



ORGAN OF THE WEMBLEY LABOUR LEAGUES OF YOUTH

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REPORT ON L.L.O.Y. ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 15th - 16th 1952. BUTLIN'S HOLIDAY CAMP FILEY

The Empire Theatre at Butlin's Holiday Camp at Filey has staged many kinds of shows in its time, but surely our L.L.O.Y. Conference reached heights of pathos and humour that have never been reached before and are never likely to be reached again.

The Conference was opened by the Chairman of the N.C.C. (Alf Morris) welcoming delegates from all over the country, giving a special greeting to Comrades from overseas who came as visitors. They had an opportunity of seeing the talent that we could produce and it was agreed, in our usual manner (it left us a bit short, but who cares) that the two best speeches were those made by the two Wembley delegates.

It became obvious during discussion on the National Consultative Committee's Report that the N.C.C. could only recommend to the N.E.C. of the Labour Party, and that the decisions arrived at, at last year's Conference, could only be implemented if the N.E.C. thought fit. This important factor was brought to light when Ted Barrow of Wimbledon stated that the N.C.C. had done very little in regard to the Resolutions passed last year, and Cde. Benton of the N.C.C. pointed out the difficulties under which they had been working. Conference felt so strongly on this matter, however, that it referred back the section of the N.C.C. report "Arising from the 1951 Conference". Conference also referred back the section "European Youth Campaign and World Assembly of Youth", at the same time passing the Wembley South Emergency Resolution "That the League of Youth should sever all connections with the European Youth Campaign."

REPORT ON L.L.O.Y. ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Cont)

Briefly the following decisions were taken by Conference. The L.L.O.Y. age limits should stay as they are. The Wembley North resolution on League of Youth National Conference became part of a composite resolution. Conference was unanimous in its decision to hold Conference at either, Easter or Whitsun, away from the frivolous atmosphere of a Butlin's Holiday Camp. This was illustrated by a reminder that at one stage a brass band was parading up and down outside, and made it extremely difficult to hear the speaker. (Anyway it does not look as though Butlin's will have us again so that's one problem less that the N.E.C. will have to worry about) It passed resolutions stating that the Conference should allow discussion on Youth problems, and policy affecting youth. The composite resolution on Representation at Labour Party Annual Conference and on the N.E.C. was remitted to the N.C.C. who stated that they supported it. A resolution re League Federation machinery was passed - with a view to putting the League on a democratic basis. The resolution on the National Membership Campaign was carried. Conference agreed that Policy Study Group Reports were an excellent idea and that one of the subjects to be studied at the next Conference should be "Youth's attitude towards War".

Conference passed with approval a resolution supporting the N.A.T.S.O.P.A. and Book Binders' Unions at L.C. Thomson. It also passed a resolution supporting the three Surrey Federation Comrades who were arrested by the police while speaking in a recognised public meeting place.

Amongst those present were fraternal delegates from British Federation of Young Co-operators, N.A.S.O., and I.U.S.Y., and conference greeted with acclamation Comrades from Belgium, when they joined the meeting.

The 100 delegates stood and sang the Red Flag and the Internationale and made one mad dash to go and hear Bevan and so ended yet another Conference for yet another year, forgotten until we tried to write this report.

CORA MORRIS
Wembley North

GORDON POYNER
Wembley South.

FINANCE

It may interest readers to know just how much the cost of publishing "Keep Left" has increased since that day in November 1950 when we first burst forth. The cost of both paper and stencils has steadily increased; paper from 8/6d. to £1. and stencils from 6d. to 1/-d. and in view of this we had no alternative but to increase the price of your paper. The two Leagues did subsidise it, as well as running a gramophone recital in the hope that we would not again have to increase the cost.

A word of thanks to all our supporters and to those Comrades who have continuously given 2d, 3d, or more for their "Keep Left."

EDITOR

"BACK TO THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS"Socialists Denounce Waste and Futility of War.

I have been asked to write about Russia. In these days of mounting war hysteria that is equivalent to being asked to play with an atom bomb.

Unfortunately today it is almost impossible to view the U.S.S.R. objectively and dispassionately. That is the tragedy at which we have arrived.

One has to write about Reds and tyrants, or one is dismissed as a Communist, or "fellow traveller". A pity, and I think a disaster for Socialists.

To write about Russia means in the eyes of the rulers of Britain and America, to write about the prospects of a third world war.

As I believe an atomic war might well prove the grave of Social Democracy in Europe - the destruction of the last hopes of a peaceful and rational re-ordering of social injustices - I plead at this eleventh hour, when the sound of the bombs on the Yalu, have hardly died away, for a return to our old Socialist beliefs in the futility and wastefulness of war.

Let us get back to the faith of our fathers.

There is nothing new in the critical economic situation, and the re-armament panic, which convulses Britain and Europe today. Thirty two years ago, as now, a devastated Europe and shaken Britain were recovering painfully from the destruction of a world war - a war to end war. Today the bombs are more deadly, and the war planes faster. That is all.

Thirty two years ago, H. G. Wells, who did much to shape Socialist thought in this country, was writing his "Outline of History". In his chapter on "The Catastrophe of 1914" he describes the starving people and blasted cities of Europe. A bankrupt Europe, with its peoples' pockets rustling with paper money, whose purchasing power dwindled as they walked about.

Shades of today's inflationary crisis, and ever rising cost of living.

Wells describes, too, how at that moment in a well-lit room at the United Services Institute in Whitehall a "brass hat" was lecturing on the next war. Wells writes. - "He was of the opinion - we follow the report in the next morning's Times, that we were merely on the eve of the most extensive modifications of the art of war ever known. It behoved us therefore, us being, the British, and not the whole of mankind, to get on with our armaments, and

BACK TO THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS (Cont)

"To keep ahead" "It was necessary to develop new arms, The nation which best did so would have a great advantage in the next war. There were people who were crying aloud for a reduction of armaments -----" (But there the Director of Trench Warfare and Supplies was wrong. They were just crying at the Cenotaph, poor, soft stupid souls, because a son, or a brother or a father was dead).

"Poor, stupid, souls". It may be unfashionable in these days of bi-partisan foreign policies, but I believe it is the duty of the Labour and Socialists movement to protect the interests of such people.

If we are to protect the interests of the masses, who are slaughtered in war- think of the Korean people and their devastated country today - we must strive to think clearly. We must attempt to keep cool heads, and not be carried away by the blasts of propaganda from either side of the Iron Curtain.

Socialists have always believed that - whoever gains from war it is not the ordinary people of any country. That is still true.

Is it too late for the two power blocs in the world to agree to disagree? Is it too late for them to work out in peace while engaged in the mutual trade which is essential to world happiness - which of the two systems- Stalinism or private enterprise can best answer the desires of men?

Perhaps reason will once again fail- perhaps there will be many more Hiroshima's and Nagasaki's- but Socialists surely can never subscribe to the view that the atom bomb and NUCLEAR are the way to social justice.

"They who take the sword shall perish by the sword" The customs of Empires from Rome to the Third Reich prove that the Old Book was nearer to the heart of Socialist belief than many of the re-armament propagandists among the new thinkers in our Party today.

Let us get back to the faith of our fathers

FRED DOAN
TOKYNGTON WARD

WILL OUR READERS KINDLY NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN ISSUE OF "KEEP LEFT" NEXT MONTH (AUGUST) THIS BEING A HOLIDAY PERIOD. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE SEPTEMBER - PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW SO THAT "KEEP LEFT" CAN KEEP GOING!!!

RITA'S COLUMN.

Butlin's Holiday Camp at Filey was the scene for this year's Labour Rally and what a Rally!! One of the largest Holiday camps in England Filey is set on the Yorkshire Coast with beautiful sands and a charming little bay. (Yes I get 10% on all bookings so roll 'em in!).

Four of our good (hm!) friends went for the week, Cora, Betty, Ron and Monty and although they've said little about the meetings and conference, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves - we bet they did! They managed to make a report on the Conference though which surprised us greatly knowing holiday camps and these particular friends and you will be able to read this on pages 1 & 2.

Members of the League who went to the last Rally in 1949 will well remember what went on within and outside the boundary of the Camp. Moonlight bathing on the private beach at 2.a.m., was nothing and as for - - - - hm! better not - thought better of it. Anyway I tried all one evening to get some gen from the 'gang' on the meetings and the like but they didn't seem to know anything about such mundane things as meetings. I tried a new approach when enquiring about the social side of things, but this was worse they responded with secretive looks at one another and a few giggles (nothing new). I'm not sure but I believe Betty even had something in her hand resembling a gun which she kept digging into Monty everytime he so much as dared to open his mouth. So Readers, (if there are any) the hoped-for inside story of "What happened at Butlins when Wembley North and South Leaguers were let loose" just has'nt materialised. We will have to leave it to your imagination - and what imaginations some of you have got!

July seems to be the month for holidays and I expect you are all dashing around getting last-minute things to go away with, at least I am but then I seem to be a last-minute kind of person. The weather so far has been set fair and let's hope it continues. Wembley South are hoping for fine weather for their Children's Sport's day on Saturday. This is a grand day for everyone held every year and the grown-ups I am sure enjoy themselves as much, if not more, than the children taking part. There are usually plenty of side-shows at which you can try your luck and lose your money, but who can say you might be lucky.

To return to Filey again.: You may be wondering why there is no mention of Gordon, Wembley South's official delegate to Conference. Well it's really quite simple. The Editor just said that we couldn't print that kind of thing in this column. She should know, she, remember, was at Filey too.

Overheard at Filey.....

"Send him to Siberia"

"Why Siberia? Send him to Butlin's instead."

Good news! We are not publishing an August edition as we feel that you need a holiday. See you in September!

LEFT AND RIGHT.

The difference of opinion between those who support the principles of the late Attlee Government and those who are solidly behind Aneurin Bevan in his approach to world problems were described by a Labour speaker at a recent Town Hall meeting as "healthy" (loud applause from the assembled Labour supporters). We must, however, face the fact that, from the practical point of view, differences on such vital issues are not at all healthy - they constitute a considerable menace to the election prospects of our Party.

The thing we need most of all is solidarity at all levels. The dissension within the Party must be resolved, democratically and speedily. We have seen from the Borough Council Election results that after seven short (or should it be "long") months of Tory administration, the people have had enough. We all hope that we shall have a General Election before long. But can the Party face the country again as divided and uncertain of its programme as it was last October? We may be sure that the Tories will continue to make much capital out of the rift in Labour ranks - what a gift for Churchill, Russell and Bullis.

I happen to be an ardent admirer of Nye Bevan, but above all I am anxious to see Labour back in power. Surely that is the wish of us all? Let us therefore maintain our unity in local and national politics, because without unity we could easily lose elections that might otherwise be won. Without it we could see the return of a Labour Government doomed to short life - which would be an eventuality most damaging to the standing of the Party with the electorate. We must remember that we are firstly Socialists, and only secondly "Attleesites" or "Bevanites".

Our ideals may prove pretty poor comfort if the Tories retain power, or if the next General Election is indecisive - and I think we should bear this in mind as we enter what is likely to be an eventful political period. Let us KEEP LEFT, but in matters of sheer expediency let us Keep Together.

Derek Maynard - Sudbury Court Ward.

Editor - Miss C Morris

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The articles are the personal opinions of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the Editorial Board.
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