

ALL CHANGE FOR MORECAMBE

by *The Editor*

FEBRUARY 27 and 28 are days which will live long in the memory of Britain's Young Socialists.

The Fifth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists will meet at Morecambe, in Lancashire, under the auspices of the majority of the National Committee elected at last year's Brighton Conference.

This will be a week-end of hard-hitting discussion, decision and enjoyment. For the first time in the history of the Young Socialists a national conference will take place, organised and prepared by young people themselves.

This is an all youth conference where hundreds of teenagers and Young Socialists in their early 20s will take decisions of vital importance not only for youth but for the future of the

labour movement.

Morecambe itself is a most enjoyable seaside resort, situated on the south-east tip of Morecambe bay, which is sheltered by the Lakeland mountain range.

The conference will take place in the Winter Gardens which holds well over 1,000 people.

Top-line Band

On the Saturday evening there will be a dance with a top line band and a free buffet, hospitably provided by the Mayor and Corporation. Hot meals at reasonable prices will be available in premises adjacent to the conference hall.

Lists of accommodation at reasonable prices are already circulating in Young Socialists branches. All delegates and

visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome.

In the past eight weeks, Young Socialist branches have been discussing and preparing resolutions for the conference. At the time of going to press there are over 100 resolutions on the agenda.

These are not the product of armchair discussion but of intense activity carried out by a movement which has been in the forefront of all the struggles in Britain during the past year.

Here are a few of the highlights of 1964.

The most successful demonstration and lobby against youth unemployment on February 11. After that, on to our Brighton Conference, at Easter, where we won a resounding political victory against the right wing

Mods and Rockers

Whilst we gathered at Brighton, Mods and Rockers at other seaside resorts were being pushed around and beaten up by the police. The Young Socialists was the only youth organisation to protest against such harsh treatment and savage sentences.

All through the summer the Young Socialists waged an all-out struggle against the witch-hunters who bureaucratically expelled the democratically elected majority of our National Committee.

Then came the great build-up for the national anti-Tory demonstration on September 27, where 4,000 people gathered in Trafalgar Square, after a march

through the West End, to resolve to prevent, at all costs, a Tory victory.

Immediately afterwards, into battle in the pre-election campaign for a Labour victory, only to have our hopes dashed by disappointment at the small
Continued on page 5, column 5



Dave Ashby, chairman of the National Committee Majority, who will chair the conference.



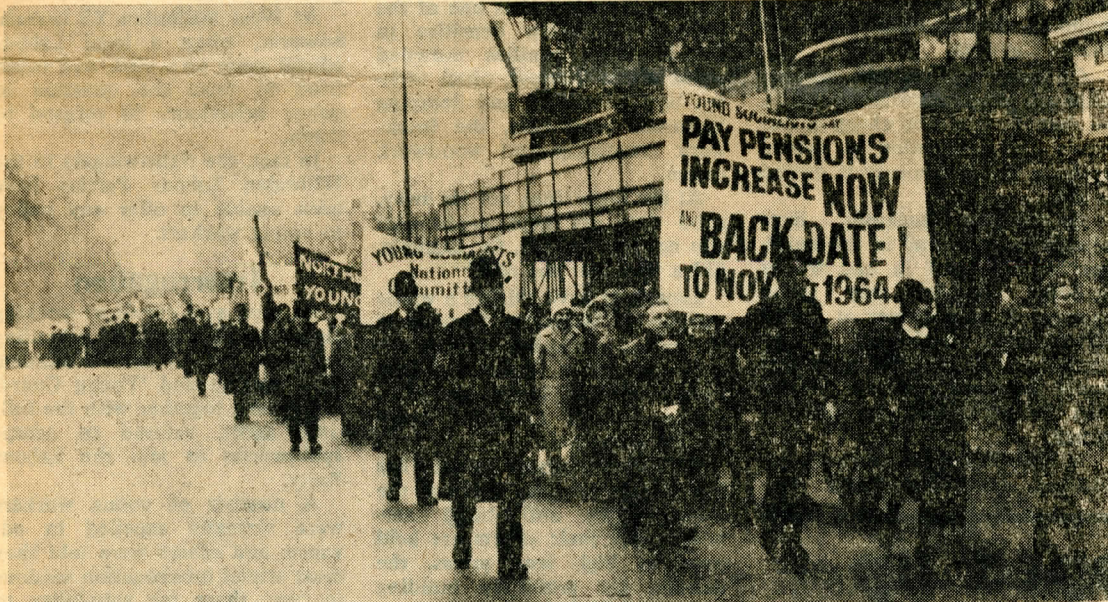
Sheila Torrance, vice-chairman of the National Committee Majority, who will be one of the many speakers.

Keep LEFT

the paper for socialist youth

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Conference resolutions reviewed
Page 4

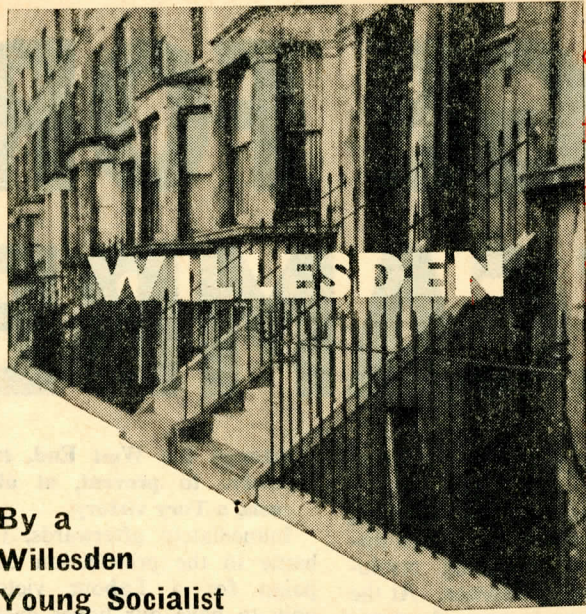


Young Socialists and old age pensioners lobby Parliament

Old age pensioners (right) march beneath the banner of the National Committee Majority at the head of a 1,000-strong demonstration (see above) before lobbying Parliament, on February 4. This is the lobby that Len Williams, general secretary of the Labour Party, condemned as 'irresponsible'. But who is irresponsible? Those who lose a by-election at Leyton through lack of policy or those workers fighting around the socialist policies of Keep Left and the Young Socialists? To call the lobby 'irresponsible' is to hide the fact that the Labour government is consistently betraying the working class to the monopolists.



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By a
Willesden
Young Socialist

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This is 'life' in NW London



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Unlike Merseyside or the North-east, it does not face periods of unemployment and some people regard this as a 'prosperous' area. But young workers in Willesden would like to see a bit of this 'prosperity'.

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When supporters of the London District Action Committee leafleted one engineering factory recently, some apprentices alleged they had been warned not to speak to them.

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Not only young engineering workers are fed up with being exploited as cheap labour.

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12-hour day

The firm with the worst reputation in the area deals with paper.

'It's the first place they send you if you go to the Youth Employment Bureau,' several youths told our reporter.

Two brothers aged 15 and 17 were attracted by an advert put in the local paper by the firm. But when they arrived, they were told that to get the full 5s. rate, they must work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with only half an hour at lunch time.

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work is heavy, shifting large bales of paper and loading lorries.

There are, in fact, a whole number of backstreet 'sweatshop' firms in Willesden working in with bigger firms and relying mainly on the exploitation of school leavers, young immigrant workers and women workers.

The only way for Willesden workers to win a better position in industry is to organise—and that must mean all youth, immigrant and white—and to join the unions, not just to pay subs, but to get a real fight going against the bosses.

Many Willesden youth start out early from home for work on building sites in London and the Home Counties.

On many building jobs, apprentices are expected to be labourers, so that the firm gets cheap labour while the apprentice is denied training and a labourer is denied a job.

On-the-spot sackings have always been normal in the building industry and in bad winter building workers may spend months in dole queues at Lisson Grove and Harlesden Labour Exchanges, despite the work that could be done repairing Willesden houses which are left to decay.

In fact Willesden workers, including, ironically, many who

have been employed on luxury jobs like the famous Hilton Hotel, return home to some of the worst housing in the country. About half the privately rented property, around 12,000 houses, is listed officially as 'unsuitable'.

As well as the grim terraces of workers' houses, known to all industrial towns, Willesden's most common housing is old Victorian dwellings let off into flats and rooms and crowded to the full.

High population

Carlton Ward, along the Paddington boundary, has one of the highest population densities in Britain with families crowded about six to a house, often without baths, in damp and decaying Victorian tenements, the brickwork crumbling and woodwork rotten.

At the same time, not far away, good flats are kept vacant—all you need to have is, for example, £12 a week for the rent!

Landlords have evicted a whole number of Willesden families in the course of raising rents in the area, and about 40 families have entered Redhill Lodge, the Middlesex County Council's lodge for the homeless.

Willesden's Labour Council has been trying to clear some of the worst slums and build new homes, but their efforts are held back by high land prices, the demand for profit by building firms, and high interest rates on loans, so that council housing schemes are a drop in the ocean of a 5,000-long waiting list.

Housing

New slums are being created by the landlords far faster than the council can build new houses.

Although the right-wing Labour councillors blamed the Tories for the high interest rates and rent increases, they refused a demand from the tenants that they campaign against Tory housing and finance policies.

The result of the right-wing policy can be seen in Kilburn where a tall block of flats was opened last year to re-house people from nearby streets that were being demolished.

The block remained partly empty as many of the people could not afford the rents, and had to go looking for rooms elsewhere.

Facilities for youth are not as bad in Willesden as in some other places, but they are lacking nevertheless. Harlesden and Stonebridge are particularly 'dead' areas, where most of the

cafes shut in the evenings, leaving just the pubs and two or three youth clubs, mainly connected with the church.

Last summer, when East Willesden YS held a dance, a group of CID men from the notorious Harrow Road estate arrived as people were about to leave and shoved their way past the youth.

At West Willesden YS branch, however, when a local Labour official came on a visit, and youth tried to raise the question of police behaviour, he refused to listen.

In fact, the right-wingers in the Willesden Labour Parties have been unable to offer any policy to young workers.

Interrogation

As soon as a crowd of working class youth started attending meetings at West Willesden, right-wingers and 'Young Guard' supporters, together with the full-time agent, refused to accept applications to join the Labour Party.

A number of young workers were virtually expelled in advance, and others were told they must attend interrogation sessions to 'vet' them for suitability to join.

In these circumstances, these young workers, who have been participating in all the YS demonstrations and campaigns which the right-wingers and 'Young Guard' supporters never took part in, decided to set up a Young Socialists branch of their own.

In the General Election, Willesden workers threw out a Tory MP in East Willesden, and increased the Labour majority in West Willesden to 10,000.

Determined

This was a vote aimed at changing things in the area, but so far the Labour government has increased the cost of living, refused to raise pensions and launched a wage freeze policy.

So, as under the Tories, the bankers and the employers determine policy. We are working for the same bosses; our housing problem is being maintained by the same profiteers. We are being pushed around by the same police.

But we are determined to make Willesden a stronghold for a big YS movement.

Press campaign whipped up against Gorbals youth

AGAINST a background of crumbling tenements and poor working conditions, young people in the Gorbals, Glasgow, frustrated by their derelict living conditions and lack of money, are coming more and more into conflict with the police.

Incidents have been blown up to an enormous extent by the local press into a vicious campaign to paint the working-class youth as hooligans in order to discredit them in the eyes of adult workers.

These same young people are forced to work in small back street sweat-shops, many of them having only the minimum safety regulations and the very worst working conditions.

In one factory, which employs just over 50 young workers, lads work 40 hours a week for less than £5.

The job consists of breaking up materials into small strips and tying them into bags weighing up to two hundredweights each.

Keep Left Reporter

A youth was injured when a bale fell on top of him, as it was being carried up a steep, narrow staircase.

Toilet conditions are so bad most of the workers refuse to use them, and there is no adequate heating.

Union officials only appear to collect the dues, they never stop to discuss the bad conditions with young workers.

Sweat-shop bosses gain their strong position because of the high youth unemployment in the area.

If there are any complaints, all those involved could be sacked, because there is still a large supply of cheap labour provided by unemployed lads desperate for work.

Often the jobs involve carrying heavy loads, causing serious back injuries. If boys fall ill on the job the boss may sack them, in

which case dole money is suspended 'due to industrial misconduct'.

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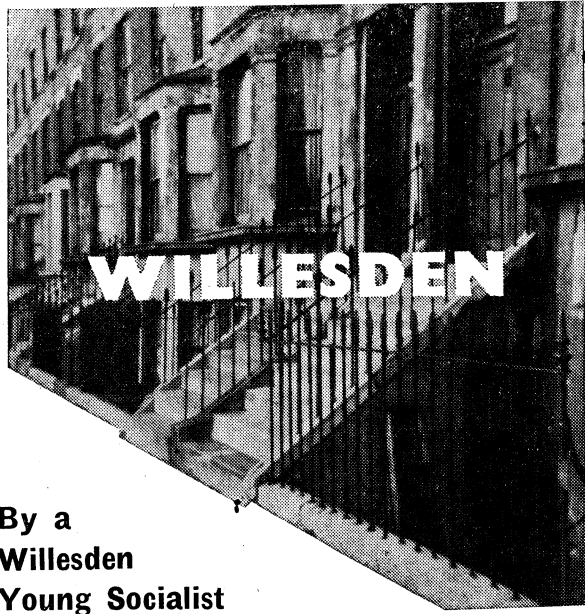
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The only time that any real action was taken on the appalling conditions was when the Young Socialists helped the Oaklands Tenants to organise a campaign against the landlords.

This action resulted in a flurry of activity from local officials, who wished to keep the facts about the area quiet.

The Young Socialists are organising a branch in the Gorbals and a delegation is being prepared to confront Alice Cu"en Labour MP for the district on the old age pensioners question and bad housing, at the first opportunity.

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Wilson's '100 days' have produced nothing for Young and Old workers

By Mike Hughes, Chairman, Manchester DAC

ANY apprentices, or for that matter, any other workers who were under the impression that Harold Wilson's much-vaunted first '100 Days' were going to lay the basis for an increase in their standard of living must now be disappointed.

Wilson's refusal to pay the pensions increase until the end of March is a clear indication of the way in which the Labour government gives in to the bankers' demands that the workers pay for the economic crisis.

The way in which the Young Socialists are campaigning in the labour movement to force the government to make a stand against the banks and fulfil its election pledges contains important lessons for the apprentices movement.

It is clear that the only way to win concessions and raise our standard of living is by working to build a disciplined movement from the factory floor to national level which will fight consistently to unite all workers in an onslaught against the bosses and their agents in the labour movement.

Wilson attacks the unorganised sections, the defenceless sections, the old people first and it could be our turn next.

This shows the important role which we in the apprentices movement can play. By organising in this manner and by carrying the fight into all sections of the working class, we can give the lead to the thousands of workers who are being thrown into struggle, not merely to improve their living standards but to maintain them against the rocketing increases in the cost of living.

We in Manchester fully support the Young Socialists Conference in February for it is the Young Socialists who have shown that only by fighting for unity of the working class, of employed with unemployed, of youth with the old age pensioners, can we make any advances.

We support the dockers, busmen, railwaymen and all other groups of workers fighting to improve their conditions, and we in turn must struggle to obtain their support for our demands. Only by employing such methods will we, as apprentices and young workers, be able to win our struggle.

We call upon all apprentices and young workers throughout the country to attend the Young Socialists Conference and to give their support to the Young Socialists policies. Policies which have proved to be the only ones capable of bringing us victory.

BECAUSE a lot of apprentices live out of the city, the Leeds Direct Action Committee decided that the best place for mass meetings would be in the engineering college, which is attended by 5,000 apprentices and young workers.

A representative of the DAC went along to an executive committee meeting of the Students' Union, which gave unanimous approval to the aims of the DAC and promised the fullest support for any meeting in the college called by the DAC.

The approval of the vice-principal was obtained for the meeting to be held one lunch-time in the main hall of the college and the booking was made with the Education Committee.

Leaflets and speakers were prepared and everything pointed to the meeting being a great success.

Then, on the day before the meeting, a letter, delivered by a special messenger, reached one of the Committee.

The letter was from the Chief Education Officer in Leeds, informing the DAC that the hall was 'no longer available' and, if there was any query, it had to be taken up with the Principal of the College.

College campaign

exposes exploitation

By S. Jackson, Leeds DAC

At the college a spokesman said the DAC could not have the hall, because they were not officially recognised by the Amalgamated Engineering Union. He went on to say that the AEU, Labour Party or any other official body could use the hall . . . but not the DAC.

(The fact that several union officials and engineering employers were on the board of governors, was probably a reason for banning the meeting.)

As apprentices were on day release, the spokesman added, they were, from the employers' point of view, an investment in the future, so the DAC should not be allowed to agitate during time paid for by the employers (during the lunch break?).

This plainly shows the contradiction in the capitalist system. Apprentices are not human

THE Belfast Apprentices and Young Workers' Direct Action Committee is strengthening its preparations for the March 29 national strike and the winning of the apprentices demands.

A two-page duplicated bulletin, 'Young Workers', outlining the progress of the campaign has been issued by the Committee, which explains the lessons of the disastrous Stalinist-led November 2 strike and also features an article on the Young Socialists campaign on behalf of the old age pensioners.

After the Direct Action Committee declared its support for the February 4 lobby, apprentices in various factories have been taking collections and demanding

Keep Left Reporter

that the shop stewards' committees assist in sending delegates.

The economic crisis in Britain has had swift repercussions in Northern Ireland. In Short Bros. and Harland, the Belfast aircraft factory in which the British government is a majority shareholder, the security of the 7,000 workers has been jeopardised by the possible cancellation of the TSR2.

Shorts are at present doing sub-contract work on the VC-10 for the British Aircraft Corporation. This will obviously be withdrawn if the orders for the TSR2 are cancelled.

The Belfast Apprentices' and

Young Workers' Direct Action Committee in a statement, which received wide press coverage, called upon the Labour government to nationalize the aircraft and armaments industry.

Sirocco Works, the large engineering factory of Davidson and Sons in Belfast, has for years made huge profits while apprentices have worked for low rates.

FIGHTING BACK

The apprentices' committee in the firm has been fighting back and they called a strike on January 20 in support of increased bonuses. They are demanding a merit bonus of £1 per week for a 3rd year apprentice; 30s. for 4th year and £2 for 5th year.

The strike was 100 per cent, greatest support coming from the 1st and 2nd year apprentices who would not gain immediately from any increases.

Sirocco's management was forced to give negotiating rights to the apprentices' committee. They even had talks with the youths' representatives while they were out on strike.

After assurances had been given that an increased offer would be made, the apprentices returned to work on the following Monday. But they were determined to take action again if they didn't get satisfaction.

Another success for an apprentices' committee in winning negotiating rights with the management was achieved at the ICT factory at Castlereagh, Belfast.

This firm is notorious for its dislike of trade unions and its swift recognition of the apprentices' committee along with the granting of a pay rise can only be an attempt to placate the apprentices.

The management obviously recognise the apprentices' strength and their support of the March 29 strike call and are trying to 'buy them off'.

The apprentices in both Sirocco Works and ICT must not be allowed to pull out of the Direct Action Committee. Only a real fight for a national organisation can win anything worthwhile for apprentices.

college, the DAC representative then saw the Students' Union Executive Committee and asked them to honour their promised support by calling a meeting in the college hall and inviting DAC speakers along.

But their courage failed at this point and they excused themselves by saying they had been formed for *only* a year and were not strong enough to stand up to authorities.

Young Socialists and DAC members will find this very strange. After having been formed for only a week or two, many YS branches and apprentices' committees have had to stand up and fight the police, church, press, unions, Labour Party and pressure from parents and employers.

DAC members have been threatened with the sack and expulsion from the unions.

Young Socialists and apprentices' committees have never backed down or looked for a compromise. They have gone from strength to strength in the course of struggle with all other tendencies.

Leeds DAC refuse to let their recent setback discourage them. Even if meetings have to be held in the most inconvenient places, they will be held and the DAC will continue to grow.

beings, but some kind of sacred investment by the capitalists in the future of capitalism, just like stocks and shares!

Even at lunch time apprentices should not be allowed to hear speeches or attend meetings which may influence them into organising together and demanding a small increase in their pitance.

As a parting piece the college spokesman said to the DAC representative that in the apprentices' struggle he was 'neutral'.

But the actions of the authorities show clearly that in any struggle of the working class, there can be no neutrality. If you do not stand and fight on the side of the working class, then you must be fighting for the capitalists and bosses against the workers.

Following the visit to the

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A representative of the DAC went along to an executive committee meeting of the Students' Union, which gave unanimous approval to the aims of the DAC and promised the fullest support for any meeting in the college called by the DAC.

The approval of the vice-principal was obtained for the meeting to be held one lunch-time in the main hall of the college and the booking was made with the Education Committee.

Leaflets and speakers were prepared and everything pointed to the meeting being a great success.

Then, on the day before the meeting, a letter, delivered by a special messenger, reached one of the Committee.

The letter was from the Chief Education Officer in Leeds, informing the DAC that the hall was 'no longer available' and, if there was any query, it had to be taken up with the Principal of the College.

College campaign

exposes exploitation

By S. Jackson, Leeds DAC

At the college a spokesman said the DAC could not have the hall, because they were not officially recognised by the Amalgamated Engineering Union. He went on to say that the AEU, Labour Party or any other official body could use the hall... but not the DAC.

(The fact that several union officials and engineering employers were on the board of governors, was probably a reason for banning the meeting.)

As apprentices were on day release, the spokesman added, they were, from the employers' point of view, an investment in the future, so the DAC should not be allowed to agitate during time paid for by the employers (during the lunch break?).

This plainly shows the contradiction in the capitalist system. Apprentices are not human

THE Belfast Apprentices and Young Workers' Direct Action Committee is strengthening its preparations for the March 29 national strike and the winning of the apprentices demands.

A two-page duplicated bulletin, 'Young Workers', outlining the progress of the campaign has been issued by the Committee, which explains the lessons of the disastrous Stalinist-led November 2 strike and also features an article on the Young Socialists campaign on behalf of the old age pensioners.

After the Direct Action Committee declared its support for the February 4 lobby, apprentices in various factories have been taking collections and demanding

Keep Left Reporter

that the shop stewards' committees assist in sending delegates.

The economic crisis in Britain has had swift repercussions in Northern Ireland. In Short Bros. and Harland, the Belfast aircraft factory in which the British government is a majority shareholder, the security of the 7,000 workers has been jeopardised by the possible cancellation of the TSR2.

Shorts are at present doing sub-contract work on the VC-10 for the British Aircraft Corporation. This will obviously be withdrawn if the orders for the TSR2 are cancelled.

The Belfast Apprentices' and

college, the DAC representative then saw the Students' Union Executive Committee and asked them to honour their promised support by calling a meeting in the college hall and inviting DAC speakers along.

But their courage failed at this point and they excused themselves by saying they had been formed for *only* a year and were not strong enough to stand up to authorities.

Young Socialists and DAC members will find this very strange. After having been formed for only a week or two, many YS branches and apprentices' committees have had to stand up and fight the police, church, press, unions, Labour Party and pressure from parents and employers.

DAC members have been threatened with the sack and expulsion from the unions.

Young Socialists and apprentices' committees have never backed down or looked for a compromise. They have gone from strength to strength in the course of struggle with all other tendencies.

Leeds DAC refuse to let their recent setback discourage them. Even if meetings have to be held in the most inconvenient places, they will be held and the DAC will continue to grow.

Young Workers' Direct Action Committee in a statement, which received wide press coverage, called upon the Labour government to nationalize the aircraft and armaments industry.

Sirocco Works, the large engineering factory of Davidson and Sons in Belfast, has for years made huge profits while apprentices have worked for low rates.

FIGHTING BACK

The apprentices' committee in the firm has been fighting back and they called a strike on January 20 in support of increased bonuses. They are demanding a merit bonus of £1 per week for a 3rd year apprentice; 30s. for 4th year and £2 for 5th year.

The strike was 100 per cent, greatest support coming from the 1st and 2nd year apprentices who would not gain immediately from any increases.

Sirocco's management was forced to give negotiating rights to the apprentices' committee. They even had talks with the youths' representatives while they were out on strike.

After assurances had been given that an increased offer would be made, the apprentices returned to work on the following Monday. But they were determined to take action again if they didn't get satisfaction.

Another success for an apprentices' committee in winning negotiating rights with the management was achieved at the ICT factory at Castlereagh, Belfast.

This firm is notorious for its dislike of trade unions and its swift recognition of the apprentices' committee along with the granting of a pay rise can only be an attempt to placate the apprentices.

The management obviously recognise the apprentices' strength and their support of the March 29 strike call and are trying to 'buy them off'.

The apprentices in both Sirocco Works and ICT must not be allowed to pull out of the Direct Action Committee. Only a real fight for a national organisation can win anything worthwhile for apprentices.

Apprentice News

Belfast DAC issues bulletin

KEEP LEFT

THE PAPER FOR SOCIALIST YOUTH
156 Lambeth Road, London, S.E.1

ON this page we publish a letter from Comrades Gavin Kennedy and Roger Protz on the Mani case. This is a welcome contribution to an issue which is of paramount importance to Young Socialists.

We are sure, and these comrades would agree, that the main aim of capitalist politicians and the press over 1964 was to denounce youth as hooligans in order to deliberately create a division within the ranks of the working class.

Surely it is clear that the savage sentences on Mods and Rockers after Easter 1964 reflected the class hostility of a degenerate capitalist society against the youth. Small wonder therefore that the agents of capitalism in the labour movement, the Transport House gang, did their very best constantly during 1964 to attack the youth on the grounds of hooliganism.

If we start with this class approach then the issue of Wandsworth becomes clear. Transport House called the police to deal with a peaceful lobby of Young Socialists against the disbanding of Streatham Young Socialists on June 21, 1964, but Mr. Gordon Walker and Transport House refused to prosecute or call the police when the supporter of Hitler, Colin Jordan, broke up Gordon Walker's meeting. Even the 'Daily Mirror' protested that Transport House and Gordon Walker did nothing about Jordan.

Right from the June incident we have had a number of right-wing constituency parties call in the police against the Young Socialists.

Wandsworth was only one of a fairly long list. In other words, the right wing of the Labour Party do the dirty work for the capitalists and Tories in their hostility towards the youth.

Mr. S. Mani supported the right wing in this conspiracy against young people. If we really understand what happened at Wandsworth, then the reservations of Comrades Kennedy and Protz can be reasonably explained. They should study very carefully the strategy and policy of the capitalists in relation to the youth. Then they will see that their criticisms of Keep Left are groundless.

We, long ago, decided to fight the capitalists and the Tories as the main enemies. However, this requires a struggle against the right wing and their agents, who propagate the same kind of lies and slander against youth.

We hope, therefore, that these comrades will think again and understand that what happened at Wandsworth was not due to Keep Left, but to the policies of the Tories against youth which the right wing of the Labour Party are only too pleased to carry out.

Mr. S. Mani is a discredited Young Socialist. If he has any sense of responsibility left in him towards the Young Socialists he will immediately correct his most serious mistakes in a proper and principled way.

LETTER

Dear Comrade,

The statement by S. Mani, inserted in the January issue of 'Militant', is a disservice to truth and the labour movement. As supporters of 'Militant', we must regretfully but forcibly disassociate ourselves from the statement.

Let us make it clear that we consider the activities of Keep Left supporters in Wandsworth Central YS to have been deliberately provocative, to have invited expulsion and to have placed the members of the branch in an untenable position.

It was nevertheless wrong of S. Mani to have allowed himself to be provoked and to have acquiesced in a situation which involved the threat of expulsion and the disgraceful use of the police.

He should not have voted for the expulsions; he should have made every endeavour to defeat such a move and, at the very least, called for a postponement of the motion for expulsion so that the YS branch could have attempted to reach agreement with the three members in question.

S. Mani's statement refers in passing to a wishy-washy remark allegedly made by the YS branch executive, to the effect that they could handle their own affairs

without interference by the police. But nowhere does he make any comment on the action by the party agent in calling in the police.

This silence is disgraceful and we, for our part, unhesitatingly condemn the use of the police to aid the machinations of the right wing.

Equally disgraceful is his labelling of Keep Left supporters as 'agents of the right wing'. It is not so very long since Marxists were labelled in a similar fashion by Stalinists and it is unworthy of any self-confessed Marxist to descend to such a level.

We call upon the editorial board of Militant to immediately join us in disassociating themselves from the statement made by S. Mani and to call upon him to make every effort in Wandsworth YS to reopen the question of the expulsions and to examine what steps can be taken to speedily reinstate the three expelled members.

At the same time we seriously suggest that Keep Left reconsiders its present attitude to the Young Socialists, which is provocative and dangerous and will seriously weaken the struggle for socialist policies.

Roger Protz
and Gavin Kennedy

'I AM very proud to shake hands with the Young Socialists; what I have seen today has made me very proud and happy.'

These were the words of an old age pensioner at the end of a momentous day for the labour movement when Young Socialists, trade unionists, students, teachers, apprentices and old age pensioners walked side by side through the streets of London to lobby MPs and demand the immediate increase in old age pensions, backdated to November 1.

Thursday, February 4, 1965, was the day Young Socialists had worked for during the past few months.

Visiting trade union branches, building sites, factories, working men's clubs and old people's homes they had urged maximum support for the campaign.

Earlier, the National Committee Majority of the Young Socialists had organised a demonstration through Brighton at the time of the Labour Party Conference.

Firm policy

What a contrast they presented to the sham speeches of the Labour leaders on the question of raising the pensions.

Not for the Young Socialists vague speeches, but a firm socialist policy of nationalization of the banks to make the Tories and the monopolists pay for the pensions increase.

Here was Labour youth's answer to the Leyton and Nuneaton election fiasco.

Everyone knows that at Leyton the working class turned their backs on the Labour leadership because it has no policy for improving the conditions for old and young workers.

For the Young Socialists Leyton and Nuneaton proved that the old age pensioners' increase is a political question and that the Labour government must implement socialist policies if it is going to have the support of the working class.

Hide unity

The capitalist press remained silent on this 1,000-strong demonstration in a conspiracy against the youth and the old age pensioners.

Like the Labour leaders, who go hand in glove with the capitalist class, they want to hide the fact that young and old can unite in a common fight around socialist principles.

Behind the huge white banner with the slogan 'Young Socialists say . . . PAY PENSIONS INCREASE NOW . . . AND BACKDATE TO NOV. 1 1964', were the red banners of Young Socialist branches from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the North-east, North-west, Midlands and London and the South.

Carrying posters the marchers made their way along Oxford

Young and old for socialist

by Keep Left reporters

Street and Kingsway to the Embankment.

Old people from Yorkshire and Liverpool had spent many hours travelling down to the lobby by coach. Twenty Young Socialists from N. Ireland had travelled by aeroplane from Belfast overnight.

Representing workers from all over Britain were miners from Yorkshire, dockers from Liverpool, transport workers, engineers from ENV, London, a delegate from Tynemouth busmen, Mrs. Joyce Wilson, and young girls from the Anchor Mills at Paisley.

Building workers on a Wimpey site in the centre of London stopped work and many joined the march and the lobby.

In the weeks before the lobby

many trade union branches, district committees, Labour Party Wards, trades councils and university students sent in messages of support and donations for the lobby.

Angry demands

Whilst Young Socialists chanted 'Raise the Old Age Pensions Now—Nationalize the banks', Keep Left reporters interviewed some of the elderly people on the march.

Many complained that they could not manage to get through the week on their income of about £3 10s.

At the lobby in the Houses of Parliament, old age pensioners angrily demanded to know from MPs the reasons why their pen-

sions could not be immediately and not be backdated. 'Some of us receive our income through the cold angry exclamationer.

Many were interviewed by Labour MPs who avoided giving answers that he would receive the pensions in the first h

hundred people lobby. Others that they were several were seen House. Minister Miss Margaret receive a deputa

Labour MP contempt for old people.

MORECAMBE — a

THE Morecambe Conference of Young Socialists on February 27 and 28 will mark a great step forward in the building of a mass socialist youth movement as an alternative leadership to the right wing.

This is shown by the large number of resolutions which have been sent to National Chairman Dave Ashby from Young Socialists branches all over the country.

In sharp contrast to the Labour government's attacks on the working class, Young Socialists are seriously analysing the problems facing youth and preparing a real socialist programme to fight on.

The growing danger of racialism, encouraged by Gordon Walker's refusal to fight it at Smethwick and Leyton, is recognised in a large number of resolutions. Just as the government has announced a tightening of the immigration laws, the Young Socialists branches are calling for the immediate repeal of the Immigration Act.

Coventry, Hillfields YS state that unemployment and rotten housing are caused not by the coloured immigrant but by capitalism which organises production for profits and splits the working class on racialist lines.

Farnworth YS point out how the German ruling class used



Delegates at last year's conference in Brighton at Easter

racialism in the 1930s during an economic crisis and prepared the way for Hitler's rise to power.

The sale of Buccaneer aircraft to South Africa, say Streatham YS, gives encouragement to racialism.

Among many resolutions calling for the backdating of the old age pensions increase is one from Leasowe and Moreton YS which demands the nationalization of the banks.

The important role that Keep Left has played in the struggle against the witch-hunt and leading the successful Young Socialist campaigns is recognised in resolutions from branches call-

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Delegates at last year's conference in Brighton at Easter, voted for the policies of Keep Left.

and old workers unite socialist policies

MORECAMBE
From page 1

majority.

However, the Young Socialists more than anyone else understood that this was due to the right-wing policies of the Party leadership.

Young people expressed their disappointment and disgust at the increase in the cost of living and the plight of the old age pensioners in a demonstration outside the Brighton conference of the Labour Party early in December. This culminated in a magnificently organised Lobby of Parliament for the old age pensioners on February 4.

Truly we can say that it has been a record year of activity, achievement and policy making for youth. The delegates who will propose and discuss the resolutions at the conference are already veterans in the struggle for socialism.

Endorse strike

A special feature on the agenda will be the organisation of a campaign to win improved wages and working conditions for the apprentices.

The conference will undoubtedly endorse the national strike action of apprentices for March 29. It is confidently expected that there will be a large delegation of apprentices who are members of the YS present from all the main industrial centres.

Delegates will discuss ways and means to popularise the cause of the apprentices and to assist in the building up of a reserve fund of cash to help the strike to victory.

Young people are rightly indignant about the slowness with which the official trade union leadership take up the case of the apprentices.

The plain fact is that the big monopoly employers are getting away with murder at the expense of youth. Our conference will demand an end to this state of affairs.

A big feature of the conference will be the launching of a national campaign to recruit thousands more members into the Young Socialists, building many more branches and organising Federations.

Book now

Every Young Socialist who wants to prove that youth can be the greatest force for Labour will have every opportunity to get into the fight.

If you have not yet booked up for Morecambe either as a delegate or a visitor, please drop a line enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to the Chairman, Dave Ashby, 9 Chestnut Avenue, Leeds, 6.

He will then let you know the point from which local transport will be leaving. Delegates and visitors who travel together will be able to do so at less expense than if they went by train.

The Editorial Board of Keep Left wishes the Morecambe Conference every success. Our March issue will contain a full report of all the discussion and decisions that were taken.

knew had died because she could not get enough coal.

Peter Kerrigan, a member of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers said that dock workers, like the pensioners, faced terrible conditions on a very low income.

National Committee Majority member for the Scottish Region, Bob Hamilton, said of the forthcoming Young Socialists conference in Morecambe:

'This is going to be the most representative conference delegation from Scotland Young Socialists ever.'

'This has been built up on socialist policies—nationalization of the banks, nationalization of all major industries.'

'This is the only way we can give the old age pensioners decent pensions. Only the Young Socialists have fought for the implementation of these policies.'

Busmen's support

A Tynemouth bus conductress Mrs. Joyce Wilson expressed her solidarity with the fight of the old age pensioners. She pledged the support of bus workers in North Shields whom, she said, would go right along with the fight.

Editor of Keep Left, Aileen Jennings, stated that the correctness of the position held by those Young Socialists around Keep Left had been shown during the lobby.

'This afternoon we had the spectacle of Labour MPs not being able to answer a single question about the increase.'

'In the same way that the Labour leadership is content to let old people spend their old age with a mere pittance each week, they show their contempt for the youth.'

'That is why today you have united in action, old age pensioners and young people.'

Keep Left had fought for socialist policies that would solve the problems of the old age pensioners.

Apprentice backing

Chairman of the Manchester Apprentices Direct Action Committee, Mike Hughes, said that a national committee meeting of the apprentices movement had voted to support the lobby.

He urged a fight on the policies of the Young Socialists to get a decent standard of living.

Bill Dow, former Parliamentary candidate for Paddington South, expressed his support for the lobby and the fight of the Young Socialists.

A really tremendous collection of £107 contributed to by old and young workers proved that the lobby has marked only the beginning of a united fight for socialist policies.

Labour youth movement that is giving the leadership in the fight of the British working class.

Opening the meeting, chairman Dave Ashby said that the lobby was a tremendously significant event in the history of the Young Socialists and the labour movement in Britain.

'Was it the Young Socialists who were responsible for the Leyton by-election? It is in fact the Labour leaders who are driving workers away from the Labour Party at the moment.'

Ashby said the pensions campaign must be continued to unite all sections of workers.

As a representative of old age pensioners on the Merseyside, a pensioner stated: 'There can be no conciliation between the working class and the employing class.'

He related the many hardships shared by himself and other pensioners. One woman he

sions could not be increased immediately and why they could not be backdated.

'Some of us may not live through the cold until March to receive our increase,' was the angry exclamation of one pensioner.

Many were kept waiting for hours by Labour MPs. Others were interviewed only to find that their MP continuously avoided giving any real assurances that he would fight to get the pensions increase backdated.

In the first hour only three MPs came out to see the several hundred people waiting in the lobby. Others made the excuse that they were too busy and several were seen to leave the House. Minister of Pensions, Miss Margaret Herbison did not receive a deputation.

Labour MPs showed utter contempt for the plight of old people.

Several hundred Young Socialists were never even allowed into the House to lobby. Police kept them outside in the cold in a long queue, continually trying to provoke an incident with the youth.

Exposed before the adult workers and the old age pensioners on the lobby was the fact that both the right wing, the fake-lefts and the leadership in the Labour government are completely unable to face up to a fight with the monopolists to give the pensioners an increase.

Leadership

One MP poo-pooed the idea of nationalization of the banks as an answer to the crisis.

But at the meeting in the evening at the Central Hall, Westminster, the Young Socialists speaking from the platform were able to show that it is the

that the statements made at the Brighton Conference of Young Socialists last Easter have been proven correct. The Young Socialists said then that the Labour Party could not carry out its promises to the workers.

The Labour government has tried merely to solve the problems of big business. Only the Young Socialists have campaigned on socialist policies. The resolution calls for the building of a mass Young Socialists through turning out to thousands of youth and adult workers with our policies.

The importance of international working-class solidarity is stressed by Aberdeen South YS who demand the immediate withdrawal from NATO and the bringing home of all British troops.

Calls for the nationalization of the building industry, land, building societies and insurance companies come from Maghull YS and Gorbals YS.

Other resolutions deal with the struggles of the dockers and miners, facilities for youth and the building of the Young Socialists, public schools, drugs, and partition of Ireland.

As Wilson viciously attacks pensioners, dockers, aircraft workers and other sections of the working class, the Young Socialists are building a mass movement conscious of the need to smash capitalism.

ers

union branches, committees, Labour trades councils and students sent in mes- support and donations

demands

Young Socialists raise the Old Age Law—Nationalize the Left reporters some of the elderly march.

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by in the Houses of old age pensioners and to know from sons why their pen-

MORECAMBE — a big step forward



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important role that Keep played in the struggle witch-hunt and lead- lessful Young Social- is recognised in from branches call-

ing upon conference to adopt Keep Left as the official paper of the Young Socialists.

North Kensington YS calls upon all branches to give full support to Keep Left.

Many resolutions deal with police violence and oppose conscription.

Acton YS recognise the relation between attacks on the Negro workers in the United States, the use of the United Nations in suppressing workers in underdeveloped countries and police attacks on Mods and Rockers.

Headington YS see police violence as an attempt to discipline youth in preparation for

scription.

The conference will be asked to support the call for a national apprentice strike on March 29. Wandsworth Central YS ask for the mobilisation of the whole Young Socialist movement and the support of all trade unionists to prevent victimisation.

Opposition to all attempts at wage freezing comes from Washwood Heath. Leicester South West YS say that the only way to solve the economic crisis is by making the Tories pay through nationalizing the major industries.

A most important resolution comes from Holborn and St. Pancras South YS. It recalls

BOOK REVIEW

YEARS OFF MY LIFE

By A. A. Gorbatov

Constable 25s.

THESE memoirs of General Gorbatov, a veteran Red Army commander are, quite frankly, disappointing, coming as they do after that trenchant novel 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich'.

Too much space is taken up with matters of little moment — childhood reminiscences, youthful anecdotes — and too little with matters of serious military concern, despite the fact that the author has been soldiering continuously since 1912.

Enlisted

After the dissolution of the Imperial Army of the Czar, Gorbatov returned, like millions of others, to the land, but later enlisted in the Red Army when the Civil War broke out after the Russian Revolution.

He had to defend the gains of his class—the poor peasantry. He served in various posts in the Red Bashkir cavalry and later joined the Bolshevik Party, but does not mention being involved in a single inner-party controversy, or even debate.

He fails entirely to describe the heroic efforts to forge a new model Red Army from untrained workers and peasants.

He is able to describe his experiences in the Civil War without once mentioning Trotsky, the founder and organiser of the Red Army. The reader is treated to a series of disjointed descriptions of inconsequential actions and sundry anecdotes.

He skips through the post-Civil War period of 1921-28 in a mere four pages. This was the most decisive period in the history of the Soviet Communist Party and the Red Army.

Deposition

Not a word of the shake-up after Trotsky's deposition from the Commissariat of War, not even of Sklyansky's sudden dismissal and posting to America where he drowned under suspicious circumstances; no mention of Frunze's (Trotsky's successor) enforced death under the surgeon's knife, a cause célèbre in Soviet circles at the time!

He does mention Frunze sympathetically, but only in connection with his activities as Party organiser in 1907!

And Sklyansky, too, is quoted extensively in an innocuous Order for Demobilisation. Even Stalin gets no mention at all, not even as cult incarnate!

Again, the forced collectivisation and industrialisation of the early 30s gets no mention at all. Gorbatov vaults lightly over this whole period to 1937 and lands

Men of the Red Bashkir cavalry, with whom Gorbatov served



General skips lightly over Soviet history

right in the period of the last of the great Trials. The Trotsky-Zinoviev-Bukharin trials just never happened!

We find the author opening a newspaper one morning to read of Tukhachevsky's arrest and continuity is only restored at this point.

The great purges of the experienced military-political Red Army officers follow.

In its wake, Gorbatov is swept into prison, is interrogated, tortured (a few formal paragraphs) sentenced to 15 years and

deported to the frozen north-east of Kolyma.

When the terror abated, he was fortunate to be rehabilitated and returned in 1940 from what was formally described as a 'distant posting' (!)

Chaotic

He discovered the army in a chaotic state, demoralised, uncoordinated, badly officered.

The outbreak of the war the next year served to bring home more forcefully the appalling state

of affairs—men unfamiliar with their weapons, indisciplined, commanded by timid officers or old-fashioned heroes brought back after 20 years' retirement. Bureaucratic orders helped to increase the confusion and the losses.

His description of the course of World War II is again poor and fragmentary. There is nothing of the soldier's view of war.

All in all a very disappointing book, but 'one for the record', as they say.

North-West Leeds 3 Horbury 7

PLAYING uphill, Horbury kicked off in the first half and although they began attacking could not score because of the good Leeds defence.

Leeds returned the attack but they could not break through either. However, they had some very near misses and Horbury were lucky.

Horbury's only real try came from N. Collings, the centre-forward. It started with a move from Bunney to Miller who passed to Hemingway who aimed for the goal.

The goalkeeper dropped the ball and Collings rushed in and shot but the goalie again got his foot to the ball and it flew over the bar.

LOOSE BALL

Leeds kicked off the second half and after about six minutes, **Goulding** the inside-right and captain of Horbury got hold of a loose ball, moved in and shot the ball into the far corner of the net for the first goal of the match.

Four minutes later he scored again, this time from a pass from inside-left Hemingway.

Ten minutes later **Hemingway** scored the best goal of the match from a pass by Goulding. He moved along to the edge of

SOCCER

Football reports are a new feature for Keep Left. We welcome short, concise reports of all sporting events.

the penalty area and shot over the goalie's head making the score 3-0 to Horbury.

But a couple of minutes later Leeds struck back with two quick goals catching Horbury's defence unaware.

Horbury moved down and scored two more goals—one by **Collings N.** and one by **Hudders.**

Leeds hit back with a good move from their forwards, and with a high lob which the goalie couldn't reach, Leeds were a goal better off.

The goalie hurt himself on the post and had to go off with the score resting at 5-3.

A pass from Collings E. to Goulding to Hemingway was centred to **Collings N.** who trapped the ball, and hit it into the roof of the net on the turn.

Five minutes later **Hudders** passed to **Collings N.** who moved down and shot past the oncoming goalie to make the final score 3-7 to Horbury.

Horbury 1 East Leeds 3

HORBURY kicked off in the first half and began attacking but did not have luck in scoring.

After 15 minutes Leeds got up an attack. The ball went to Walker on the right wing, who was by far the best player on the Leeds side.

He centred and the ball was scrambled into the goal. Horbury again attacked but were out of luck.

NEAR ESCAPE

Ten minutes later Leeds got another goal from a long clearance, making the score 2-0.

Horbury didn't give up but had four or five near escapes thanks to right-half Hirst.

Five minutes from half time Leeds got another goal and they would have had another if Hirst hadn't dribbled off the goal line.

At half time, the score was 3-0 to Leeds. At the restart the game wasn't very exciting with all attacks just fizzling out. Hemingway was very unlucky with three or four efforts.

Slater and Goulding were also unlucky. With 15 minutes to go, **Goulding** shot just inside the area, the ball hit a defender and went in the Leeds goal. Horbury attacked again but just didn't have the luck with them and finished up losing by 3-1.

WRESTLING

Challenge's space filler

THE January issue of 'Challenge', newspaper of the Young Communist League, contained an article entitled: 'Night Out With the Wrestlers', in which the writer dodges all the issues which directly concern the wages and working conditions of the wrestlers.

He not only fails to mention the profits and monopoly of the promoters, but openly admits that he does not have these facts. The whole theme of the article is based on the age-old question: 'Is wrestling fixed?' and never once mentions the gimmicks used by the promoters to extort money from the fans.

One can only suggest that the article, portraying the usual Stalinist lack of theoretical approach is just another 'Challenge' space filler.

Wrestling, which is now enjoying a really big boom, is bringing in well over £2 million profit to the promoters each year in live-gate receipts.

Monopoly

Wrestling promoters, like all employers who make large sums of money from the labour of their employees, use methods of work similar to all other big business concerns, e.g., monopoly control of the home market and close links with foreign promoters through organisations such as the European Wrestling Alliance, World Wrestling Alliance.

The British promoters are organised mainly behind the banner of Joint Promotions Ltd., who dominate the British wrestling scene, controlling approximately 90 per cent of British wrestling.

Similarly, the smaller independent promoters have now organised themselves into the 'British Wrestling Federation'

By organisations such as these, both nationally and internationally, the promoters can control the wages of the wrestler; thus the wages remain small (usually around £7 for beginners to about £25 for the more established wrestler).

Situation

In a situation such as this, the wrestler, in order to obtain a decent income which will keep him during retirement or injury, must wrestle four or five times per week: his bouts often being hundreds of miles apart.

It was against conditions such as these that many wrestlers formed themselves into a union and staged a strike, during which they organised picket lines outside the wrestling arenas, and resulted in the union being recognised by promoters. Many leading wrestlers also broke with the big monopolies and joined the ranks of the smaller independent promoters.

The purpose of this article is not whether or not 'a worker' in order to obtain a living under capitalism has to resort to indulging in phoney exhibitions, but to present to our readers a broad picture on all aspects of the class struggle.

BOOK REVIEW

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Constable 25s.

THESE memoirs of General Gorbatov, a veteran Red Army commander are, quite frankly, disappointing, coming as they do after that trenchant novel 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich'.

Too much space is taken up with matters of little moment — childhood reminiscences, youthful anecdotes — and too little with matters of serious military concern, despite the fact that the author has been soldiering continuously since 1912.

Enlisted

After the dissolution of the Imperial Army of the Czar, Gorbatov returned, like millions of others, to the land, but later enlisted in the Red Army when the Civil War broke out after the Russian Revolution.

He had to defend the gains of his class—the poor peasantry. He served in various posts in the Red Bashkir cavalry and later joined the Bolshevik Party, but does not mention being involved in a single inner-party controversy, or even debate.

He fails entirely to describe the heroic efforts to forge a new model Red Army from untrained workers and peasants.

He is able to describe his experiences in the Civil War without once mentioning Trotsky, the founder and organiser of the Red Army. The reader is treated to a series of disjointed descriptions of inconsequential actions and sundry anecdotes.

He skips through the post-Civil War period of 1921-28 in a mere four pages. This was the most decisive period in the history of the Soviet Communist Party and the Red Army.

Deposition

Not a word of the shake-up after Trotsky's deposition from the Commissariat of War, not even of Sklyansky's sudden dismissal and posting to America where he drowned under suspicious circumstances; no mention of Frunze's (Trotsky's successor) enforced death under the surgeon's knife, a cause célèbre in Soviet circles at the time!

He does mention Frunze sympathetically, but only in connection with his activities as Party organiser in 1907!

And Sklyansky, too, is quoted extensively in an innocuous Order for Demobilisation. Even Stalin gets no mention at all, not even as cult incarnate!

Again, the forced collectivisation and industrialisation of the early 30s gets no mention at all. Gorbatov vaults lightly over this whole period to 1937 and lands

Men of the Red Bashkir cavalry, with whom Gorbatov served



General skips lightly over Soviet history

right in the period of the last of the great Trials. The Trotsky-Zinoviev-Bukharin trials just never happened!

We find the author opening a newspaper one morning to read of Tukhachevsky's arrest and continuity is only restored at this point.

The great purges of the experienced military-political Red Army officers follow.

In its wake, Gorbatov is swept into prison, is interrogated, tortured (a few formal paragraphs) sentenced to 15 years and

deported to the frozen north-east of Kolyma.

When the terror abated, he was fortunate to be rehabilitated and returned in 1940 from what was formally described as a 'distant posting' (!)

Chaotic

He discovered the army in a chaotic state, demoralised, uncoordinated, badly officered.

The outbreak of the war the next year served to bring home more forcefully the appalling state

of affairs—men unfamiliar with their weapons, indisciplined, commanded by timid officers or old-fashioned heroes brought back after 20 years' retirement. Bureaucratic orders helped to increase the confusion and the losses.

His description of the course of World War II is again poor and fragmentary. There is nothing of the soldier's view of war.

All in all a very disappointing book, but 'one for the record', as they say.

North-West Leeds 3 Horbury 7

PLAYING uphill, Horbury kicked off in the first half and although they began attacking could not score because of the good Leeds defence.

Leeds returned the attack but they could not break through either. However, they had some very near misses and Horbury were lucky.

Horbury's only real try came from N. Collings, the centre-forward. It started with a move from Bunney to Miller who passed to Hemingway who aimed for the goal.

The goalkeeper dropped the ball and Collings rushed in and shot but the goalie again got his foot to the ball and it flew over the bar.

LOOSE BALL

Leeds kicked off the second half and after about six minutes, **Goulding** the inside - right and captain of Horbury got hold of a loose ball, moved in and shot the ball into the far corner of the net for the first goal of the match.

Four minutes later he scored again, this time from a pass from inside-left Hemingway.

Ten minutes later **Hemingway** scored the best goal of the match from a pass by Goulding. He moved along to the edge of

SOCCER
Football reports are a new feature for Keep Left. We welcome short, concise reports of all sporting events.

the penalty area and shot over the goalie's head making the score 3-0 to Horbury.

But a couple of minutes later Leeds struck back with two quick goals catching Horbury's defence unaware.

Horbury moved down and scored two more goals—one by **Collings N.** and one by **Hudders.**

Leeds hit back with a good move from their forwards, and with a high lob which the goalie couldn't reach, Leeds were a goal better off.

The goalie hurt himself on the post and had to go off with the score resting at 5-3.

A pass from Collings E. to Goulding to Hemingway was centred to **Collings N.** who trapped the ball, and hit it into the roof of the net on the turn.

Five minutes later **Hudders** passed to **Collings N.** who moved down and shot past the oncoming goalie to make the final score 3-7 to Horbury.

Horbury 1 East Leeds 3

HORBURY kicked off in the first half and began attacking but did not have luck in scoring.

After 15 minutes Leeds got up an attack. The ball went to Walker on the right wing, who was by far the best player on the Leeds side.

He centred and the ball was scrambled into the goal. Horbury again attacked but were out of luck.

NEAR ESCAPE

Ten minutes later Leeds got another goal from a long clearance, making the score 2-0.

Horbury didn't give up but had four or five near escapes thanks to right-half Hirst.

Five minutes from half time Leeds got another goal and they would have had another if Hirst hadn't dribbled off the goal line.

At half time, the score was 3-0 to Leeds. At the restart the game wasn't very exciting with all attacks just fizzling out. Hemingway was very unlucky with three or four efforts.

Slater and Goulding were also unlucky. With 15 minutes to go, **Goulding** shot just inside the area, the ball hit a defender and went in the Leeds goal. Horbury attacked again but just didn't have the luck with them and finished up losing by 3-1.

WRESTLING

Challenge's space filler

THE January issue of 'Challenge', newspaper of the Young Communist League, contained an article entitled: 'Night Out With the Wrestlers', in which the writer dodges all the issues which directly concern the wages and working conditions of the wrestlers.

He not only fails to mention the profits and monopoly of the promoters, but openly admits that he does not have these facts. The whole theme of the article is based on the age-old question: 'Is wrestling fixed?' and never once mentions the gimmicks used by the promoters to extort money from the fans.

One can only suggest that the article, portraying the usual Stalinist lack of theoretical approach is just another 'Challenge' space filler.

Wrestling, which is now enjoying a really big boom, is bringing in well over £2 million profit to the promoters each year in live-gate receipts.

Monopoly

Wrestling promoters, like all employers who make large sums of money from the labour of their employees, use methods of work similar to all other big business concerns, e.g., monopoly control of the home market and close links with foreign promoters through organisations such as the European Wrestling Alliance, World Wrestling Alliance.

The British promoters are organised mainly behind the banner of Joint Promotions Ltd., who dominate the British wrestling scene, controlling approximately 90 per cent of British wrestling.

Similarly, the smaller independent promoters have now organised themselves into the 'British Wrestling Federation'

By organisations such as these, both nationally and internationally, the promoters can control the wages of the wrestler; thus the wages remain small (usually around £7 for beginners to about £25 for the more established wrestler).

Situation

In a situation such as this, the wrestler, in order to obtain a decent income which will keep him during retirement or injury, must wrestle four or five times per week: his bouts often being hundreds of miles apart.

It was against conditions such as these that many wrestlers formed themselves into a union and staged a strike, during which they organised picket lines outside the wrestling arenas, and resulted in the union being recognised by promoters. Many leading wrestlers also broke with the big monopolies and joined the ranks of the smaller independent promoters.

The purpose of this article is not whether or not 'a worker' in order to obtain a living under capitalism has to resort to indulging in phoney exhibitions, but to present to our readers a broad picture on all aspects of the class struggle.

Pensions (1)

AS a YS member I am disgusted at the conditions which old age pensioners live under.

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|--------------------------------|---|-------|
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Out of that they spend:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|------|
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| Rent | 1 | 15 0 |
| Gas | 1 | 0 0 |
| Electricity | 3 | 3 |
| Insurance | 5 | 6 |
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| | 6 | 14 3 |

What is left goes on odds and ends.

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When Mr. Smith complained to the National Assistance Board about it, they threatened to stop the national assistance. So what can he do?

Mr. Smith is a real fighter and backs the YS all the way. Wilson should see what the majority of old age pensioners live like. He should be fighting the bankers and the bosses in the interests of the old age pensioners, instead of against them.

O.W.H.,
Sunderland.

Pensions (2)

Increase the old age pensions now! This has been the cry of Young Socialists all over the country. And why not?

Are the old folk not in need of an increase in their pensions?

Mr. Wilson and his cronies refuse to give the old people their rise before March 29 on the pretext that it would take too much paper work.

The Young Socialists say this is all rot. The real reason for the delay in increased pensions is the Zurich bankers, who have lent 13,000 million dollars to help Wilson out of his financial difficulties.

But when the Zurich bankers lent the money to the Labour government they told Wilson it could not be used to give social benefits to the working class.

So what does Wilson do? (or should I say what doesn't he do?) He doesn't raise the old age pensions, he freezes the wages of the workers and increases the cost of living.

Here we can see how Wilson has completely capitulated to the bankers abroad and is working on the side of capitalism instead of fighting for the working class, who voted him in.

(This man dares to call himself a socialist.)

If we read the daily newspapers we see that the cost of living has risen very rapidly since the election of a Labour government. This will mean a struggle for existence for the vast majority of the working class, even more so for old age pensioners. Most of them will have a choice between buying food or fuel—some of them will not survive.

The Young Socialists ask all members of the working class to fight with them on this issue and all other working-class issues.

Go into your local trade unions and Labour Party meetings and

raise this question of the old age pensioners.

All young members of the working class should join the Young Socialists and help expose this Labour government to older workers, and give a real socialist leadership.

A North-West Young Socialist.

Pensions (3)

I WORK in a grocers shop and a few days ago I was serving an old age pensioner who mentioned the increase in the pensions which the government has refused to pay until the end of March.

She said that the increase would be worth nothing when it came, because prices of food were going up. For example, soap powders, jam, cereals, bread, lard, butter, margarine, chocolate, biscuits, tinned milk and many other goods.

A few more pensioners came in and they started to discuss the increase and I happened to say that I went to the Brighton demonstration with the YS to

about 15s. a week in fares. Those who work in the selling departments get the same wage.

The increase in salary which you get yearly on your birthday is 5s.

Conditions in the canteen are terrible. The cutlery is never clean and the floor is always filthy, it is never washed and the food especially is disgusting. For example the lettuce is never washed and it tastes as if it has grit in it.

The canteen is so cramped that the juniors are not encouraged to sit around the tables together.

I joined the Young Socialists a couple of months ago and we, along with other Young Socialists all over the country, are fighting to get better conditions for young workers.

The other day I joined the clerical union because I have realised that it is the only way I can get better conditions for myself and other young workers.

J.S.,
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Postbag

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

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The old age pensioners said that it was a good idea and they appreciated it very much.

They said that there were not many people around today that would help the old age pensioners.

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School

IT is not only young workers who are being victimised and suppressed but also the youth at school. Here in Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland, several pupils have been intimidated by the head of the local school and only because they are members of the Young Socialists.

One girl was actually accused of being a bad influence on the rest of the pupils. Another was asked to change her views. At first, however, the teachers concerned were in favour of their pupils being 'interested in politics'. As soon as the YS members became really active, down came the axe! 'You must think of the school's reputation, you know.'

One YS member was even asked by the headmistress if she would not rather join the Young Liberals! This is not the only school taking this attitude. In Belfast, Young Socialist members have been victimised in class because of their beliefs.

The action taken by these schools is considerably lessening the possibility of increasing the membership of the local branches. In Newtownabbey, for instance, the youth on the local housing estate attend the school concerned.

This proves to the Young Socialists the fear that authority has of organised youth. They need to discipline the youth of today and as Young Socialists represent all youth in their most organised form they are picked upon.

G.J.,
Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim,
N. Ireland.

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In the big West End store where I work the conditions for young people and for the older members of staff are very bad.

I get only £5 8s. a week before deductions and out of that I pay

Weapon

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Keep Left is, in fact, the most precious weapon of the YS in its fight to build the alternative to the sell-outs of Wilson and the retreats of the 'centrists'.

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This confidence is an indication of the seriousness and determination of the YS movement and will again manifest itself at the YS conference in February.

Despite the treachery of the Wilsons and the cowardice of the Foots and the Mikardos, the YS and Keep Left will increasingly be in the forefront of the struggles of the working class, uniting young and older workers, transforming these struggles through its socialist programme into death blows against the bosses and their rotten system.

Shoreditch YSL

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In addition to this we are

working out more new areas in which we can build YS branches. But central to all of those developments is the Keep Left.

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In the next few months many more articles from the Scottish area will outline in detail the problems of young workers and the activities of the YS in the different regions of Scotland.

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Package Deal

WHILE it is perfectly true as 'London Apprentice' says in the last issue of Keep Left that the package deal for engineering workers is a complete sell-out, there are a number of points about the present so-called apprentice wage increase which requires further explanation.

When the apprentices were last granted an increase in July 1960, what happened was that the employers refused to increase the percentage of the adult rate, but agreed to pay a flat increase.

This was a repeat of their previous reply in April 1952.

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What this meant was that apprentices received a little more than 22½ per cent at 15 and 62½ per cent at 20.

It is best illustrated this way.

After the last increase in 1960, at 15 the apprentice received 22½ per cent + 5s. 6d. + 3s. 10d. = 51s. 4d. per week; at 20 62½ per cent + 11s. + 17s. = 147s. 8d. per week, which meant 27 per cent and 79 per cent of the adult rate respectively.

This is important because the present agreement states that in future the rate shall rise to 30 per cent at 15 years and 80 per cent at 20.

There is a clause which states that any apprentice who at present receives more than the new basic rate shall not be due for an increase (the same applies to adult workers).

We can only conclude then that the increases are nothing like as good as the trade union officials are claiming.

As far as I can see from the

agreement, the increases will only be a matter of one or two per cent for apprentices. This, plus a three-year wage freeze!

It is extremely important to remember that the vast majority of engineering workers will not get an increase.

Only those on the minimum rate will get the 36s. increase over three years. The majority will receive a 5s. increase in March 1966 and again in March 1967.

This is what the engineering workers get in return for their union leaders agreeing with the employers to use every effort to eliminate 'restrictive practices' and increase 'mobility of labour'.

In other words, the officials have agreed to assist the employers to attack the conditions and standards of workers built up over many years of struggle.

This makes the struggle of Young Socialists and apprentices to organise the working-class youth in Britain for an all-out struggle with the employers, even more urgent.

The union leaders may have signed the package deal, but the engineering workers have yet to speak and act.

This situation offers tremendous opportunities to the Young Socialists to strengthen their contact and support from adult workers.

The fight must go on now to organise behind the Young Socialists National Committee Majority and the planned strike by apprentices.

John Robertson,
Glasgow.

Miners

MY weekly wage is £6 17s. With my stoppages off I bring home £5 16s. and some coppers.

This is what I have to do. I have a mate with me whom I shall refer to as Nogger. We work in the S seam. Our job is supplies.

We have to get the supplies from the Duckbill loader to the face.

There are two coalfaces at the South District where we work—South 4 and South 6.

Up to 4 is an endless rope haulage. We fasten a chain on to the tub and lash it on to the rope. We then take the supplies up to 4 face.

Having done this we have to unload the materials (which usually consist of 13" x 9" rings and heavy section girders) and get them on to the face. We then bring the empty tubs off.

For transport to 6 we can use the rope haulage for about a quarter of a mile and then we have to shove the tubs for about three-quarters of a mile until we get to the face.

The material is nearly always steel. Having unloaded the tubs, we have to bring the empties off.

Some days we have to go to 4 and 6 and there are just the two of us. Both of us are 16½.

One Thursday, after tramping rings on to 6 for a whole week, I turned round to the overman and told him I was fed up with carrying steel around.

He told me I was idle! If I was as idle as the overman I wouldn't bother coming to the pit!

All this for 22s. 10d. a day. It just isn't worth it.

A miner

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Budget

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------|---|----|----|
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As far as I can see from the

agreement, the increases will only be a matter of one or two per cent for apprentices. This, plus a three-year wage freeze!

It is extremely important to remember that the vast majority of engineering workers will not get an increase.

Only those on the minimum rate will get the 36s. increase over three years. The majority will receive a 5s. increase in March 1966 and again in March 1967.

This is what the engineering workers get in return for their union leaders agreeing with the employers to use every effort to eliminate 'restrictive practices' and increase 'mobility of labour'.

In other words, the officials have agreed to assist the employers to attack the conditions and standards of workers built up over many years of struggle.

This makes the struggle of Young Socialists and apprentices to organise the working-class youth in Britain for an all-out struggle with the employers, even more urgent.

The union leaders may have signed the package deal, but the engineering workers have yet to speak and act.

This situation offers tremendous opportunities to the Young Socialists to strengthen their contact and support from adult workers.

The fight must go on now to organise behind the Young Socialists National Committee Majority and the planned strike by apprentices.

John Robertson,
Glasgow.

Miners

MY weekly wage is £6 17s. With my stoppages off I bring home £5 16s. and some coppers.

This is what I have to do. I have a mate with me whom I shall refer to as Nogger. We work in the S seam. Our job is supplies.

We have to get the supplies from the Duckbill loader to the face.

There are two coalfaces at the South District where we work—South 4 and South 6.

Up to 4 is an endless rope haulage. We fasten a chain on to the tub and lash it on to the rope. We then take the supplies up to 4 face.

Having done this we have to unload the materials (which usually consist of 13" x 9" rings and heavy section girders) and get them on to the face. We then bring the empty tubs off.

For transport to 6 we can use the rope haulage for about a quarter of a mile and then we have to shove the tubs for about three-quarters of a mile until we get to the face.

The material is nearly always steel. Having unloaded the tubs, we have to bring the empties off.

Some days we have to go to 4 and 6 and there are just the two of us. Both of us are 16½.

One Thursday, after tramping rings on to 6 for a whole week, I turned round to the overman and told him I was fed up with carrying steel around.

He told me I was idle! If I was as idle as the overman I wouldn't bother coming to the pit!

All this for 22s. 10d. a day. It just isn't worth it.

A miner

As Mersey Y S lobby trades council over

POLICE and right-wing Labourites again joined forces to attack Young Socialists when members of the Merseyside Federation of Young Socialists lobbied the Liverpool Trades Council on January 21.

Mike Farley, National Committee Majority member for the North-west, and member of the Trades Council, was dragged out of the council meeting by four right-wingers and two policemen when he tried to raise the case against his expulsion from the Labour Party.

Farley was expelled in December, being informed about the expulsion meeting the day before.

The Merseyside Federation passed a resolution supporting him and agreed to lobby the Trades Council.

Bitterly cold

January 21 was bitterly cold, but many Young Socialists turned up to the lobby. They were met by large numbers of police, some with dogs, and were told to stand on the far side of the road away from the door of the meeting.

Farley entered the meeting as a delegate, but was immediately told to leave by the chairman as he was no longer a member of the Labour Party.

Farley refused, saying he wanted to put his case as he understood that the Plumbers Trade Union No. 1 lodge had put forward an emergency resolution supporting him.

He was thrown out with such violence that he finished upon the floor in the passage-

NC member's expulsion

Right-wing and police manhandle Mike Farley



Thrown to floor after protesting against expulsion

way outside the meeting. The Young Socialists then marched, banners flying, to a meeting where they discussed the next steps in the fight to reinstate Farley.

Later they returned to the Trades Council meeting. The police were called again.

Towards the end of the meeting a delegate came out to tell the youth that members of the Plumbers Union had fought for discussion on the expulsion and were receiving a lot of support.

The right wing attempted to compromise by saying discus-

sion should finish and the issue be referred back to the Liverpool Exchange Constituency Labour Party and that the five plumber delegates be allowed in that meeting 'to see justice done'.

The plumbers demanded immediate discussion, but the reference back was carried, Pabloites voting with the right wing.

Shouts of 'traitors' and 'witch-hunters' greeted them as they came out of the meeting. The plumbers were cheered and clapped.

Lancs. paper boys organize for more pay

Full backing and help from local YS

By a Farnworth Young Socialist

IN Little Lever, Lancashire, 30 schoolboys and girls who take newspapers before school in the morning and after school in the evening, have organised themselves into a movement to fight for increased payments for deliveries.

They called a meeting to discuss action in the local school but they were turned away. However, a meeting was held in the rain and they elected a strike committee. The committee is composed of the older paper boys who are between 14 and 15 years of age.

Little Lever is a small village of 5,000 inhabitants. Most of these are served by the three large newsagents shops there

Facilities for youth are not very good and apart from the one youth club there is little else for young people to do. So they have to travel approximately four miles to the nearby town of Bolton for entertainment.

There is no cinema.

FEELING

Feeling was high amongst the youth because there have been no appreciable rises for paper boys for 12 years and yet in that time the cost of living has risen tremendously. All this has served to lower the 'real' value of the youths' wages.

With the young paperboys and

girls taking action into their own hands there has been hostility from certain sections and admiration from others in Little Lever.

Paperboys trudge through rain, hail and snow to deliver papers to customers and if one is missing they have to pay for it. Little Lever Paper Boys Action Committee quite rightly demand an increase, to 1s. 6d. per round.

GAINING

But the paper boys are gaining support amongst other young people who might be asked to replace them, by explaining that the fight going on now is helping them in the future for the rise will be theirs when they eventually become newsboys themselves.

Real organisation of the paper boys came from Young Socialists of the nearby towns of Farnworth and Bolton who sought out their leader and offered any help and support the YS could give.

This led to the plan of forming a Young Socialists branch in Little Lever.

27 paper boys, including two young girls went to the Labour Party meeting.

Some delegates seemed impressed and a member of the executive committee said she would speak in favour at the next committee meeting to which the matter was referred.

Full programme for S. Yorkshire Federation

YOUNG Socialists representing eight YS branches demonstrated through the streets of Sheffield on January 9 demanding immediate increases for the old age pensioners and the backdating of these to November 1.

Chanting slogans, 'Raise the Old Age Pensions Now', 'Nationalise the Banks', 'Wilson's got his Rise . . . What About the Old Age Pensioners?' the demonstrators were watched by shopping crowds.

Organised by the South-west Yorkshire Federation of Young Socialists this lively demonstration was a big smack in the eye for those right-wingers who claimed the Federation no longer existed.

After a short march around the shopping centre an open-air meeting was held where the youth displayed their banners and placards, whilst listening to speeches from Federation officers.

They outlined the complete bankruptcy of the Labour

government on the pensions issue and its inability to give any sort of leadership to the working class.

This was a favourable period for the building of the YS. The old age pensions campaign was a way in which the support of large sections of the adult working class could be won.

CORRECT

Since the demonstration these leading YS members have been proved correct in everything they said.

One YS member, who is a leading member of the apprentices movement in South Yorkshire won complete support for this campaign from the District Committee of the AEU, which gave a generous donation.

Whilst collecting in the public houses other YS members came into contact with militant members of the National Union of Mineworkers who have been closely following the developments of the YS in the local press.

One of them paid for 6 months' copies of Keep Left in advance, saying: 'I never

did believe the rumours about you.'

Visits were made to places where old people met, and on one occasion a YS member got full support from the old age pensioners to speak, but when the committee arrived (two local councillors were on it), he was promptly told to get out.

These witch-hunting tactics are only a part of a whole attack on the YS in the area. Branch after branch is being refused when they try to find premises to meet in, mostly on the pretext that they are already booked up. This has been disproved on several occasions.

Even so, the YS branches under the guidance of the Federation, are building.

FEDERATION

At a recent Federation AGM Barrie Evans, National Committee Majority member stated:

'It is quite clear that the defeat of Gordon Walker at the recent by-election was not just merely a rejection of him as an individual, but the rejection of the whole Labour government's policies and this highlights the

need for a mass YS movement NOW.'

Already a Federation programme has been worked out and put on a temporary membership card. For example:

FEB. 4—LOBBY PARLIAMENT LONDON

FEB. 6—FOOTBALL COMP. Saturday morning.

FEB. 7—SKATING TRIP LEEDS 7 p.m.

FEB. 14—CAVERN, LIVERPOOL

FEB. 16—PAINTING COMP. BRAMPTON

FEB. 20—FOOTBALL COMP. (Cont.)

FEB. 27—ANNUAL CONFERENCE YS. (Morecambe)

Also the membership decided that it was now necessary to rent their own premises in which they could hold all the Federation meetings and local YS branch meetings if necessary. They will also be installing furniture, telephone and duplicating machine.

All the YS branches accepted joint responsibility for the raising of regular finance.

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