

UNITES ALL YOUNG WORKERS, STUDENTS, APPRENTICES,
UNEMPLOYED, IMMIGRANT AND SCHOOL YOUTH

KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE
YOUNG SOCIALISTS' YOUTH
SECTION OF THE WORKERS
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.



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**LABOUR'S
BUDGET POLICY**

PRICES UP!

EDUCATION WRECKED WAGE-CUTTING UNEMPLOYMENT

THE LABOUR government's budget this week means a future of rising prices, savage wage-cutting and the threat of unemployment in the months to come.

When Chancellor Denis Healey spelt out his new economic plans last Tuesday he made it clear his intention was to restore profitability for

the private bosses — at the expense of workers and young people.

He gave £1,600m 'relief' to industry in the form of an easing of the Price Code and the deferment of tax on abnormal increases in the value of stocks as a result of inflation.

At the same time he

confirmed the setting up of an institution under Finance for Industry to provide funds of £1,000m for 'productive investment' over the next two years.

He offered nothing to schools, colleges, hospitals, or any other public services facing breakdowns because of lack of cash.

He gave a miserly £1.10 a week to old age pensioners which will be immediately eaten up with price rises resulting from increases in petrol, gas, electricity, food and fares.

To the thousands of students living on £5 or less a week and now fighting for much-deserved grant

awards he offered nothing, except the prospect of more public spending cuts! To schoolchildren and teachers who suffer from low pay, shortage of staff and facilities he offered not a penny.

The Young Socialists' answer to Healey's budget is to step up our fight for the building of a

mass revolutionary youth movement to defend basic rights against the reformists' attacks and prepare the fight for the working class to take power and establish socialism.

This is the only future for youth today. We urge all young people to join us.

We demand a full grant!

ROUND-UP OF STUDENTS
WEEK OF ACTION PAGE 6

- PORTUGUESE YOUTH RALLY TO REVOLUTIONARY PARTY PHOTO-FEATURE
- 'WE DON'T WANT NF' PAGE 3
- DID POLICE JAIL INNOCENT YOUTHS? PAGE 7



OVER 200 Hackney and Stoke Newington Further Education students occupied their college this week in the NUS grants campaign.

KEEP LEFT SAYS

THE LABOUR government's budget this week set the stage for major attacks on workers' living standards while at the same time making enormous concessions to big business, the banks and HP firms.

Chancellor Healey's proposals include a VAT tax rise on petrol—from 8 to 25 per cent—which will drive up a gallon of petrol from 55p to 63p and then to 70p in a few weeks. This measure had been

urged on the government by TUC chiefs.

This one decision alone will mean soaring increases in nearly all foodstuffs, and a wide-ranging variety of industrial products as well as driving the crisis-ridden car industry into even deeper difficulties.

Other major proposals include:

- Relaxation of the Price Code, allowing manufacturers to push up prices while maintaining.
- Strict enforcement of

THE BIG BUSINESS BUDGET

the wage-cutting 'social contract'.

● New cuts in public spending on top of those already wreaking

'SOCIAL CONTRACT' REINFORCED

devastation in schools, colleges and universities.

● Ending of subsidies to nationalized industries—another measure which will bring huge price increases in its wake.

Healey's central

message to workers was that they must not demand what he called 'excessive wage increases'.

'At a time, he said, when growth in world trade is shrinking it is vitally important that our export costs are not unnecessarily inflated by excessive wage increases'.

He claimed that if wages settlements were confined to 'what is needed to cover increases in the cost of living', the rate of inflation would fall by

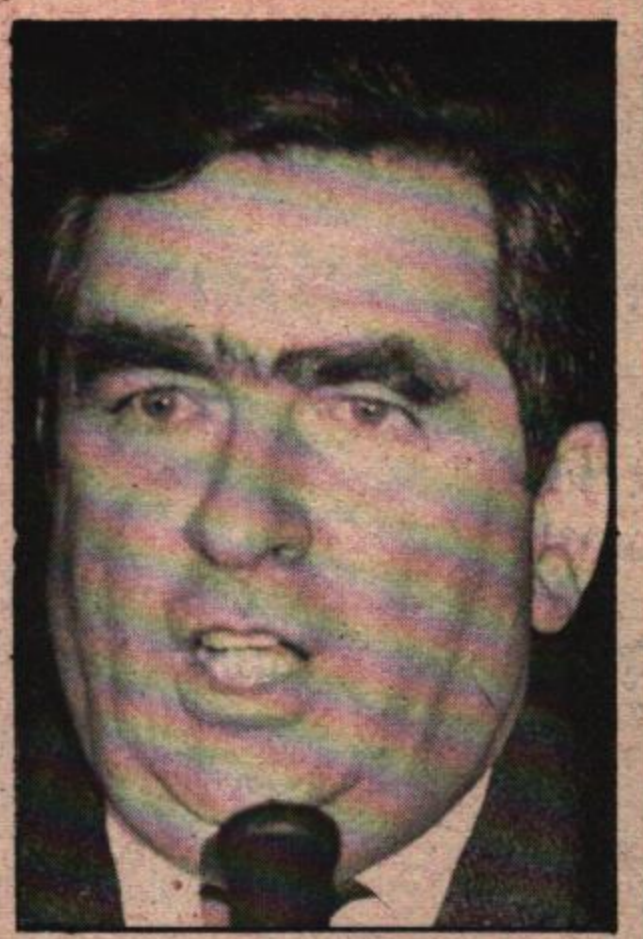
next year. At the same time, he mounted a bitter attack on wage increases in the public services.

Wage rises and other cost increases, said Healey, had raised public expenditure by over £1,000m. Major parts of the expenditure had been in the local authorities and health services.

And he threatened unemployment if wage rises exceeded the 'social contract'.

'... if wages rise beyond the limits set by the TUC the government will be compelled to take offsetting steps to curtail demand—and the effects on the financial position of the company sector are bound to lead to unemployment.'

While giving £1.10 a week to old age



Healey

there was a grave risk that we might once again be plunged into a depression as great as that of 40 years ago.

And referring to proposed cuts in the living standards of millions of workers, Healey arrogantly said:

'The senseless accumulation of material goods of exactly the same type that the western world has been producing since the war can no longer be a measure of human happiness or of economic success.'

Let him tell that story to the employers, the aristocrats, bankers and all the sections of the bourgeoisie who have 'senselessly accumulated' so many material goods that they don't even find a use for!

The miners and other sections of workers have already given their answer—we will fight to defend our living standards and rights against all attacks, and if this means bringing down the cowardly Labour servants of the ruling class, then so be it!

HOW DID THIS MAN DIE?

JIMMY SKINNER (31), died on October 29, twenty-four hours after he had been taken to Ladywell police station, south east London.

Last weekend, a 'Sunday Times' Insight report stated: 'The police were called to the Skinner home, a council flat in Lewisham at about 8 p.m. on October 28. Joanna Skinner was having a row with Jimmy after their daughter Laura's first birthday party.'

Threatened

'As a bluff to get him out of the house, Joanna threatened to call the police. According to her, Jimmy jokingly dialled the first two nines and handed her the phone challenging her

to dial the third. She did. She got through to the police and told them she wanted a "man removed from her flat".'

Three plain clothes detectives arrived and took Skinner to Ladywell police station where he was charged with assaulting a police officer and also his baby daughter.

Joanna Skinner told the local 'South East London Mercury' she was shocked to learn of the baby assault when she arrived at the police station with her brother-in-law Mr John Foley.

She had received a visit from detectives, accompanied by a woman police officer, who said they had come to see the 'battered baby'. Mrs Skinner took the policewoman into the bedroom and showed her the child asleep.

Joanna and Mr Foley asked the police if they could bail Jimmy out and sureties of £50 from each of them were

agreed. They were told to sit in a waiting room until Jimmy was released.

The 'Sunday Times' reports: 'Several minutes went by before they saw Jimmy. When they did they were shocked to see him covered with a blanket, lying on a stretcher carried by two ambulance men.'

'Both Mr Foley and Joanna say there was blood all over his face and his left arm was dangling off the edge of the stretcher as if paralysed...'

Phone call

'The next day Joanna received a phone call from the hospital. The voice at the other end said simply: "Your husband died two minutes ago from cardiac arrest. Everything was done to keep him alive"'

A post mortem in-



Jimmy Skinner

vestigation later revealed that there were 39 bruises on his body.'

Three days later a Home Office pathologist, Dr John Harse gave the cause of death as 'massive cerebral haemorrhage'. But at the preliminary inquest the coroner agreed that further tests should be made on Jimmy Skinner's brain to be sure of the real causes of his death.

Lewisham police chief, Douglas Randall has refused to make any comment on the case. He did not name any of the detectives involved in Skinner's arrest.

POST BAG



Bottom of the pops

I WENT along to Top of the Pops recording last week. I heard about the place—the way they record the show etc, pushing people out of the way so that the camera can get closer to the groups.

Before it is recorded they say we want you all to put a smile on your faces, looking as if you are enjoying yourselves. You all must dance, especially if the cameras are on you. You must clap and

cheer when the groups stop playing.

To start off the clapping, they have a special clapping machine. I went along for a good evening—not to be told when to smile and when to clap. I think it is disgusting that they have to do this. I think they fool the

viewers, to make them think it is a straightforward programme and that everyone is enjoying themselves.

I spoke to a few other people who were there and they agreed with me entirely.

Colin, Northolt YS.

NATIONALIZE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY



Wedgwood Benn talking to Concorde workers

I JOINED the YS because I could see what they were saying about Concorde was true. The aircraft industry in this country is doomed just like every other industry, to the slump.

This is the meaning of the Court Line collapse. The Workers Revolutionary Party has built up a lot of support in the Weybridge factory.

Gary Keane, Northolt YS.

Letter of the week from BAC Weybridge

When the shop stewards voted for our policy of nationalization under workers' control of the aircraft industry all the centrists wanted to retreat on what they previously voted for and were in fury when an ATUA leaflet was put out explaining to BAC workers the decision of the shop stewards' committee to fight redundancies and demand nationalization.

This showed quite clearly these people have

no intention of fighting to defend wages and jobs of workers.

The WRP and the YS must fight to unite workers particularly apprentices who come to BAC to become skilled tradesmen to occupy the factory immediately the first redundancy notice is issued out and demand that the Labour government nationalize BAC.

Philip Mundy (18) Third-year apprentice BAC Weybridge Member AUEW.

Police provocation

AT A football match recently between Northampton and Cambridge United, a police officer punched a 15-year-old boy twice in the stomach for singing. Martin, a young cement worker had this to say:

'Every time there's trouble the police go in and pick on the smallest and youngest youth. Martin's mate Mick, who works with him had this to say. 'Police are supposed to protect "people". But in reality they harass youth and try to intimidate them.'

'I don't agree with everything in Keep Left but I do agree with what it says about the role of the police in this system and that they should be removed and the Young Socialists is fighting for this.'

Cambridge YS.

Building the Workers Revolutionary Party

I FIRST knew about the Young Socialists through a disco held in Northolt. I got to know the leader of the disco.

We went to a YS meeting where they were talking about how young people won't be able to get jobs when we leave school.

At first I thought it was a whole lot of rubbish but when the secretary explained about it I realized how bad it was.

When I leave school I want to be an apprentice but I realize that by the end of my apprenticeship I could be thrown out so that they can employ other apprentices for less wages.

When I am coming home from discos etc., I have often been stopped by the police and asked

where I've been, where I'm going and then they get quite serious about it, whether I'm telling the truth or not. They push you about and refuse to believe you. I decided to join the

Witch-hunt in the schools

THE WITCH-HUNT of the bureaucracy of the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Tory Press against the rapidly growing strength of the Young Socialists and 'left groups in the classroom' is a direct attack on the massive movement throughout Britain of school pupils and teachers.

They are fighting against the development of appalling conditions in the schools and miserly teachers' pay due to the Tory cuts in education.

The absolute necessity

for the YS and the WRP to become the leadership of school youth and teachers is made very clear by the support given to Sir Keith Joseph's speech by the general secretary of the NAS who called for a strict discipline inside the schools and the expulsion of what he calls 'classroom disrupters'.

The leadership of the Stalinist dominated National Union of School Students dresses up its abject capitulation to these right wing tendencies with left phrases, but its true role is shown in its

CAN YOUR BRANCH write the letter of the week? Send your views to Post-bag, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG, or phone 01-720 5661-2.

Opposition to pit speed-up mounts

TWO THOUSAND Yorkshire miners last Sunday set the pace for the national ballot this week on the Coal Board's pit-by-pit productivity scheme. They unanimously rejected the scheme.

There is not a pit in Yorkshire which has gone against the area executive's recommendation to throw the deal out.

At the same time miners spoke out against the attack on Yorkshire miners from National Coal Board deputy chairman Norman Siddall who accused them of 'absenteeism'.

NUM area president Arthur Scargill pointed out that when miners were absent from work, in many cases it was because they had been maimed and

crippled by the industry.

Miners in Wales gave the same answer to Siddall's slur. Gilbert Bevan, lodge chairman at Coed Ely colliery, Glamorgan told 'Workers Press' last week:

'Siddall sitting in his ventilated office will not get pneumoconiosis, nor will he break his back as miners do every working day.'

And he continued:

'The Labour leaders condone what Siddall says. The miners are giving a warning. The Tories were cleared out. If this Labour government does not play the game, they will be brought down as well.'

The results of the miners' ballot on the Coal Board productivity deal will be published next week. When they are, one thing is certain

— the response of many miners will be a downright rejection of back-breaking and killing speed-up plans and of the Labour government's 'social contract' plans to hold down wages while paying out millions to private employers to stave off the crisis of their bankrupt system.



Arthur Scargill

YOUTH MUST PAY FOR THE CRISIS — PRENTICE

LABOUR Education Minister Reg Prentice last weekend announced his plans for the 'social contract' in education.

Prentice plans to: Increase the cost of school meals; reduce the overall number of students in colleges and universities; cut student teacher numbers from 114,000 to between 60,000 and 70,000 in the next five years.

These plans come on top of the Tory cuts in education which the Tories announced last December and which the Labour government has consistently refused to reverse.

Prentice said, 'The harsh rule that there is no contracting out applies — unhappily — to school children as well as to the adult population.'

This rabid right-winger who also attacks Scottish teachers and lorry drivers and any trade unionist who goes on strike for a settlement higher than the TUC guidelines, now makes it clear he thinks schoolchildren should be made to pay for the capitalist crisis.

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

He makes no mention of the bankers, industrialists, property speculators and landed aristocracy and all the private vested interests who are deliberately putting up prices.

Drastic

As Keep Left has pointed out continuously, the situation in schools is one where devastating teacher shortages are leading to four-day weeks and cuts in courses. There is a shortage of books and materials and no facilities for sixteen-year olds

who are now staying on.

Prentice has made proposals to drastically cut the number of trainee teachers and to further reduce the target gross number of qualified teachers for 1981 by 27,000. In short he is set on slashing the present education system.

Since Prentice became Education Minister this figure has now been reduced by a total of 43,000 from its original target of 526,000. And he has made no promise that it will not be reduced even further!

But the real impact is yet to come. The university vice-chancellors have warned that their colleges are already more than £30m in the red and debts are



West London school pupils strike to defend their right to education.

mounting all the time.

The only way to fight back against Prentice's plans is to fight for socialist policies for education. The Young Socialists demand the right to a full, free comprehensive education for all youth and an end to education spending cutbacks.

Impact

For the universities, we call for the right to a higher education for all youth, with a full mandatory grant tied to the cost of living.

The fight for a socialist policy for education is the fight for our future.

NEW YS ASSISTANT NATIONAL SECRETARY

THE Young Socialists National Committee elected Sylvester Smart (21) as YS Assistant National Secretary at their last meeting.

Sylvester is a member of South London Young Socialists and won enormous support as Workers Revolutionary Party candidate for Lambeth Central constituency at the last two general elections.



Sylvester Smart

Now he will be assisting National Secretary Maureen Bambrick in a national recruitment campaign leading to the 15th Young Socialists Annual Conference next April.

'We don't want the Front'

SAY PUPILS AND STUDENTS

ABOUT 300 students demonstrated outside Latymer School, Edmonton, last Monday, to protest against Martin Webster, National Front activities organizer.

Webster drove past pickets waving anti-NF banners in a yellow GPO van into the school where he spoke to a sixth-form General Studies class.

About 350 sixth-formers bombarded Webster with hostile questions. His statement that there were many Jews in the NF was greeted with loud jeers.

A pupil who asked how the Front could preach 'law and order' when its members had assaulted foreign officials was loudly cheered. Someone who read out a list of convictions against known NF members also received enthusiastic applause.

A pupil who asked Webster about a statement he made years ago about 'setting up a well-oiled Nazi machine' was told that it had been made

when Webster was a 'rash' 19-year old.

Webster's claim that leper colonies were due to be set up in Britain due to the influx of immigrants was laughed down.

A military-type operation was mounted by about 40 policemen to protect Webster and a colleague who was with him. All exits to the school, including Fire Exits, were locked during the class.

The headmaster took the names of five pupils who were talking to the anti-fascist demonstrators who were shouting 'National Front is Nazi Front'.

Headmaster Edward Kelly (55), told Keep Left: 'This is part of sixth-form General Studies. If there is a conscientious objection from a pupil to the NF then they as individuals do not have to listen.'

'We have a speaker every seven days—a lot of them are controversial. In a few weeks the Communist Party will be speaking. We have had various speakers from all three parties. Following the NF talk today there will be someone from the Board of British Jews.'



Martin Webster at Leicester this year.

Asked if it would not give the NF the appearance of legitimacy in allowing them to speak, Mr Kelly said: 'It is good for everybody to put their views forward to questioning.'

'We have a large amount of Jewish people in the school', he said. 'I have had protests from a small number of Jewish parents. My reaction was full of understanding.'

Students demonstrating outside the school told Keep Left why they were opposed to the Front. Barbara, a student teacher at Trent Park

College of Education, said: 'As teachers we feel we have a duty not to allow such speakers to voice their opinions. We recognize that the National Front, if in power, would oppose freedom of speech. We oppose racial hatred and the breeding of fascism in our education system.'

Dave, from North East London Polytechnic, told us: 'We are opposed to the National Front and support the original National Union of Students motion of no platform to them.'

THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT LEADS THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES.

NAME

ADDRESS

I AM INTERESTED IN (tick where applicable):

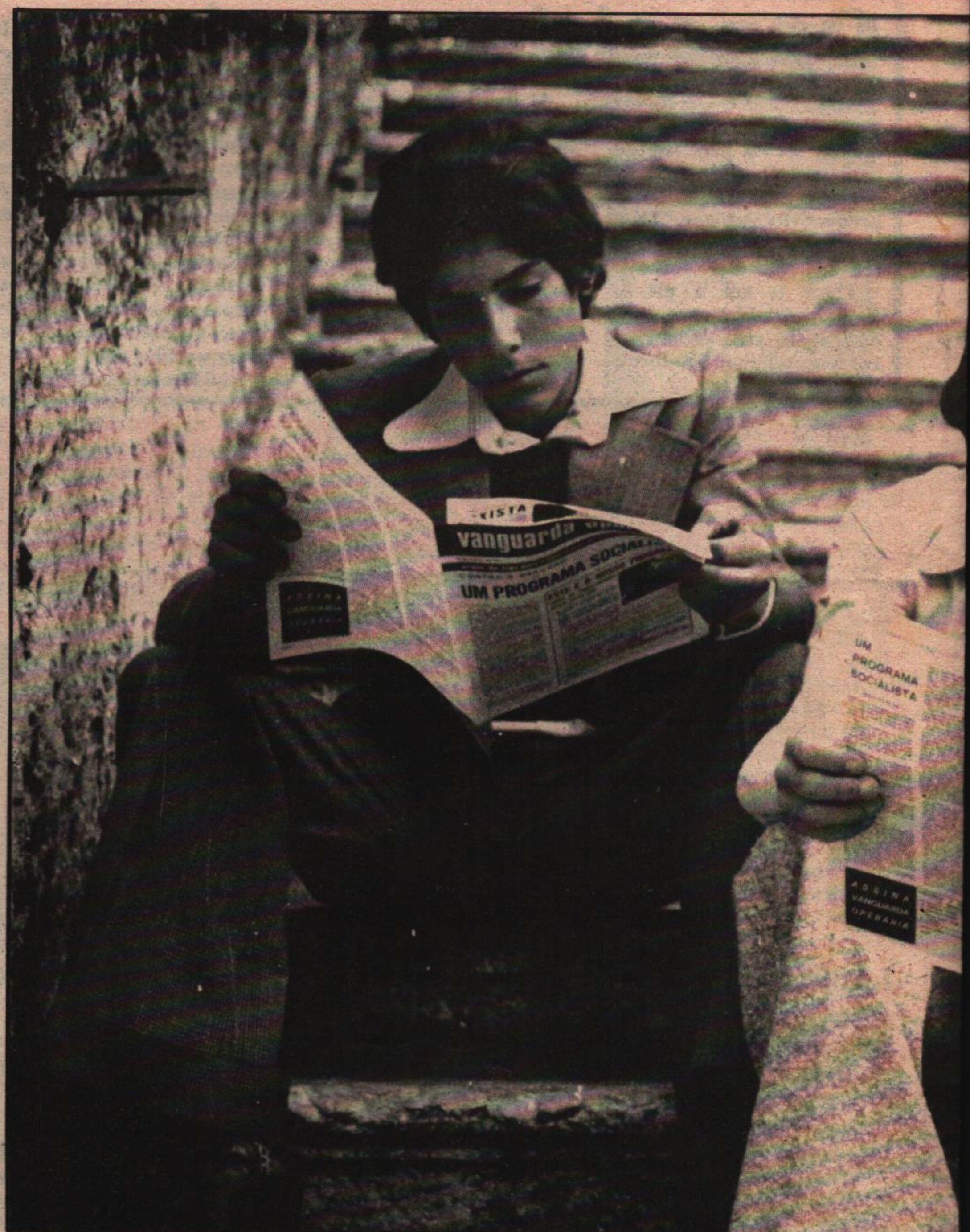
DISCOS MEETINGS

NETBALL COACH TRIPS

Post to: YS national secretary, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG



A dance held after the fete



'Vanguardia Operaria', paper of the League for the Construction of the Revolutionary Party



Recruiting members to the League for the Construction of the Revolutionary Party

Portuguese youth rally to revolutionary party

YOUNG WORKERS in Chelas, a working class area of Lisbon, organized a fete last Sunday as part of their drive to build the revolutionary party in Portugal.

Everyone who came agreed that the day was a great success. Over 50 youth and older workers joined the League for the Construction of the Revolutionary Party (LCPR).

Most of them took home membership forms to sign up their relatives and friends.

One new recruit — a committee member of the local working men's club told a meeting held during the fete why he had joined.

'I have been sympathetic to these people for some time. But what I have learned today about their policies has convinced me that they are the only leadership for the working class. In this area they are fighting to put people

FROM 'WORKERS PRESS' REPORTER STEPHEN JOHNS IN LISBON

in houses which is what we need,' he said.

The Fete was organized in the Predio dos Suicos (House of the Swiss man) which is a large empty mansion — in Chelas.

Predio dos Suicos was boarded up by its wealthy owner for 15 years while the people of Chelas lived round about in

single rooms or in wooden shacks.

After April 25, when the fascist Caetano dictatorship fell, the workers of Chelas led by the LCPR expropriated the building. The local workers' committee is now trying to house people in the mansion. And the LCPR and youth use it for a meeting place.

The fete began with a foot-

ball match at the local club ground.

Then a meal was served for 30 escudos (50p) which consisted of freshly-caught sardines, salad, potatoes and red wine.

Local housewives cooked the sardines over two charcoal fires.

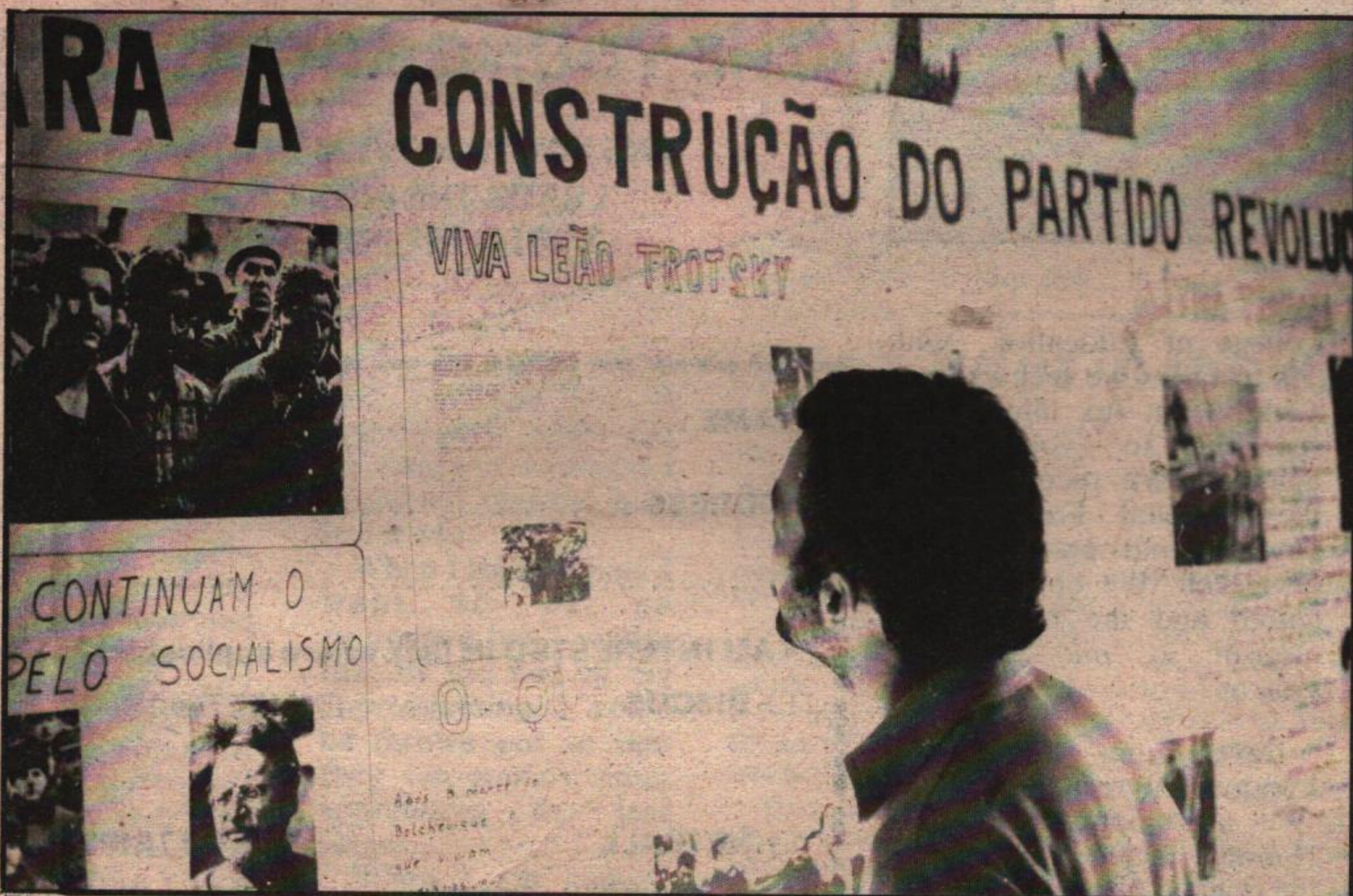
Attractions at the fete included a jumble sale, a shooting range, darts, dancing and an excellent exhibition explaining the history of the Trotskyist movement from the Russian revolution to the

present day.

In the evening many of the local people came to dance and drink wine at the fete bar run by the youth.

A meeting of over 100 people heard speakers from the LCPR and the Workers Revolutionary Party call for the building of the revolutionary party in Portugal. This got a great reception from the Chelas workers.

This is the first of several fetes planned by the LCPR to build the party rapidly in Portugal.



The exhibition on the history of the Trotskyist movement



A meal was served at the fete



Amusements at the fete



arty

IN THE past week, so-called 'left' Portuguese Prime Minister Vasco Gonçalves promised the right-wing CDS party, the party of the social and democratic centre, that he would ensure their rallies were not attacked by workers and youth, as happened in Lisbon recently.

Since then Gonçalves has unleashed a virtual reign of terror by the police against anti-fascist demonstrators.

The CDS party, since the attempted fascist counter-coup was stopped by Portuguese workers and youth on September 28, has become a haven for the most right-wing elements in the country.

The completely reactionary nature of Gonçalves' regime was demonstrated last week after a night of violence in Lisbon in which police opened fire on a crowd of people demonstrating against a fascist meeting.

The clashes started when police charged 1,000 youth who were counter-demonstrating against a CDS meeting.

Police dispersed the demonstration, organized by the

Maoist MRPP movement, with wooden batons, wooden bullets and gas. But the youth ran up the street and erected a barricade of paving stones and traffic signs torn up from the roads.

This incident demonstrates vividly the sharp move to the right of the Provisional government—a bonapartist regime, controlled by the military and staffed by Stalinists and Social Democrats.

Since the fighting the government has launched a repression against the Maoist MRPP movement. At least one member has been arrested and the homes of several others have been raided by the armed forces.

A Maoist spokesman has confirmed that the military force involved in the raids was COPCON, the élite unit of the Portuguese armed forces specially organized to intervene in civil situations, including strikes.

These actions of the Provisional government and COPCON have received the full and unqualified approval of the Communist Party and

the reformist Socialist Party. They said that the MRPP demonstration and attack on the CDS party endangered democracy and the alliance between the people and the Armed Forces Movement.

This treachery of the Stalinists and reformists, in their protection of the so-called 'democratic' regime, staffed by many of the same personnel as under the fascist dictatorship, is a grave warning for the workers and youth in Portugal.

The only way fascism will be wiped out in Portugal is by the mobilization of Portuguese workers to bring down the Provisional government and build their own organs of power—workers' committees in factories and form workers' militias alongside rank-and-file committees in the armed forces.

This requires a ruthless fight against Stalinism and reformism and the construction of a revolutionary party.

It is this fight which the youth and workers of the League for the Construction of the Revolutionary Party (LCPR) are carrying out.



Police beat up Spanish students

STUDENTS AGAINST FRANCO'S POLICE

IN the struggles that the working class of Spain carry out against Franco's fascist regime, the youth play a very important role.

My direct experience in the fight for the minimum of human rights has been within the University.

Any sort of political organization is forbidden, and so the students are not allowed to join any union. Any attempt to meet together to discuss our problems is also immediately forbidden by the academic authority. Most left-wing teachers are expelled from the universities and it is the right wingers who constantly betray the students to the corrupt Spanish administration. However, since they cannot stop our fight against fascism, to prevent our planned meetings they have to send the 'public order' police in.

Trying to organize a meeting is extremely dangerous; once all the students have met to talk about their problems in meeting places, everyone expects the arrival of the police force in their jeeps; they are stationed outside the buildings in the campuses of every Spanish University. Around every corner there is a policeman with a walkie-talkie. When the police enter the buildings, everyone has to run for their life.

The police are armed with gases, guns—some which are loaded with rubber bullets—and truncheons, some of which are electrical and they lash out at every student they see.

This has made many 'non-committed' people aware of the situation and they give the active students their total support. The police, once they have entered the building, not only beat the students up but also make everyone go out of the buildings, taking students' identity cards and closing the faculties until they think that the effects of their repression have achieved their main objective: to prevent the students from meeting.

The Spanish secret police, called 'sociales' because they are in special brigades to deal

with 'political and social affairs', they call at the homes of student leaders and any student who has been seen meeting or whom they know is worried about problems in his faculty. The role of the secret police is exactly the same as that of the PIDE in Portugal.

But all these continuous waves of detentions, trials, brutal interrogations, banning students from Universities, have not stopped the fight of the students against Franco.

The students organize themselves in unions called 'comites de curso'. These unions try to articulate and organize the needs and claims of the students against the regime. These unions are, of course, banned.

When we meet, to discuss any of our every day problems we have to place watchers



Franco

second offence the fine is double.

Students and workers are sent to jail without any trial, according to the decisions of the police. But even with all the repression every year the universities go on strike, new people join in the fight against fascism and opposition against the dictatorship gets broader and stronger.

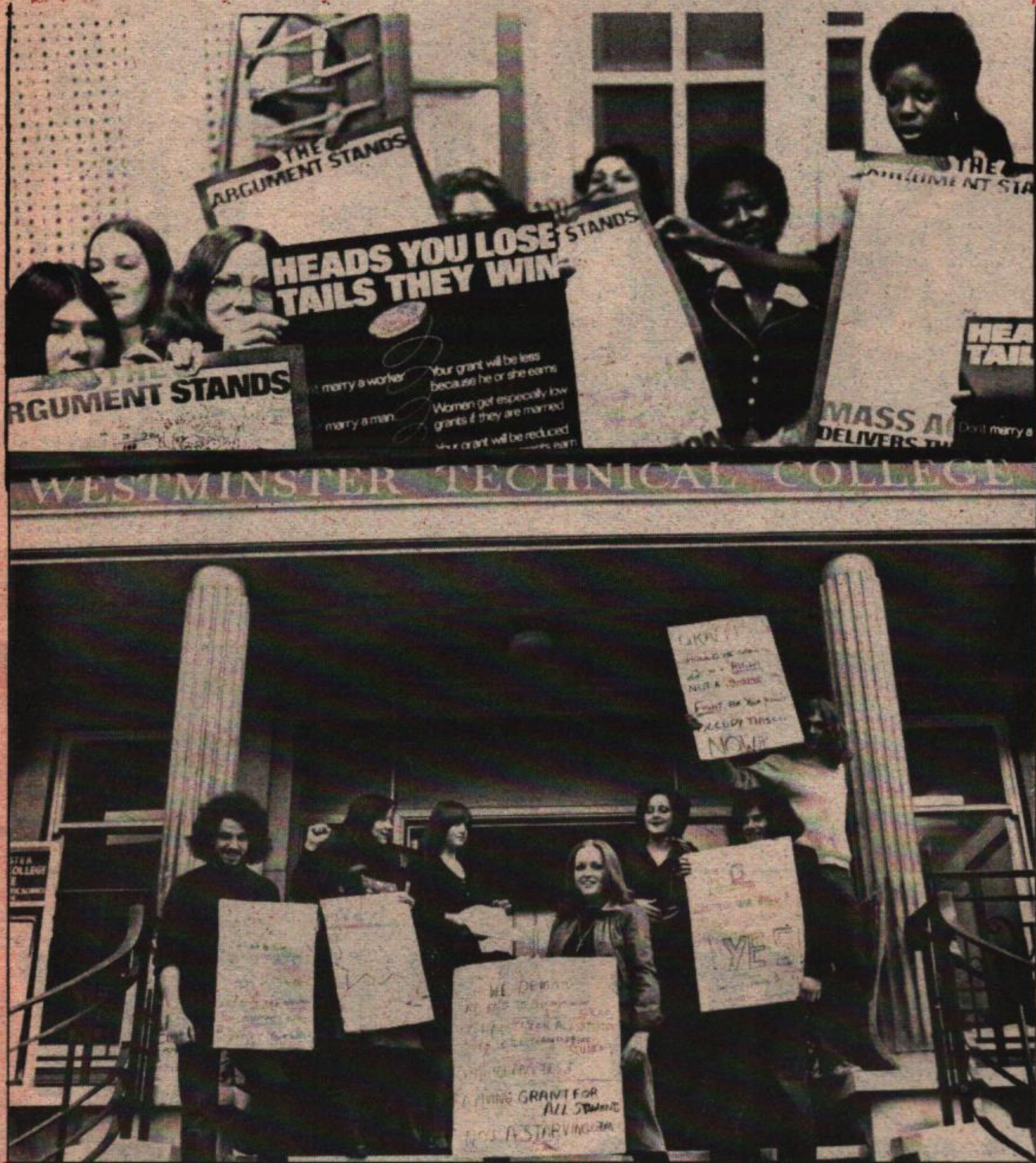
The Stalinist Communist Party has the strongest support among students. The Maoists are active but are even to the right of the Stalinists. A new movement, which is called 'Red Flag' has most support amongst the students. It calls itself Maoist but not Stalinist, and has many intellectuals in it. All these groups mislead the students politically. In the middle of important struggles they want to stop and talk to the fascist authorities. So many years of fighting against them has not taught them what kind of people rule a fascist state. The fight is mis-led and defeated. Efforts to try and win the support of students to real socialist policies are temporarily set back.

However, we feel heartened when we see every new year new young people joining the fight. We realize how necessary it is to build an independent revolutionary party capable of leading them towards socialism.

Only by the building of such a party can the youth in Spain be led to victory of the capitalist system.

A SPANISH STUDENT, NOW STUDYING IN BRITAIN, WRITES ABOUT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FASCIST REGIME IN SPAIN

everywhere to warn us of police. The usual punishment for taking part in a meeting is being banned from the university for a whole year and being detained 'incomunicado' for three days, and fined. The first fine is 100,000 pesetas (£750) and if you don't pay (most people cannot afford to) you go to prison for one month. For the



Westminster College students on the steps yesterday

LAST WEEK'S national student Action Week in support of the grants campaign saw a major build up of militant action in further education colleges.

For the first time further education students staged occupations—by Tuesday four colleges had been occupied—and thousands of students from the smaller colleges were expected to take part in Friday's national demonstration in London.

As well as the sit-in at Westminster Technical College (see this page), students at St John's Further Education College, Manchester; Glasgow College of Technology and Hackney College of Education had begun occupations by the start of the week.

The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Newcastle, Middlesex, Preston and Liverpool Polytechnics all staged sit-ins.

In the university sector, which until now has been the most militant section of the student fight for grants, only Swansea and Sussex colleges were occupied. Both these were over local issues not directly related to the Week of Action.

The week's campaign and demonstrations were in support of demands for an end to discretionary awards, for a full grant for all students over 16 and the abolition of discretionary anomalies in the awards system relating to married students' grants.

The central demand for mandatory grants for all students over 16 is one which primarily affects students in the smaller further education colleges and some sections of polytechnics.

It is these sectors with the majority of working class students that are now facing not just arbitrary discrimination from local education authorities but big cuts in the total cash awarded.

Their grants do not come under the mandated awards because their courses are not degree or degree equivalent.

A National Union of Students executive report to a conference on the effects of education cuts in London last weekend reported that Leeds, Birmingham and Avon education authorities have already used their discretionary powers over these grants to slice the value of awards.

STUDENTS OCCUPY TO DEMAND

FULL GRANTS FOR ALL

STUDENTS occupied two branches of Westminster College for Further Education last week to demand a full, mandatory grant for all.

Westminster is one of many Further Education colleges which have taken the initiative on the National Union of Students Grants Campaign.

On Monday the Peter Street precinct was taken over and on Tuesday the common room and administration office at Kensington.

On Tuesday students from Chelsea and Queen Elizabeth Colleges brought food to the college, because the authorities had shut down the canteen.

The Westminster students, who are

BY SIMON PIRANI
occupying for the first time ever, produced leaflets saying: 'We feel all students should receive a grant as a RIGHT, not at the



whim of local authority officials. As a result of this policy of discrimination against FE colleges, many students are forced to end their studies through lack of funds.'

Student executive member John Hardy (18) said: 'I live away from home but because my parents earn too much I don't get a grant.'

'I went to my parents about money and they gave me £2—and I pay

£5.50 rent!

'I have to raise the rest by getting casual jobs wherever I can. I've missed lectures through working and as a result of my present job, working in the mornings, I may get thrown out of college.'

Ann O'Halloran from the Peter Street branch told Keep Left: 'Last year I wanted to come back to college after working and they automatically refused me a grant.'

'I had to conduct a personal campaign to get to college—I sat on the doorstep of the

Inner London Education Committee meeting every Thursday at County Hall, and after six months I finally got a grant.

'Before that I was working part-time to pay the rent and living on 10p a day.'

'Many people never even get to college—it discriminates against the working class starting at secondary school. The students here are determined and we are intending to carry on with direct action.'

SIX-WEEK RENT STRIKE CONTINUES

THE SIX-week-old rent strike by students at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth continued this week after an emergency union meeting last Sunday voted overwhelmingly to take a stand against new threats from the college authorities.

Continued college threats to close down halls of residence, close the entire university and victimization of anyone who paid fees into the students' rent strike fund, have not weakened the Aberystwyth students.

It has been the wavering of the student leadership which has weakened their fight.

Our correspondent spoke to some of the students taking part last week. A first year economics student said:

'Initially the union had given active leadership and conducted hall meetings on the issue [of the rent strike] but now they appear to have lost interest.'

'More and more students paid the fees because they were not being kept informed and were merely getting a haughty "You should be OK" attitude from guild representatives.'

'On top of this the publicity and handling of meetings was disgusting.'

Middlesex Poly students sit-in

MIDDLESEX Polytechnic students started the National Union of Students Week of Action last Monday with an occupation at the college's Enfield precinct.

Between 50 and 100 students started off the sit-in but the number was expected to build up during the week as more students joined in.

The students are particularly angered about the lack of residence available for them while the college director has moved into a 15-bedroom house for which they allege he pays a rent of only £15 a week.

Many pairs of students are paying this amount for one small flat, while large numbers are still homeless either because there is no accommodation available or because they can't afford extortionate rents.

There has also been a huge cutback in courses at Middlesex Polytechnic—some courses have been cut by up to 50 per cent in numbers of students studying in them.

Canteen price rises are another major source of discontent among the students with increases of some prices in the region of 100 per cent.

Keep Left spoke to Len (22) who studies Humanities at Middlesex Polytechnic. Asked whether he thought the Labour government would make any great change in the grants system he said:

'No. They might possibly get rid of a few of the anomalies within the grants system but they certainly won't if they are left to themselves. This is why it is so necessary to take this action.'

'My grant comes under a parental income contribution since I worked for two years eight months and missed by four months coming under the stipulated three years necessary to qualify for an independent grant.'

'My mother who is a widow has to contribute over £100 a year. It's ridiculous as I have not been at home since I was 18. Yet I have to go back and ask her for money.'

At the general union meeting held before the Middlesex occupation started students debated the possibility of setting up a

BY STEVE REILLY

grants committee to press the claims of individual students.

Lesley (20) is a social science student.

'I spent a year at Huddersfield Polytechnic and I decided to leave and switch to this college. I applied and was accepted but when I

LAST WEEK the Young Socialists Students Society held a rally at the London School of Economics to mark the 57th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Chairman Dave Beeson opened the rally.

He told the 160-strong audience that the days of protest politics in the student movement had ended with the death of Kevin Gately at Red Lion Square in June.

The guest speaker from the Workers Revolutionary Party said because of the tribute paid to Trotsky in the film 'October', the Russian bureaucracy refused to screen

applied for a grant I received a letter saying I wouldn't get one.

'I also received a letter from the assistant registrar saying that I would have to pay the fees or leave. My father had to go out and borrow the money to pay the fees.'

'Besides this my boyfriend

had to support me on £18 a week between us. Unless the money had been raised I would not be there. My boyfriend was accepted at a college to do 'A' levels. As his parents live abroad he was refused a grant. They could not afford to send him money so he had to leave college after six weeks.'

DISCUSSION ON EISENSTEIN'S 'OCTOBER'

YSSS MEETING ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

trasted the scenes of the Tsar living a life of luxury with the workers starving on the streets.

Lenin's return after the February revolution in 1917 was greeted with cheers from the St Petersburg workers.

When Lenin proclaimed 'Down with the provisional government,' he received terrific support.

The troops from the front returned to St Petersburg proclaiming 'All power to the Soviets'.

The counter-revolutionary Mensheviks tried to discourage troops from returning to the Capital but to no avail. The film concludes with the 'death battalion' of the Tsar surrendering.

The film, as good as it was, failed to show the theoretical struggle within the ranks of

the Bolshevik party. Neither did it show that the first editions of 'Pravda' after February supported the provisional government—it was co-edited by Stalin.

It was against this that both Lenin and Trotsky had to struggle relentlessly.

After the film a lively discussion took place. The point was made that the provisional government was unable to grant the demands of the Bolsheviks—bread, peace, land—because it was tied to the bourgeoisie.

The main point of the film that is to be drawn out is the struggle for leadership against all counter-revolutionary and revisionist tendencies.

This is applicable today, in all sections of the working class and the student movement.

WHOSE SIDE IS HE ON?

Scanlon calls police against pickets

HUGH Scanlon, engineering union president, called the police last week to break a picket line of workers at his own union HQ.

About 250 clerks who work at the AUEW office at Peckham Road, south London, have been on strike for two weeks demanding payment of a London weighting claim.

Last Friday, AUEW members who had been ordered back to work by their leaders crossed the

picket line after a passage was forced open for them by police.

On Monday, about 30 of the AUEW's district secretaries were called to the office by Scanlon — one report was that they would take over the work of the striking clerks. Scanlon again broke the picket.

The strikers, who are now receiving official backing from the white-collar union APEX, are more determined than ever to win their strike.



DID POLICE JAIL INNOCENT YOUTHS?

THREE south London youth locked up for murder, manslaughter and arson are innocent of these crimes and should be released — that is the conclusion drawn by an investigation on Thames TV's 'This Week' programme last Thursday.

The programme examined the case of Colin Lattimore (then 18), Ronald Leighton (16) and Ahmet Salih (15), who were arrested in April 1972 after a homosexual prostitute, Maxwell Confait, was murdered in Catford, south London.

They were convicted at the Old Bailey in December 1972. Lattimore, found guilty of manslaughter, was sent to a hospital for the criminally insane 'without limit of time'. Leighton was also detained for an unlimited time for murder. Salih was sent to a remand home for four years, convicted of arson.

The boys' parents say they are innocent and have been fighting for their release ever since. The boys were convicted on only one piece of evidence — 'confessions' they made to Detective Chief Superintendent Alan Jones, in Lee Road police station.

'This Week' presented a mountain of evidence to show that Lattimore, Leighton and

Salih could not have killed Maxwell Confait:

1. LATTIMORE'S parents say that the mentally-subnormal boy was scared of the dark, could not read or write and could not even tell the time.

Christopher Price MP doubts that it was physically possible for the boys to strangle judo-expert Confait in his room with no signs of a struggle.

QUESTIONS 'THIS WEEK' ASKED ...

2. PSYCHOLOGIST Doctor John Watkin, who has interviewed Ahmet Salih since he was detained, says that since he is neither a hysterical amnesiac nor a consummate liar, he must be innocent.

3. CONFAIT'S former landlord, Winston John Goode, principal trial witness, committed suicide on May 22 this year. He was one of Confait's male lovers and had a key to his room.

4. THE timing of the murder makes it impossible for the boys to have had anything to do with it.



Ronald Leighton



Colin Lattimore



Mr and Mrs Lattimore and Colin's brother Gary.

Colin Lattimore, who 'confessed' to helping Ronald Leighton carry out the crime, has a cast-iron alibi from 6 p.m. to 12.40 a.m. on the night of the murder. Most of the evening he was at a Salvation Army youth club; over a dozen witnesses testify to this.

A police doctor at the trial estimated the time of death at 'between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.'. A pathologist who had also examined Confait's body said he must have died 'between 6.30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m.'.

The prosecution, when questioning these doctors in the trial, introduced an element of doubt about the time of death.

They tried to show that rigor mortis, the stiffening of the body after death, could have been speeded up — firstly because of heat, and also because of the possibility of a 'cadaveric spasm'.

In his summing up, 'This Week' explains, the judge invited the jury to 'ignore all the medical evidence'.

The question is: could the murder have been committed after Colin Lattimore's alibi ran out at 12.40 a.m. But in the three week trial, no one asked the two doctors, specifically, if that was possible.

Det Chief Supt Alan Jones, who asked the boys 107 questions in four hours of interrogation, never asked them what exact time they had committed the murder.

'This Week' interviewed Professor Donald Teare, Britain's most eminent pathologist who has examined thousands of dead bodies (including those of Bruce Lee and Jimi Hendrix) in 35 years' of experience.

They asked him if he thought, after investigating the case, the murder could

have been committed after 12.40 a.m. that night. His answer was 'categorically no'.

Asked if heat could have made the estimates invalid, as the prosecution suggested, he said: 'No, I don't'.

Asked if the boys had been wrongly found guilty, Teare says, 'From the information I have been given, yes.'

No one who watched 'This Week' last Thursday can seriously believe the confessions made by Lattimore, Leighton and Salih to Det Supt Alan Jones in Lee Road Police Station.

who arrested Leighton was criticized by the trial judge for the 'thoroughly sloppy' way he had made a note of the arrest.

If Price, Professor Teare, Lattimore's parents, 'This Week' and every youth in Catford are to be believed, the police have deliberately forced confessions out of three youths for a crime they did not commit.

The Home Office bears the responsibility for the continued imprisonment of the boys.

Roy Jenkins, Labour Home Secretary, was informed about the case on May 28 this year. He has done nothing about getting the boys released.

The Labourites have allowed the police and the courts to get away with it for far too long. They have encouraged the war of harassment and brutality carried out against youth every day in Britain.

They have sat back and watched police beat up peaceful pop fans at Windsor Park. They have seen the death of student Kevin Gately — whitewashed by the Scarman Tribunal — and the Shrewsbury pickets sent back to jail.

The Young Socialists say that Lattimore, Leighton and Salih must be instantly released.

The trade union movement must demand that its leaders put an end to police-military conspiracies, disband the Special Branch and Special Patrol Group, and set up a trade union inquiry into the monstrous activities of the police.

The police and army can only finally be dealt with by the working class when they are disbanded, and replaced with a workers' militia from the trade unions as part of a programme of socialist policies.

... AND SOME THEY DID NOT

And yet the programme itself stops investigating the minute the tracks lead inside the hallowed portals of the police station.

Ronald Leighton's mother, interviewed on the programme, said: '... when you've got a room full of detectives and they just look at you and they say "sign", you naturally sign... I was just as scared as Ronnie was.'

Jones, the policeman who interviewed the boys, was invited to appear on 'This Week' and explain what happened — but he declined.

But 'This Week' knows what happened in the police station but hasn't informed its viewers.

MR LATTIMORE, Colin's father, complained that his son was assaulted by police and hit with a rolled-up newspaper.

THE POLICE constable

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Saturday November 23

Large Lecture Theatre,
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Starts 2 p.m.

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YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + +

SOUTH WALES YS BONFIRE NIGHT DANCE: A BIG HIT!

ABOUT 300 youth from Aberdare, Glynneath, Seven Sisters, and Resolven came to the bonfire night dance run by the South Wales Young Socialists last week at

the Miners Welfare Hall in Glynneath.

Dai Hog's disco and a live group, Clockwork Creep from Cwmavon, got the whole thing going with pop music and heavy sounds.

The dance, organized by the Regional Committee, and campaigned for by all the

branches, was an important step towards the building of a mass youth movement in the valleys.

Gerald Stevenson from Merthyr YS and Helen

Robbins from Port Talbot received a good response when they spoke about the fight youth must now put up to defend jobs in South Wales. They appealed for youth to join the YS.

About 15 young miners at the dance came outside to discuss with YS members about the threats to their

union and talked about their disgust with the Labour government and the coal board's attempts to enforce productivity deals.

Sixteen youth came to the first YS meeting in Glynneath this week, and some of them will be coming to the area YS school this weekend in Swansea.

Scottish recruitment campaign underway

TWO new Young Socialists branches have been set up in Glasgow by a recruiting team which toured the city last week.

The team, led by national secretary Maureen Bambrick and newly-elected assistant national secretary Sylvester Smart, started in the Gorbals area on Tuesday.

They got a great response at the Adelphi school with the new Young Socialists schools leaflet and brought 10 new members to the first meeting, which was held at the school.

The team went to Maryhill, where a Young Socialists disco was to be held on Thursday night, to start off a new YS branch. A Young Socialists five-a-side football tournament is to be held on Sunday in Glasgow and many youth are already signing up their teams.

● Further report and pictures next week.



The match between Willesden 'A' team and Northolt



Willessden 'A' v Northolt



Shepherds Bush YS congratulate their team which came second

28 teams at W London tournament

OVER 250 youth from the West London and Middlesex Region Young Socialists turned out into the cold last Sunday to play a five-a-side football tournament at Wormwood Scrubs.

After the 28 teams had played at least two games each, the winners were declared as Northolt 1st, Shepherds Bush 2nd and Acton 3rd.

The football was followed by a showing of the film 'October', an epic about the 1917 Russian Revolution made by Russian film director Sergei Eisenstein shortly afterwards.

To end the day, the

'Feedbacks' Sound from Paddington YS and the 'Red Star' sound from Southall YS provided a successful disco.

A team of YS members were signing people up for the disco and the Weekend School taking place this weekend.

KEEP LEFT £200 MONTHLY FUND

COMRADES, our fund now stands at £52.27. We are well into the second half of the month but we have still a long way to go before we reach our £200 target.

In the last week we have seen thousands of technical college students come forward for the first time in the fight for full mandatory grants for all.

Keep Left and the Young Socialists have fought for this policy all along.

We urge all YS members and federations to raise as many big donations as possible in the coming weekend and send them off immediately to:

Keep Left Fund
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG



Saturday, November 30th East India Hall East India Dock Basin, E14
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WEEKEND SCHOOL

Saturday and Sunday November 16-17

Grange Farm Camping and Sports Centre, Chigwell, Essex (near Central Line station)

'WHAT THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM IS ALL ABOUT'

'THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND THE CRISIS'
Speaker: G. Healy, General Secretary of the Workers Revolutionary Party

Starts: 3.00 p.m.: Cost £2.50 plus fare

PLUS DISCO AND FILMS

YSSS MARXIST CLASSES

LONDON

Every Tuesday 7.00 p.m.
Room CO18, London School of Economics Houghton St, WC2
Speaker: Peter Jeffries

LEEDS

Every Thursday 12.30 p.m.
Room C315, Leeds Polytechnic
Speaker: Cliff Slaughter

DUE to lack of space, we have not advertised Young Socialists discos, meetings, football and other activities taking place throughout the country. For details fill in form on page 6.

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