'Workers Press' and Keep Left we can read the truth, like the trade union leaders being called to Buckingham Palace for discussions on industrial relations.

This news—which dealt a blow against the renowned 'neutrality' of the Royals—was not given any publicity in the capitalist newspapers.

At the weekend school we also discussed the economic policies of the Tory government which are geared towards oppression of the working class.

Also by producing racist propaganda they want to cause petty distinctions in the working class. These are some of the many questions answered by 'Workers Press' and Keep Left.

G. Kidd  
Willesden YS

## A time for action

I FIRST experienced how hard life can be for the working person when I left home two years ago. After working hard all week there was not enough money left after paying for rent, electricity, etc., etc., to go out and enjoy myself. I realise a lot of people have been in worse situations. Many more will be affected if things continue to get worse.

After listening to many speakers at the Margate weekend school the role of the Tory government is a lot clearer in my mind.

I believe our policy is the right one and now is the time for action.

John Woodhouse  
Bethnal Green YS



## Writings of Leon Trotsky

- 1933-1934 ..... £1.43
- 1934-1935 ..... £1.43
- 1935-1936 ..... £1.25
- 1937-1938 ..... £1.25
- 1938-1939 ..... £1.25
- 1939-1940 ..... £1.05



These extremely vital writings by Leon Trotsky between the years 1929 and 1940—his third and final exile from the Soviet Union—are now available in Britain from the Paperbacks Centre, 28 Charlotte Street, London, W1.



**Sarah  
Hannigan  
examines  
the outcry  
against  
'violence'**



MUGGING has recently become a central theme in the pages and newsreels of the capitalist Press and television. Long articles and reports on court cases and sentences on youth convicted of robbery and violence are now highlighted as major news.

And yet this is in a year when the 'law and order' forces of the British state—both the police and the army—are well known to be deeply involved themselves in cases of 'lawlessness' involving beatings and violence.

The army's record in Northern Ireland since 1970 has been one of early morning swoops on many innocent people, followed by internment without trial or conviction and a torture record reminiscent of Hitler's Germany—all in the name of 'law and order'.

Many innocent victims have been killed—the terrible memory of Derry's 'Bloody Sunday' on January 30 this year in which 13 people were murdered and 17 badly injured has indelibly scarred the minds and bodies of the city's population.

Why then is there such an outcry against the 'muggers'? Is

it because the capitalist class of Britain is really so concerned about the fate of old age pensioners who die after being beaten and robbed of a few pence?

True it is a sickening incident, but more old age pensioners die of cold and starvation every year as a result of inadequate pensions, than have so far died as a result of 'mugging'.

Many of the youth who are today involved in the frequent acts of robbery and violence are victims of the same class system.

They have not been rejected by the system because they are no longer able to work—they are rejected, in many cases before they have even had a chance to work, because of the present world-wide economic collapse of capitalism.

This was expressed quite clearly in an article in the 'Daily Mail' on October 23 by Richard

Sheers who quoted an 18-year-old West Indian boy in Brixton, south London.

The boy described muggers as, 'not villians, but guys a bit more desperate than me to have a bit of money in their pockets'.

Other quotes from West Indian youth in the same article reveal their feelings of frustration in the face of dead-end jobs with inevitably low wages.

One unemployed immigrant boy expressed it like this: 'We steal. But what we would love to steal the most are the good jobs from the white man.' ('Daily Mail', October 23, 1972.)

Sheers, however, sees the resolution of the problem in 'a few extra minutes of advice from a social worker' or 'the chance of a job from an employer'.

But of course with unemployment now constantly around the million mark and threatening to rise higher, jobs are not

forthcoming. And a few minutes, or even a few hours of advice cannot change the real conditions in which these youth find themselves.

The Young Socialists, however, have always rejected the individualist concept of solutions to problems of unemployment and low wages which these youth have, while understanding just where these ideas come from.

The capitalist system itself is the main source of violence against all sections of workers and youth—black and white, immigrant and non-immigrant. This is carried forward today in the increasing attacks of the Tory government on the rights of every section of the working class.

Keep Left and the YS have consistently stood for a class defence of the right to work and strike; the right to decent housing

and welfare benefits and above all the right of working-class organizations to maintain their independence from the capitalist government of Edward Heath, Powell and company.

It is on this basis that the YS have fought, and continue to fight for the establishment of an alternative revolutionary leadership in the working class which bases itself firmly on Marxist theory.

Only by uniting with all sections of workers and youth, black and white, unemployed, tenants and students in a campaign to remove the present government can anyone today find a solution to the problems that they face.

The Tory government can offer no reforms, no solutions to unemployment and poverty.

Their only answer has been to attack rights and conditions.

## WHAT'S ON WHERE

### CLAPHAM YS

Youth Club  
Every Thursday  
Coronation Hall  
Springfield Estate  
Union Road, SW8  
8 pm adm. 10p  
Sports, records, discussion groups

### TOXTETH YS

Discotheque  
Every Wednesday  
St Finbars Church Hall  
Mill St  
Liverpool 8  
7.30 p.m. adm 10p

### BRIXTON YS DISCOS

Wednesday November 29  
St John's Church Hall  
Angell Road, Brixton  
Admission: 10p YS members  
15p non-members

### SOUTHAMPTON

Thornhill YS  
meets every Wednesday  
Family Room  
The Star, Hinkler Road  
7.30 p.m.

### DEPTFORD YS

Meeting every  
Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
'Hap of Erin'  
New King Street  
(Top of Deptford High Street)

### PRESTON LARCHES YS

Youth Club  
Every Friday  
St Peter and Paul's  
Park Avenue  
7.30-10.00 p.m.  
Adm: 5p Records

### AVENHAM YS

Youth Club  
every Monday  
7.30-10.00 p.m.  
Foxton Youth Centre  
Adm: 5p Records

### E OXFORD YS

Meets every Tuesday 8 p.m.  
at Cape of Good Hope

### WESTERN REGION YS

Weekend School  
December 9 and 10  
Streathley Youth Hostel  
Hill House  
Reading Road  
Streathley

### READING YS

Meets every Wednesday  
'Happy Prospect', Southcote  
8.00 p.m.  
Bernius Hall  
Calcot, Reading  
8.00 p.m.  
Discotheque  
Thursday November 23  
Southcote Hotel  
Southcote, Reading  
8.00 p.m.

### BRACKNELL YS

Meets every Tuesday  
Priestwood Community Centre  
Bracknell 8.00 p.m.

### NOTTINGHAM YS

Meets every Wednesday  
Wollaton Grange  
Community Centre  
Tremayne Road  
Bilborough, Nottingham  
7.30 p.m.

### POPLAR YS

Discotheque  
Tuesday November 14  
St. Saviour's Hall  
Arcadia Street, E14  
8.00 pm Adm: 15p

### HIGHFIELDS YS

meets every Thursday  
Discotheque every  
Saturday  
Queen Victoria  
(Near 'Leicester Mercury'  
offices)  
7.30 pm to 10.30 pm  
Adm: 10p

### WINSFORD YS

Discotheque  
Every Sunday  
Wheatshaf Hotel  
8 p.m. adm 10p

### TOTTENHAM YS

Discotheque  
Tuesday November 14  
Y.W.C.A. Hall  
Rheola Close  
Tottenham High Road, N17  
(Near Scotland Green)  
8.00 pm Adm: 15p

## RALLY AND POP CONCERT

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

Acton Town Hall, High Street, Acton, W3. 7 p.m.

Featuring:

McGUINNESS FLINT  
RAM JOHN HOLDER  
PAUL JONES

FUMBLE  
NEIL INNES  
and SPIKE MILLIGAN

adm. 50p

### Special showings of the Right-to-Work film

#### SCOTTISH REGION

Sunday November 12  
Woodside Halls  
St. George's Cross  
Glasgow 2 p.m.  
Speakers:  
John Barrie  
(YS National Committee)  
Dave Barclay  
Gordon Bailey  
(Secretary of Babcock  
and Wilcox apprentices  
in a personal capacity)  
Gary Gurmeet  
(Editor Keep Left)

#### NORTH EAST REGION

Sunday November 26  
Dunstan Community  
Centre  
Dunstan, Gateshead  
3 p.m.  
Speakers:  
David Jones  
(YS National Committee)

Tom Gimpson  
(Apprentice boilermaker)  
Gary Gurmeet  
(Editor Keep Left)

#### WALES REGION

Sunday November 26  
Swansea University  
Haydn Jones  
(YS National Committee)  
John Simmance  
(YS National Secretary)

#### YORKSHIRE REGION

Sunday November 12  
St. Mary's Church Hall  
Tong Road, Leeds, 12  
2.30 p.m.  
Speakers:  
Ray Jaxson  
(YS National Committee)  
Paul Whetstone  
(Kirkstall YS)  
Detty Gormally  
(Leeds YSSS)  
Sarah Hannigan  
(Secretary  
London Region YS)