

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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Young Socialists call on all youth and workers to reject the Labour government's wage threats

NO TO HEALEY'S WAGE CUT PLANS!

LABOUR Chancellor Denis Healey's proposals to limit all wage increases to 10 per cent in the next year constitute the most savage attack yet on workers' living standards.

The proposals amount to a legal wage freeze aimed at inflicting the burden of capitalist slump on the backs of the working class.

In a situation when inflation is running at an annual rate of 63 per cent,

such proposals amount to wage cutting for millions of workers.

But the Labour government cannot implement such attacks merely at the stroke of a pen.

Major sections of the working class have demonstrated their determination to fight to maintain their wage levels.

Healey's proposals are the climax of a deliberate policy with the international bankers to drive down the value of the pound.

The Labour government's plans for wage cutting now open the door for major confrontations with the working class.

But the working class is moving forward.

The actions by the Newham North East Labour Party to remove the right-wing coalitionist Prentice and the demand of the Yorkshire miners' executive on their MPs to fight in the interests of the people they represent, the question of the control of the capitalist Press by

journalists and the fight of hospital workers against private practice—all these represent revolutionary developments in the British working class.

They develop out of the old forms of struggle, but their content is revolutionary today because they pose a whole series of demands which cannot be satisfied under the capitalist system.

In demanding MPs that represent them in parliament, workers are posing the question of a fundamentally different

kind of parliament — they are asking for a parliament to represent the interests of the working class against the capitalist state.

It is in these conditions that Healey now brings forward his proposals for savage cuts in living standards and even more unemployment.

The Young Socialists call on all workers and young people to reject these plans and to fight for the alternative revolutionary leadership which will take the working class to power and establish socialism.

KEEP LEFT SAYS

Biggest-ever attack on living standards

10 PER CENT WAGE FREEZE

LABOUR Chancellor Denis Healey has announced his government's plans for making the working class bear the burden of the capitalist crisis.

All wage increases must be kept within 10 per cent—or if not, wage cuts will be imposed by law.

This represents the most vicious attack on the living standards of millions of workers and young people.

At present inflation rates a pay rise of 10 per cent will be wiped out within 10 weeks. On average workers will get between £2 and £4 a week increase this year.

Inflation is now running at 63.8 per cent.

Flat-rate

Healey's announcement in parliament last Tuesday came only hours after the decision of the Transport and General Workers' Union conference to accept flat-rate pay rises.

Healey's measures mean only one thing—that hundreds of thousands of working



'Forward with the T&GWU' says the banner—will it be 'towards wage cutting'?

class families will be forced onto the bread line.

Families will be unable to pay rent, food, electricity bills, buy clothes and pay off HP agreements.

In addition, Healey's forecast of public spending cuts will drive hundreds of thousands

more onto the dole queues.

The working class is already suffering the effects of the slump, huge inflation and the plummeting value of the pound.

It was reported last week that already 700,000 parents in Britain are going

hungry just to keep their children fed.

Even this does not give the children of the poor enough to eat to shield them from crippling ailments, said a survey from the Child Poverty Action Group.

Frank Field, director of CPAG says that the 'shocking' figure of £3.46

a head a week for food eaten at home is bad enough. But 5 million poor people are on almost half that, he claims.

These figures demonstrate clearly that sections of the British working class and their children are already being driven back to the conditions of the hungry 30s.

And now the Labour government's measures will drive many more families into the same conditions.

Cheers

As Healey made his announcement, Tories in the House of Commons greeted it with cheers. Tory finance spokesman, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said afterwards that 'the House will welcome the fact that the government has at last begun to grapple with the nation's problems'.

Labour right wingers joined the Tories and Liberals in welcoming Healey's statement.

And even before the pay ceiling was announced, the international bankers and the City of London had responded enthusiastically by steadying the value of the pound at the drastically reduced level of \$2.19 while shares went up 23.7 per cent.

The Labour government cannot, of course, cut the present 30 per cent level of pay settlements to 10 per cent merely by announcing it.

Confrontation

They are deliberately provoking a confrontation with the working class which will not be resolved in discussion or negotiation.

Workers must now come into conflict with the Labour government which has totally rejected the policies on which it was elected to office in February and October last year.

The struggles ahead pose as never before the question of power for the working class and young people.

These battles have no peaceful solution—only class conflict will determine whether the working class is to be pauperized and driven back to the 30s or the capitalist state defeated and socialism instituted.

Defence

The Young Socialists call on all young people today to come forward now in defence of living standards and jobs and to reject the Labour government's attacks.

Build the Young Socialists and the Workers Revolutionary Party and prepare to end this bankrupt capitalist system once and for all.

Defence in Carib Club trial claim police launched

'An orgy of violence against black people'

'AN orgy of violence by police against black people'; this was how one defence counsel described the raid by 140 police on the Carib Club Cricklewood on October 12 last year.

The defence allege that it was the police that caused the affray and unlawful fighting for which 12 black youths are now on trial.

They also allege that the police are lying to the jury in order to cover their own brutality and misconduct.

Mob

The prosecution case was that a black mob howling for blood attacked police officers trying to apprehend a suspect thought to have stolen a car.

The defence pointed to the fact that there were police on the stairs 'waiting', some with drawn truncheons, before any of the youths were let down from the dance floor 'in single file'.

PC Brookes told the jury that although he had not seen any black person aim a single punch or kick or strike a blow at police officers when he saw blacks struggling with police he 'naturally assumed' the blacks to be the aggressors.

The prosecution case is based on a rather mysterious 'suspect' that two police officers say they saw run from a Cortina which they 'suspected' had been taken without the permission of the owner.

They chased the suspect and one of the police officers saw him enter the Carib Club.

Visits

Defence counsel suggested that there had been five police visits to the club in the previous five weeks, that the police felt some hostility to the Carib Club and that they came in strength to 'bust' the club.

The police officers in the witness box have been unable to give details of particular incidents.

One officer who said he could remember the night 'as clearly as if it were yesterday', could not remember by what part of the body he held the suspect as he dragged him across the dance floor.

He could neither confirm nor deny that for all he knew he might have been dragging him with his head bouncing along the floor covered with broken glass.

PC Royston Colbourne said that he had met a black man in the entrance hall 'but there was no point taking any notice of him'.

All other officers had said that no one resembling a doorman had been seen.

Denied

They denied that a doorman had been brushed

'I hope the others get here soon so we can bust this place' —

Policeman at Carib Club

aside by police as they ran upstairs with a police dog, one saying 'I hope the others get here soon so we can bust this place'.

The 12 defendants are charged with unlawfully fighting and making an affray. They have all pleaded not guilty.

The trial is expected to continue, at the Old Bailey, at least into the middle of July.

YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS

Recruitment drive in West Midlands

Branch committee members of Canley YS Coventry spoke to national committee member Sean O'Hara about conditions in the area.

Peter McAteer (16), the Keep Left organizer said:

'Around here there is no entertainment, no discos just a lousy youth club once a week.

Attacked

'On the street corners we are often attacked by the cops.

'One night we were sitting on a bridge — eight of us, and a cop on a bicycle came and told us to clear off.

'He followed us up the street. He grabbed Anthony [the YS branch secretary] and said: "I'm not all piss and wind"; then he hit him!

'Further on down the road I went to talk to my mate

and got belted in the stomach by the policeman.'

Martin O'Neill said his father phoned the Inspector at the station.

'The inspector said that nothing could be done as there were no adult witnesses.'

The chairman, Carl Wilson added, 'We are always getting moved off by people. There is a college and four schools in the area but no facilities are open to the youth.'

No jobs

'When we leave the schools there are no jobs, just the streets.'

'Only the YS have spoken out about the crisis and we don't think there is any other way but the taking of power.'

'No one else defends the rights of workers. We're going to build the YS branch in Canley.'

A RECRUITMENT drive to build the YS in the West Midlands with campaigns in Birmingham, Coventry and the Black Country has met with a great response.

Many youth have joined the Young Socialists and the Workers Revolutionary Party.

At a YS football rally

attended by over 100 youth recently, many people joined the YS. New branches were started in Canley, Coventry and Newtown in Birmingham and a regular disco has been set up in Newtown.

About 60 youth attended the first disco and danced to soul and reggae music.

21-year-old warehouseman's prison nightmare

10 months in jail— for nothing

BY LORRAINE PHELAN

David Orton was released from jail last week. He had been in jail for 10 months. His crime? None at all.

At his second trial at the Old Bailey, the prosecution gave up after failing to convince the jury of his guilt after two and a half days.

Of the previous trial when the jury had found him guilty of a robbery he did not commit, he had this to say:

'I lost all faith in justice then. I felt bitter towards the prosecutor.'

Damages

He is planning to seek damages for the time spent in prison.

His stepfather, Mr Kenneth Orton said, 'It is diabolical that he should spend all this time in prison. Everything was against him.'

Keep Left editorial board member Lorraine Phelan met David last weekend and he recalled the events that took place from the time the police found him at a friend's house over 10 months ago.

He told how he had gone with the police to his own house. 'The cops went up to my house and I had to stay in the car. They also went to my girlfriend's house.'

'Nothing can compensate me for what I've been through and I will never forget it'

'They asked my parents whether I had spent the night at home or whether I was up my girlfriend's.'

'They searched my house and then came back to the car.'

David was then taken to the police station where he had to stay the night since the postmaster he was accused of robbing felt too ill to come in that night.

When the police asked if



David Orton

Orton wanted an identification or confrontation he said confrontation would be all right as 'I knew I hadn't done nothing'.

The next morning they took me downstairs to a charge room. The postmaster came there. He walked up to me and nodded his head and said that I was one of them.'

Orton could hardly believe it.

He was charged and brought to trial.

No witnesses

David was found guilty. No witnesses appeared in his defence.

'My solicitor came round the flats and saw the porter because he wanted all the witnesses at the Appeal Court.'

'He said that he had seen me at 12.30 that night. The porter's wife told him that she had seen me at 11.45 p.m.'

'He asked if she was sure and she said she was and that she had told the police the night they took me away.'

Before his second trial, David went to Ashford Remand Centre. 'I sent in four applications for bail — all were refused.'

Undecided

At the second trial the jury was undecided and no-one knew whether the prosecution wanted a retrial or whether they wanted to drop charges.

'My barrister Sir Francis Lowe wrote and said that he was sending a letter to the Attorney General because he had "never seen anything like it".'

'Eventually the Attorney General told them not to

● **Barrister said he had 'never seen anything like it'**

● **Eventually the Attorney General told them not to carry on**

carry on.'

'This has been a nightmare.'

'I have been in Wormwood Scrubs and Albany prison on the Isle of Wight.'

'Nothing can compensate me for what I've been through and I will never forget it,' he told me.

Wasting time staying on at school

STEVE FRANKLIN, (16) is leaving school this summer. John Cassidy, Keep Left editorial board member asked him: 'Have you been advised in any way to stay on at school or college?'

Steve: Yes, I have been advised to go to college but not to stay on at school. The excuse was that most boys that stay on are wasting the school's time

JC: Why do you think that so many young people after successfully taking their exams feel discouraged at their prospects and show no enthusiasm for further study?

Steve: Because if someone takes 'O' levels and passes them and then stays on at school or college for another year they lose the chance of taking an apprenticeship because they would be too old. Also the prospects of an apprenticeship are less because of the slump.

JC: Why did you join the YS?

Steve: I joined the YS because I heard one of my friends arguing about policies and racism with some other guys and I found that I agreed with most of what he said. I asked him if I could join. I think that the only way to cure the economic crisis would be to introduce socialism not only in Britain but worldwide and the use of the world's resources for the betterment of mankind.

The direct effects of the crisis are the closing down of youth clubs which forces youth to walk the streets and cause trouble.

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



Recruiting new members on the trip to Southsea. Below: Oxford YS on the outing.



Coach trip and rally for Western region

BY ALAN BALL

'BUILD the Young Socialists and all out for the swimming gala', was the message from the rally held after the Western Region YS coach trip to Southsea last Sunday.

The rally was addressed by Tony Phelan, national committee member for the Western Region, who warned of the dangers of the treachery of the Labour Government, mass unemployment and the effects on youth of the economic crisis.


Many thousands of youth, he said, would find their way onto the dole queues this summer.

The fight against unemployment is the fight to recruit young people to our ranks.

Alan Ball (Keep Left regional correspondent outlined the preparations of the police and the army and the need for the YS to be built.

The rally followed a great afternoon on the beach and at the fair, where teams of youth sold tickets for the disco.

Due to lack of space on p. 8 this week we have had to hold over some YS reports; we will publish them next week. See adverts for forthcoming YS events on p. 7. This edition



JOIN

THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT LEADS THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES.

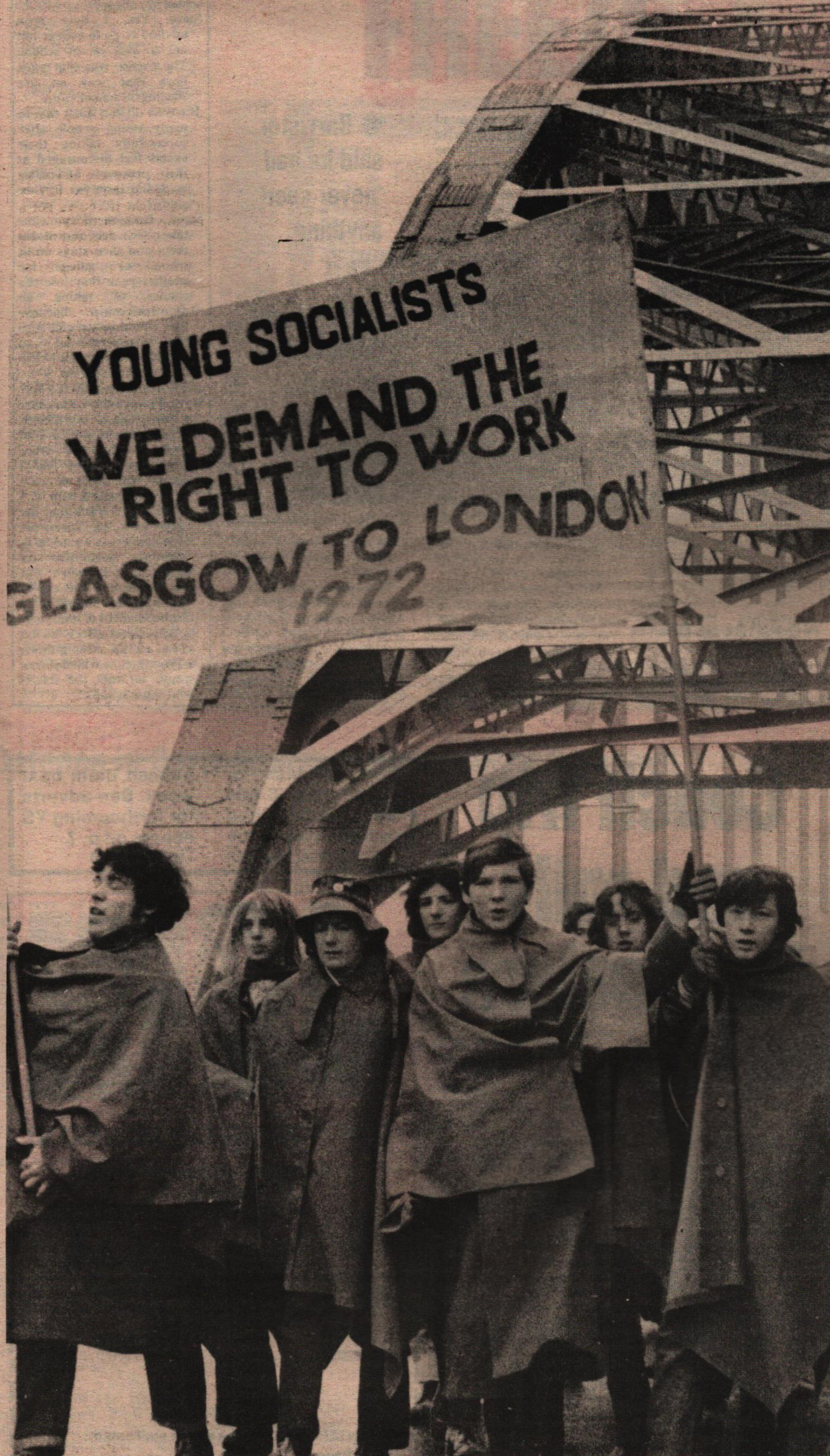
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I AM INTERESTED IN (tick where applicable):

<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOS	<input type="checkbox"/> MEETINGS
<input type="checkbox"/> ATHLETICS	<input type="checkbox"/> CRICKET
<input type="checkbox"/> FOOTBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> SWIMMING
<input type="checkbox"/> NETBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> COACH TRIPS

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



IN 1972, with over one million out of work, the Young Socialists led the most determined campaign against unemployment. We organized countryside 'Right to Work' marches culminating in a huge rally of 8,500 trade

unionists and youth at the Empire Pool, Wembley. Above: youth marched all the way to London from Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea and Deal demanding the right to jobs. Today the YS is continuing to lead the fight.

Letter from YS Nation

All out for school leavers campaign



Dear Comrades,

I have just returned from Scotland where industry is worst hit by the economic crisis, and over 100,000 workers are now out of jobs.

In GREENOCK, Scott Lithgow's shipyards have just cancelled two massive oil tankers valued at £30m, due to the slump in world trade. With the memory of the Upper-Clyde shipyard closures in their minds, the yard's apprentices know that their jobs are not safe.

CAMBUSLANG, outside Glasgow faces being turned into what one YS member called a 'ghost area'. The Clydebridge steel works, where some YS members are employed, have shut down furnaces and must turn to sackings or short-time as a way out of the crisis.

Sacked

The Hoover factory there has closed its twilight shift and sacked hundreds of housewives who work there to try and make ends meet.

'What chance have the school leavers got', said a YS member from nearby BLANTYRE.

'We have a huge industrial estate here and not a job free on it.' The area has already tasted

unemployment through large-scale closures in the coal industry.

Scotland's unemployment black spot, DUNDEE, has lost over 40,000 jobs in twenty years. There is one major factory still open — National Cash Registers: they have just announced 860 redundancies.

The sackings and closures are not limited to Scotland or other 'depressed' areas.

Over 1,500 school leavers in the 'boom' town, Swindon, are chasing eight jobs. Even Surrey and Devon have no jobs for their school-leavers.

Skilled

Thousands of skilled workers are now joining the dole queues for the first time. Of the 950,969 registered jobless, about 15 per cent are skilled men who have served apprenticeships and learned their trade.

The unemployment is caused by the world economic slump. Production is falling in every major capitalist country.

The cutbacks in basic industries such as steel, ship-building, and mining means that capitalism is plunging towards economic disaster.

National Secretary big leavers



There is only one answer to unemployment in Britain, Europe or the United States — where it is now ten million. The working class must take over and nationalize the industries. Every penny must be expropriated and no compensation given to the old capitalist owners.

Power

This means the working class has to take power and smash the capitalist state and abolish private ownership. Workers and youth in the trade unions and on the dole queues all face massive struggles to defend their jobs and wages. The Young Socialists must prepare a leadership in these struggles for the working class to take power — the Workers Revolutionary Party. The YS is the biggest political youth movement in Britain. We organize social activities — discos, football, coach outings, swimming, sports — in every area and our meetings are attended by many sections of youth. We say to all our members — the most important thing is to prepare for the struggles ahead. As a member at one branch meeting in

Scotland said: 'The Young Socialists is not just for discos and football. This is affecting our future lives.' Every Young Socialist must fight to make himself or herself a leader in the revolutionary struggles of the working class.

- This means:
- fighting to understand the nature of the capitalist crisis; reading the 'Workers Press' and Keep Left;
 - taking up a study of the Marxist theory of knowledge as our guide to action;
 - turning out into all layers of young people to build the mass youth movement, and prepare them for the great struggles they face to defend their jobs and living standards.

Attention

We must pay special attention to the 559,000 youth leaving school this summer. They will be hit hardest by the crisis. We have produced special leaflets for the school-leavers recruitment campaign. Every branch should cover all the major schools to win these youth in the battle for socialism.

Simon Pirani,
National Secretary.

INTERVIEWS
BY
JULIAN LEACH

WHILE giving out the new Young Socialists school leavers leaflet outside Lintons Lane girls school in Epsom, Surrey I met Loraine Price and her friend Linda Collins.

When I said that there would be thousands of young people out of work this summer, Loraine interrupted me. 'I know', she said. 'I'm one of them.'

Loraine (16) continued: 'I have left school and I haven't got a job. I have been trying to get one since I left.'

'I have been all the way to Kingston and Sutton to get work.'

'I've tried shop work — baby-minding — different things.'

'I know quite a few people that have left and haven't been able to get jobs — it's bloody disgraceful.'

'The thing is there just isn't any money going — anywhere.'

'I think this Labour government are terrible.'

Linda joined in, 'Harold Wilson said he wanted out of the Common Market —

School leavers speak out

'There just isn't any money going anywhere'

when he was voted in he told us to stay put.

'All these governments say one thing before they get in and another thing after.'

'They say that when they are elected the prices will go down but in fact they go sky high.'

'I agree with some of what you say — I'm against the Common Market.'

'I'm leaving school this summer but all the jobs I want need qualifications that I can't get.'

'They all need shorthand and typing and we don't do them at our school.'

'To get a job like that I'd have to go to college or evening classes and it would take so long.'

'It's daft really — even if

you pass your exams you've forgotten it the next day — it's all right if you've got a photographic memory.'

'To get a decent job I'll have to stay on. I don't know what I'm going to do yet.'

A student from the Brixton college of Further Education told me.

'It is very difficult for me to get a job at the moment. I have been to ten interviews.'

'They just say sorry the job has gone.'

'I have been looking for about one month. The careers officers have told me it is going to be very difficult for me to get the job I want in accountancy or other office work.'



Loraine Price and Linda Collins

**Attention all
YS branches!
Make sure you
have your copies
of the YS school
leavers leaflet**

Available from YS
186a Clapham High Street
SW4 7UG
or telephone 01-622 7029

London Careers Officer says no information but admits

Youth will find 'difficulties' getting jobs this year

KEEP LEFT this week visited Careers Offices in London attempting to find out the jobs situation for school leavers throughout the area this summer.

Information was not forthcoming. When we were finally put on to a District Careers Officer for North London we asked how many vacancies existed for youth leaving school and just how many young people were coming to them looking for jobs. The lady was, to say the least, discouraging.

CO I think it would be

misleading to give these figures out at the moment even if I had them, which I don't.

KL Why is that? Surely comparing this year's and last year's figures would give a fair indication of the general trend?

Different

CO Every year is different. Employers may be taking longer to notify us this year. The leavers may be going for different kinds of jobs this year — more secure jobs that

take longer to reply to applications.

KL If Swindon and other parts of the country can give us figures for vacancies and leavers why can't you?

CO Young people in London are more mobile than in rural areas. They may be going outside their own district to find work.

KL Why can't we get figures for London as a whole then?

CO We cannot really say what the position is for some time; not until at least a month when the school

leavers officially come on to the job market. You should ask us in September when we will have a clearer picture. I can say that it is going to be more difficult for them to get jobs this year, they will have to go to more interviews. They will have to think wider and look further.

Shortages

There are certain shortages. There is a lower turnover of staff and firms are cutting back generally.

I can't really help you much more than that.



Australian YS launch monthly paper

THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS are proud and confident with the launching of *Young Socialist* the first Trotskyist youth paper in this country. This, the first edition of the monthly *Young Socialist* marks a great step forward for youth

involved in the struggle to defend their basic rights and to fight for a socialist future for mankind.

We draw great strength from the Young Socialists in Britain and America who publish regular youth papers and use these papers as the major weapon in building an international movement of revolutionary youth.

International

The Australian Young Socialists is part of the International Trotskyist youth movement and our paper will follow the tradition set by other youth sections of the International Committee of the Fourth International. It will be part of the preparation of Australian youth to participate in the International Congress of revolutionary youth in Britain this November.

Young Socialist will be taken into shopping centres, factories, schools, universities and anywhere working class youth gather, to open up amongst young people the fullest possible discussion on the capitalist crisis and the attacks now being made on youth.

Crisis

We will publish regular feature articles on problems affecting youth. At the top of the list for future issues will be the questions of youth unemployment, the effects of the crisis on students, apprentices and young workers and the appalling lack of youth facilities in major working class districts. Accompanying these articles will be interviews with youth involved in these situations.

We will be reporting on developments in the struggles of youth in other countries the YS is an international movement and our comrades in other parts of the world fight side by side with us for a socialist future.

Young Socialist will contain film and record reviews, letters from branches and individuals and reportage on local issues and campaigns being carried out by YS branches.

Readers will be able to turn to the section of the paper that outlines details of YS meetings and activities and know immediately just what they can participate in.

The central role of *Young Socialist* in immediate issues will be to mobilize hundreds of youth in the YS Right to Work campaign and the State Conferences, both to be held in July. We will be reporting discussion from YS branches on the draft main resolution and on specific issues affecting youth as the world slump reaches its most critical stage ever.

Expand

We call on all who read and buy *Young Socialist* to join us on the revolutionary road. We call on you to fight with us to build a big, strong, determined movement in Australia by participating in the activities of the YS, by joining our branches, by recruiting hundreds of new members, by setting up new branches and by expanding the distribution of *Young Socialist* to every corner of the continent.

AUSTRALIAN Young Socialists have this week launched the first monthly edition of their own paper, *Young Socialist*.

The Young Socialists in Britain send their warmest fraternal greetings and congratulations to the Australian YS on this magnificent achievement.

The publication of the Australian YS monthly paper marks a new and important stage in the preparation for the founding of the revolutionary Youth International in London in November this year.

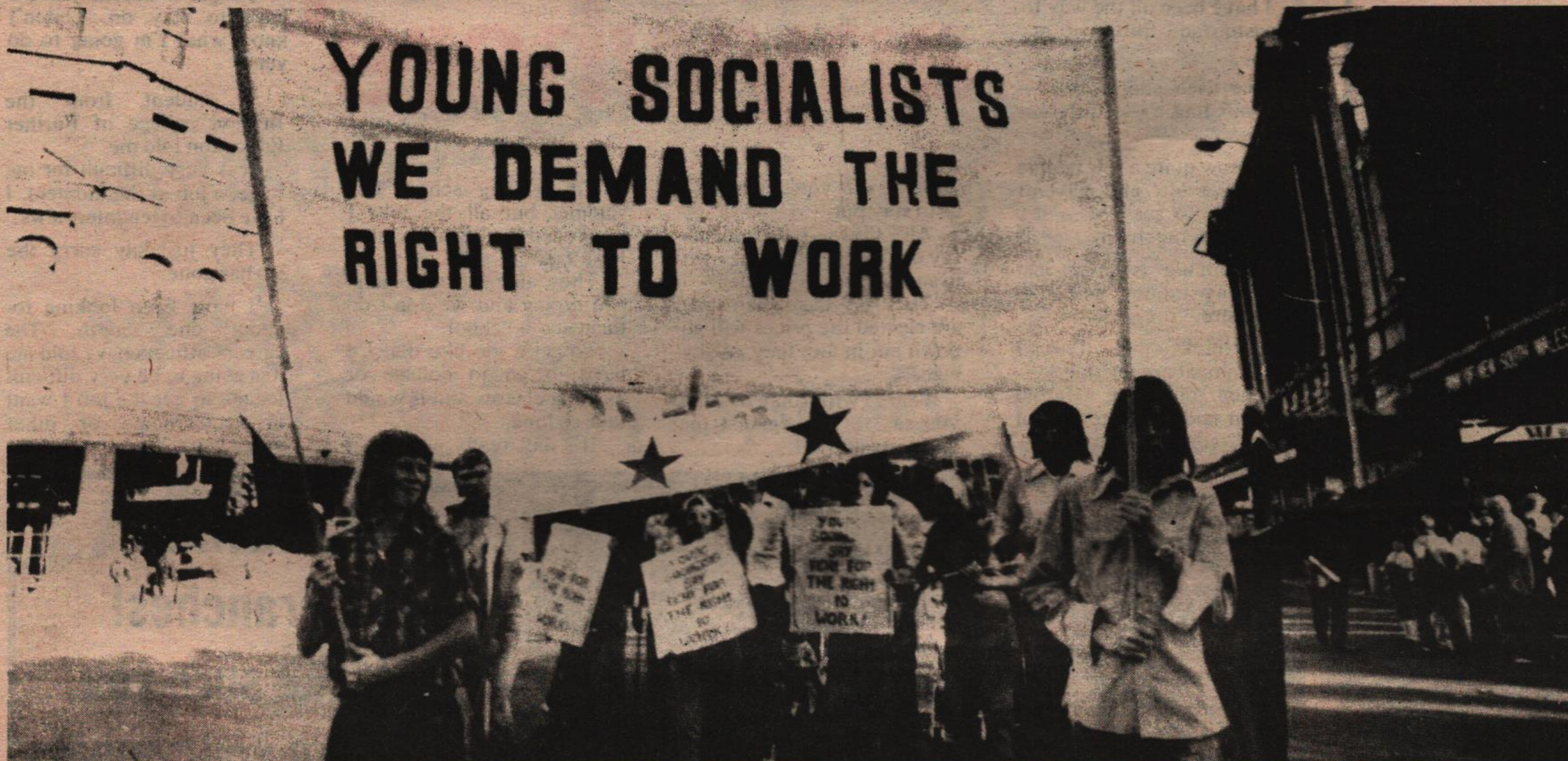
At the centre of the Australian YS campaign is the fight against growing unemployment which is affecting thousands of youth throughout Australia.

In the coming months the YS is preparing for a series of state conferences throughout the country campaigning for the right to work.

Here Keep Left reprints the statement from the first edition of the *Young Socialist* on the future of the paper and a number of interviews with leading members of the Australian YS on the fight to build the revolutionary youth movement.



First monthly edition of *Young Socialist* paper of the Australian YS



YS in Australia march on May Day this year

Youth speak out

REPRINTED FROM *YOUNG SOCIALIST*, MONTHLY PAPER OF AUSTRALIAN YS

YOUNG SOCIALIST spoke with a number of youth from the Young Socialists on the importance of the Young Socialists State Conferences and the right to work campaign.



Kathy Butler

● KATHY BUTLER, YS national organizer said:

'The importance of the Conference comes from the period in which it is taking place. There is massive slump affecting every single capitalist country in the world. We're seeing huge attacks on the rights and living standards of the working class.

Youth are bearing the brunt of these attacks. Just look at Australia. The

majority of unemployed are youth — school leavers in particular have felt the effects of this crisis.'

● *YOUNG SOCIALIST*: What do you see as the tasks facing youth?

'If we look at Portugal, Vietnam and Greece, we see that youth are in the forefront of fighting the onslaught of the capitalist class. The victories brought about by these youth are a great inspiration to the Young Socialists in Australia.

'Following the example of the struggle of youth internationally the YS in Australia must immediately turn all its attention to recruiting, educating and preparing youth for the struggles ahead.

'So our task now is to really go all out and build the state conferences in July. We must use these conferences as a giant stepping stone towards constructing a mass revolutionary youth movement.'

● What then is your message to youth?

'All YS members and supporters must immediately start signing youth up for the conferences and rallies. All YS branches must open up, in the broadest layers of youth, discussion on questions

outlined in the main conference resolution and prepare amendments to that resolution.

'We must turn our attention to the issues affecting youth in their areas. We must recruit in the shopping centres, at schools and techs and at youth gatherings the largest number of young people to our fight.'

'Every single issue affecting youth must now be discussed in the YS branches.'



Jack Westerhoff

● JACK WESTERHOFF is a member of the Young Socialist National Executive and secretary of Green Valley YS.

When *Young Socialist* spoke to Jack about the state conference and the Right to Work Campaign he had this to say:

'The conference and Right to Work Campaign are vital

in building a mass revolutionary youth movement. It's really important that we mobilize youth and get them to fight for their rights and their future. There's no other way that we are going to have a decent life.

'There's nothing more demoralizing than standing on the end of a dole queue that stretches for about a block. It is impossible to try and live on £21.20 a week and attempt to run a car or enjoy a decent social life.'

'In the process of building the Green Valley YS branch I come across lots of youth and most of them are unemployed. They simply can't do the things they did before the slump.'

'The Green Valley branch will be gearing itself towards building the conference and the rallies and will be fighting to go over the top of the \$8,000 (nearly £5,000 building fund).

'It is very important that all branches take up the gauntlet and do the same.'

● TONY POLAND is a member of the Young Socialists National Executive. He is secretary of the Fairfield branch. He told *Young Socialist*:

'My branch will be holding fortnightly discos to recruit new members for the state conference and right to



Tony Poland

work rallies. Another way of getting members, will be by charging \$1.00 (60p) to the disco — 90c for the disco ticket and 10c for membership cards.

'We will be having pool, snooker, ping-pong and records at our weekly meetings to make the YS as attractive to youth as possible.'

'We will be holding a lot of discussions about the conference and drawing up amendments to the main resolution particularly on issues affecting youth in our area.'

'The \$8,000 fund is being discussed at our meetings and we'll be fighting to raise lots of money at meetings and when we're selling *Young Socialist*. Also we will be making our socials as big and profitable as we can.'

'Fairfield YS is confident that we can play a big role in building a mass Young Socialists.'



If you want to fight — join the YS!

Youth dissatisfied



DUE to the frustrating lack of teachers and poor teaching conditions, boys and girls no longer want to stay in school and learn.

They bunk off school and form gangs — they sometimes go round slashing things and people.

There was an incident outside Hackney Downs Boys School recently where boys were being chased and beaten up.

Now I think that if boys and girls want to fight, they should join the Young Socialists and help fight the capitalists and help build the revolutionary leadership now.

R. King, Clapton YS.

SINCE I joined the Young Socialists a few months ago, I have noticed a startling influx of youth into the YS.

The economic crisis seems to really be hitting home with prices and jobs.

When I talk to them they are incredibly dissatisfied with the system of this corrupt, capitalist country and how can you blame them?

Only the other day I was listening to one of the Parliamentary broadcasts on the radio and all the MPs seemed to do was hurl abuse at

one another, with a few unintelligible grunts coming from the back of the House.

This, to me, just strengthens my belief that this system of government is totally corrupt and useless.

The youth of today have to fight and struggle to defeat this corrupt, capitalist-run government. All youth who read this paper should fight this government by building the YS and the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Mick Snelgrove, Romford YS

KEEP LEFT

Crisis — a thing of the present

COMRADES we were constantly warned of the crisis. We were warned against it in the weekly Keep Left.

This is no longer a thing of the future — it is something of the present, it is happening now.

The pound is collapsing and in a few weeks will only be worth the paper it is printed on.

The capitalist papers say that only one out of every five school leavers will find a job. Since my last exam two weeks ago I have been looking around for a job.

I declined a job for which I was offered £15 a week, the only one I managed to get.

All you school leavers, I tell you, will find no jobs whatsoever, even if you have some 'O' levels, they are useless.

So build the YS and build it fast.

S. Gerome, Wembley YS

Letter of the week

Jobs crisis in the Midlands

- Only 58 jobs for 615 school leavers
- 70 applicants for one job

I AM writing to inform you of a crisis point here in the Midlands.

I know of this crisis because I myself am part of it. As you may know here in the Midlands we have just over 90,000 people unemployed.

Well here is another story for you.

I live in Coventry and about 10 to 15 miles away is Atherstone and Cloeshill. This summer 615 youth leave school and the Employment Office and Careers Centre have only 58 jobs for them.

This in fact means that 557 youth face a life of sheer hell on the dole.

County Councillor Derek Forwood said: 'We are very concerned about the situation. The feeling is so strong that we have decided to lobby our MPs and have asked Nuneaton and Bedworth to join us.'

He had learned that there were more than 70 applicants for one job as a receptionist.

The Coal Board have interviewed 400 youth for just 50 apprenticeships and there will be no vacancies for engineering apprenticeships.

This is really awful to think that those places are cutting back on jobs to spite themselves. I think it is about time the Labour Party pulled its fingers out and nationalized these places.

I interviewed one

youth outside the dole last week.

Roy Overton (16) has been on the dole since February and receives £8.60 unemployment benefit.

He has to give his parents £6 per week and also has to pay £1 per week to the court.

Roy says that he cannot cope on £1.60 per week. He is now a member of the Young Socialists and helps to sell papers and recruit members.

Kevin, Secretary, Stoke YS, (unemployed).

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.

What's on where

COACH TRIPS

South London and Southern Region YS
Outing to MARGATE
Sunday July 6

DANCE
in the evening to C&B sounds at the Crypt, Brixton.
Tickets £1.30 — coaches from all areas.

North London YS
Outing to CUFFLEY
Sunday July 6

Football & Bar-b-que
DANCE
in the evening at Goff's Oak Village Hall, Herts.
Tickets £1 — coaches from all areas.

West Midlands YS
Outing to SKEGNESS
Sunday July 6

Tickets £1.50 — coaches from Birmingham and Coventry.

South Wales YS
Outing to PORTHCAWL
Sunday July 27

Tickets £1.20 — coaches leaving 8 a.m. from all branches.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL RALLIES

EAST LONDON YS

Football tournament, tennis, cricket, netball and other sports.
Sunday July 20
Kick-off 3 p.m.
Rainsford School Chelmsford
RALLY AND DANCE
in the evening

KENT REGION YS

Sunday July 20
Kick-off 3 p.m.

Stour Centre Ashford

RALLY AND DANCE
in the evening

REGIONAL SPORTS DAYS

NORTH LONDON YS
Sunday July 27

New River Sports Centre White Hart Lane N22
DISCO
in the evening at Wood Green youth club

Southall, Middlesex
DISCO
in the evening at Southall Co-op Hall

SOUTH LONDON YS
Sunday July 27

Tooting Common Sports Track Tooting, SW17
DISCO
in the evening at The Foresters Arms Mitcham Road, SW17

WEST LONDON YS
Sunday July 27

Spikesbridge Park

SWIMMING GALA

EASTERN REGION YS
Sunday July 27
Starts 6.30 p.m.
Cambridge Leys

School Leachfield Road Cambridge
DISCO afterwards

For more details about all events ring 01-622 7029.

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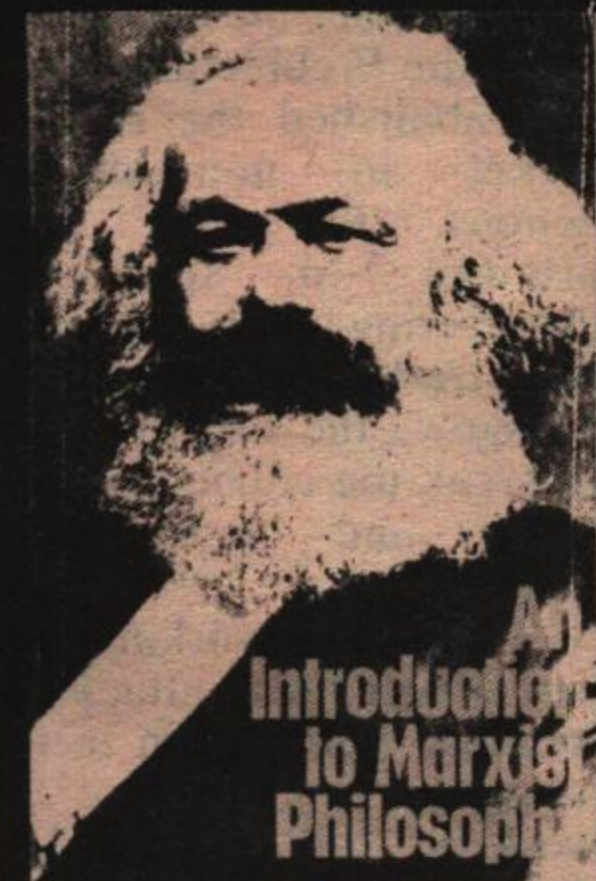
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'An Introduction to Marxist Philosophy'

Every Young Socialist branch should order copies, read and discuss this newly-published Keep Left pamphlet by Peter Jeffries, explaining the basic principles of dialectical materialism



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Shrewsbury Two Action Committee Conference gives overwhelming pledge to

Continue campaign to free jailed pickets

CONTINUE the fight for the release of the Shrewsbury Two pickets by a General Strike action.

This was the message from the 1,000-strong conference held by the Shrewsbury Two Action Committee last Sunday.

Delegates from all industries packed the conference held in the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

Delegates from building sites, hospitals, the car industry, the docks, steel and the mines all emphasized that the defence of basic rights is inseparable from the building of the new revolutionary leadership—the Workers Revolutionary Party and the All Trades Unions Alliance.

Mike Farley, Wigan building worker and secretary of the Shrewsbury Two Action Committee, who led two marches, from Wigan to London and from Hull to Liverpool for the release of the Two, appealed to the whole conference:

Fight

'We are saying to you all—now is the time to fight. Inflation is out of control; unemployment is soaring over the million mark; laws are being re-enacted every day to smash the working class.'

He listed the legal attacks—the continued use of the 'anti-terror' laws, now jailings under the conspiracy laws, the Prebble judgement that abolished the right to picket in non-industrial actions, the high court attempt to split the engineering union, the jailing of trade unionists in Glasgow, the use of troops to break the council drivers' strike and many other examples.

'We say the working class can smash these attacks on its basic rights. Join in this struggle to mobilize all workers. Join the Workers Revolutionary Party today.'

Exposure

In his opening address Farley gave a detailed exposure of the role played by the Communist Party, the International Socialists and the IMG in opposing the fight for the independent mobilization of the working class.

They had allied themselves with the bureaucracy in the Labour Party and the TUC and had led all manner of protests to divert attention from the campaign by the Shrewsbury Two Action Committee for a General Strike.

'But it is only mass action of the kind that released the Pentonville Five that can release the Shrewsbury Two—the Stalinists know this.'

'But a struggle of this nature would expose the TUC, the trade union bureaucracy and the Labour government. This is what the Communist Party wants to avoid at all costs.'

'The Shrewsbury Two issue is now the concern of the whole working class.'

'We say organize now before it is too late. I appeal to you all in this hall to take the decision to fight.'

Greetings from the Workers Revolutionary Party were brought to the



Mike Farley

conference by General Secretary Gerry Healy.

He said that the party would continue to throw all its weight behind the Shrewsbury campaign. This was a revolutionary task of the highest order.



Gerry Healy

Cde. Healy began by warning of the momentous struggles that lay immediately ahead of the working class.

He said that the government was involved in a conspiracy to launch the biggest ever attacks against the living standards of working men and women.

'We say here today that the Shrewsbury Two remain in jail because this imprisonment is part of that conspiracy.'

'We are on the verge of the collapse of the living standards of the working class.'

'While this is going on the TUC scurry from one meeting to another negotiating, not how to maintain living standards, but how to cut them still further.'

Upheaval

The working class were moving forward, said Cde. Healy. Throughout the labour movement there was complete upheaval.

The action to remove right-wing coalitionists like Reg Prentice, the demand of the Yorkshire miners that the MPs they sponsor should represent their interests, the question of the control of the Press by journalists are 'how the English revolution is developing in the womb of the old forms'.

'It now comes forward out of a series of demands that cannot be satisfied.'

The demand for



Part of the 1,000-strong conference in Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel

parliamentary representation is one of these demands. All MPs were expected to conform to one basic character of parliament—the defence of private property.

Different

'Therefore if you are asking for a parliament to represent the interests of the working class against the interests of the capitalist state, you are asking for a completely different kind of state. You are asking for the dictatorship of the proletariat.'

'The Shrewsbury Two languish in jail not because the working class do not have the strength to get them out but because the trade union movement is staffed by cowards and traitors.'

'We say that we will remove this rotten old leadership. We will put in its place in every factory and trade union, in every committee and in every trade union branch, workers trained in Marxism by the Workers Revolutionary Party... and we will not be defeated.'

Joe Jenkins, Vauxhall Motors, Ellesmere Port had been present at the prosecutions against the building workers at Mold and Shrewsbury courts.

Whenever the question of a General Strike had been raised it had been opposed by the Communist Party and the trade union bureaucrats.

It was denounced as sectarian, he said.

'But I would remind you that it was Trotsky who said that our enemies will always call us sectarians—and the Bolsheviks were always "sectarian" to their enemies because they were enemies of the working class. Let us not forget the lessons of the Russian Revolution.'

Terry McKay a UCATT member from Yorkshire, said that he had fought on the UCATT Yorkshire regional conference to bring up a resolution on the Shrewsbury Two but had been blocked consistently by the bureaucracy.

Forget

'There is no doubt at all that the leadership of my union is happy to forget these men and let them serve their time,' he said.

A London building worker spoke of the role played by the International Socialist group in opposing the campaign of the Shrewsbury Two Action Committee

Although in their paper they stated support for the march, their members, like

the convenor of a building site visited in North London, refused support because the march was 'sectarian'.

'This is a paper unity designed specifically to confuse and drive back the working class,' he pointed out.

The conference ended with a magnificent collection of over £170.

The resolution passed overwhelmingly by the conference demanded:

- Free Warren and Tomlinson by General Strike action.

- Demand the 'left' MPs, who support the pickets, vote against the Wilson government over the continued jailings and the austerity measures in the coming Budget.

- Kick out the traitors in the trade union leadership who refuse to fight to mobilize their membership in strike action.

- Scrap the judiciary—disband the standing army and police.

- Expose Stalinism and revisionism.

- Build the Workers Revolutionary Party, and its industrial section, the All Trades Unions Alliance, to lead the struggle to smash the capitalist state and repeal all anti-working class laws.

**KEEP LEFT
£200
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COMRADES, our fund total last month was £201.86. This was a magnificent fight as we raised over £70 in just a few days.

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Money enclosed