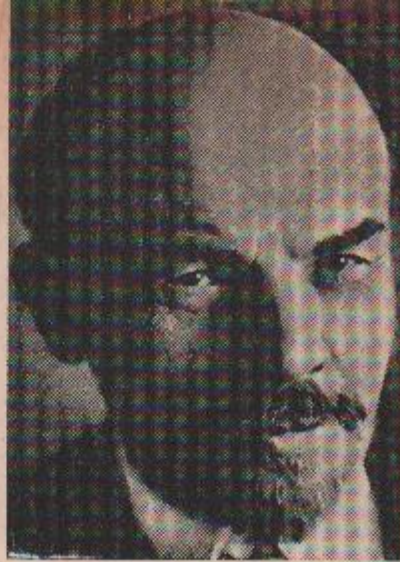




Grigori Zinoviev



Vladimir Lenin

OCTOBER 1967
Vol. 16 No. 9

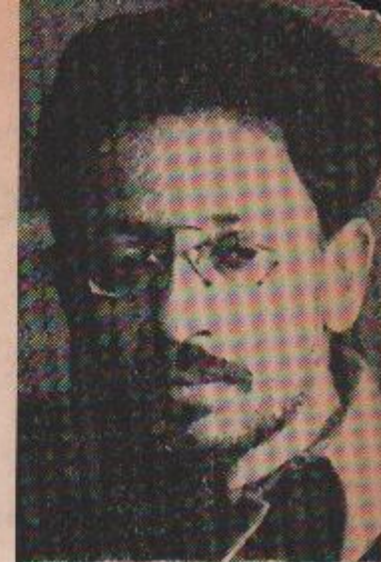
Keep

LEFT

Official paper of the
Young Socialists
Price Fourpence



Leon Trotsky



Jacob Sverdlov

1917 REVOLUTION



Russia shook the world!

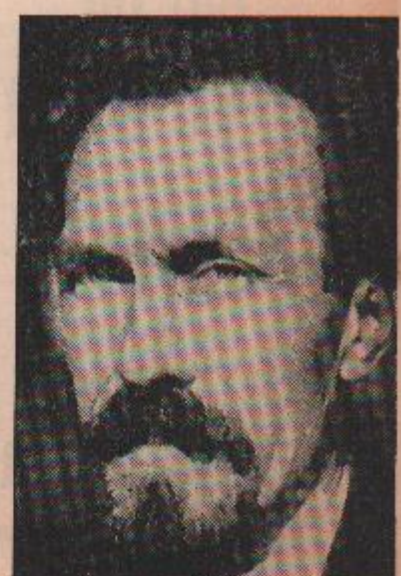
Adolfe Joffe

Leon Kamenev

Alexandra Kollontai

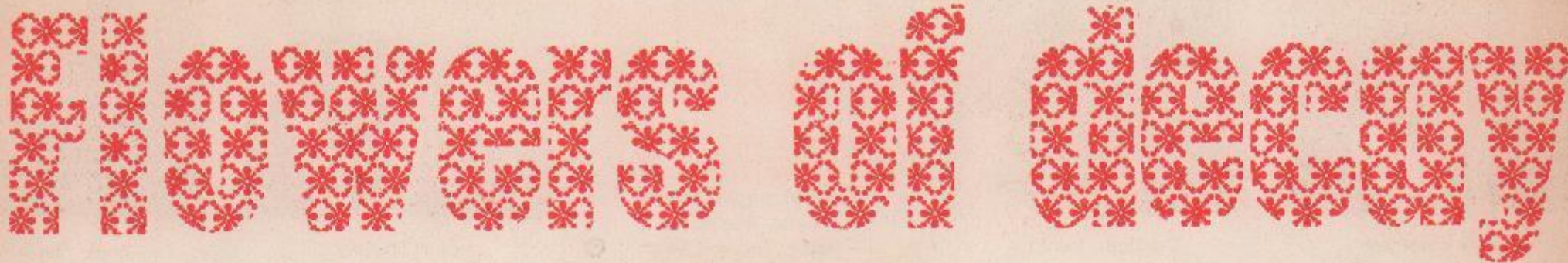
Nicolai Bukharin

Alexei Rykov



Page nine: special announcement 50th anniversary celebrations of the Russian Revolution
Part three of Peter Jeffries' series on the History of the Russian Revolution pages six and seven

The reality behind drugs and 'drop out'



UNTIL the emergence of the Young Socialists between 1961 and 1964, post war left-wing politics amongst youth in Britain was dominated by middle-class movements like the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Then the supporters of Keep Left successfully fought to make the Young Socialists a working-class organization with socialist policies. By 1964 we were able to build an independent youth organization which has now become the strongest political youth movement in Britain, with growing influence amongst adult trade unionists.

FEAR

In the fight against the Keep Left, the Labour Party leadership was helped by middle-class groups like the 'state-capitalists' and their paper 'Young Guard' (now replaced by 'Rebel'). They too feared above all the growth of a working-class movement. They were closer to the CND type of protest movement.

Today, the 'state capitalists' remain in the Labour Party. Recently their paper 'Labour Worker' came out with a full-page article boosting 'flower power'. In the editorial, they wrote that a good case existed for the legalization of the drug marijuana (cannabis).

The Young Socialist movement must decisively reject this rubbish and condemn those who peddle

it. The capitalist system needs to weaken the working class and its youth by every means possible.

Above all, the capitalist class must prevent workers from facing up to and understanding the evils of capitalist exploitation and the need for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalist rule.

ESCAPE

Drugs are peddled as a way for the individual to escape from reality, to find out about 'himself' instead of being at the mercy of society.

But every worker is at the mercy of society. Together with his class he must recognize this clearly and organize the struggle for socialism.

The Beatles, Mick Jagger and others have now been dabbling in one of the many varieties of Indian mysticism. This 'meditation' is another dangerous diversion.

You are invited to sit quietly and contemplate your inner destiny instead of facing up to the problems of class society and opposing them. This kind of belief has been a weapon of the ruling class since the origins of civilization.

NAUSEA

Capitalist society today, in a state of decay and decomposition, dredges up all these products of backwardness and oppression from the past. It is the last effort of a class-divided society, throwing all its historic resources into the melting pot as the socialist revolution threatens to



end it for once and for all.

Socialists must see 'flower power'—and its nausea about 'gentle people' who reply to a policeman's baton with a bunch of daffodils—in this way.

In America it is supported

only by middle-class white youth, many of whom are horrified by capitalism but seek a protest which leaves it absolutely intact.

As for drugs, it is a lie to say that any of them are harmless. Many young people have

had their individual lives ruined by marijuana, and for the working class as a whole this is a dangerous turning away from coming to grips with capitalism in the only way—the revolutionary way.

'Go all out for YS Christmas bazaar...' says Pat Leonard



Croydon Young Socialists find time to share a joke whilst sewing for the London Christmas Bazaar.

THE Young Socialists' Christmas Bazaars have been one of the most successful ways of raising finance for our movement over the past few years.

The bazaars themselves, although involving a lot of hard work in making goods and then selling them on the day, are always very lively and enjoyable events.

This year we are holding two bazaars, one in London at the Canning Town Hall on Saturday, November 25, and another in Leeds Corn Exchange on Saturday, December 9.

Work in making goods for the bazaars is already going ahead all over the country, but we still need many more articles.

This is an opportunity for everyone who has skills in woodwork, metalwork, painting, knitting and sewing to use them for the benefit of the Young Socialists.

We appeal to all our readers to go all out in the next few weeks with this work. We want you to make plans in the YS Federations and branches to produce a large number of goods as cheaply as possible.

The best way to do this is to have a 'bazaar evening', when everyone can get together and production can really get underway.

We especially need toys which can be sold for about 2s. 6d., Christmas gifts and children's and baby clothes.

Get your friends and relations to help with this work, particularly knitting and sewing.

We are sure you will give us your help to make the Christmas Bazaars a greater success than ever before and really lay the basis for the expansion of the Young Socialists' work in 1968.



The Moscow Trials, instigated by Stalin in the Soviet Union during the 1930s, provided the bureaucracy with the means to liquidate all of Lenin's original Central Committee and the leading Bolsheviks of the Russian Revolution in 1917. In particular Stalin had to try and bring the most incriminating evidence against Leon Trotsky, defender of the gains of the Revolution and fierce opponent of Stalin and his henchmen. In this third article of our series on the Moscow Trials Philip Norris shows the enormous and almost unbelievable lengths that the Stalinist regime went to in order to try and prove Trotsky and his followers guilty of acts of terrorism against Stalin and the Soviet state. Our picture opposite shows the infamous Hall of Columns in which the defendants made their 'confessions' before a chosen audience of secret police and state officials.

by Philip Norris

STALIN tried to use the trials of 1936-1938 both to wipe out the remnants of Lenin's Bolshevik Party leaders and to discredit any Communist opposition to the bureaucracy.

For this purpose it was necessary for the broken men who acted the parts of the defendants in the courtroom to repeat carefully rehearsed 'confessions' of collaboration with fascism.

We have seen how these 'confessions' were extorted by the GPU (Stalin's police thugs), mainly through threats to the families of the accused. This forced the former leading revolutionaries to respond to the insolent and humiliating questions of the ex-White Guard Vyshinsky, with slanders against Leon Trotsky and his son Sedov.

As the trials proceeded, the crimes admitted became increasingly fantastic. From plotting the killing of Kirov, head of the Leningrad administration, they went on to prepare the assassination of Stalin and all his associates.

It was never explained why the 'conspirators' proved to be so singularly unsuccessful, particularly as they included men who had participated in leading the first workers' revolution.

To read through the 'confessionals' extorted by Vyshinsky and his men is to enter a world of lies and distortions. In addition to attempted murder, the 'crimes' included de-railing trains, blowing up coal mines, putting nails and glass in butter, wrecking the savings bank and disrupting horse breeding.

The plotters confessed to starting their work as far back as 1918. N. Lurye told how he was sent to Russia by the Gestapo in 1932. Surprising, considering the Gestapo was not formed until a few years later.

(In an article written by Joseph Redman 'The British Stalinists and the Moscow Trials'* he pointed out: 'Trotsky showed curious tactlessness in choosing five Jews—Olberg, Berman Yurin, David and the two Luryes—to collaborate with the Gestapo'.)

* 'Labour Review', March-April, 1958. (Joseph Redman was the pen-name of Brian Pearce.)

At each trial the list of defendants always contained the names of some obvious provocateurs, planted by the GPU. They were always ready to jump in when called upon if the chief accused faltered.

Such a man, for example, was Valentine Olberg. Whilst working for the Comintern in Berlin in 1930, he wormed his way into the Trotskyist group there. After he was expelled, he made strenuous efforts to get back in.

He turned up in the trial of Zinoviev and Kamenev, claiming to have plotted with the 'Trotskyite Centre'.

Olberg explained how he had tried unsuccessfully to see Sedov, Trotsky's son, in Copenhagen in 1932. Trotsky was also there to deliver a lecture. He hoped to stay in Denmark, but the government, under pressure from the Soviet government, would not let him. Sedov, who was studying in Berlin, wanted to meet his father in Copenhagen, but could not get there in time.

But Holtzman, another defendant in the same trial, talks about meeting Sedov in Copenhagen in the vestibule of the Hotel Bristol. It was very soon established in the Danish press, however, that this hotel had been demolished in 1917.

The Stalinists kept quiet about this unfortunate fact for some time. Not until five months had passed did they come up with the answer.

True, there had been no Hotel Bristol for 20 years, but there was a Grand Hotel Copenhagen and nearby a confectioners shop called Bristol. Moreover this shop was a well-known haunt of 'Danish Trotskyists'.

Nobody ever explained how one could arrange a clandestine appointment in a sweet shop, which had no vestibule or why Holtzman called it an hotel.

Furthermore, there were no Trotskyists in Denmark until 1933, and even if there had been any there during 1932, why should Sedov select such a well-known meeting place for a highly secret get-together?

Such questions raised by many people at the time of the trials, were brushed aside by Stalin and his hangers-on. Whilst the leadership of the October Revolution were slandered, humiliated and murdered, the Stalinists chorused their approval.

As these same people prepare betrayals of the working class today, we must never forget their role at the time of Stalin's purges.

WORLD NEWS

Ford motor strike: new stage of U.S. struggle

NO GENEVA—VICTORY TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE



HAVING endorsed Wilson's economic policies at the Scarborough conference of the Labour Party, those middle-class moralists whose protest over the viciousness and brutality of the Vietnam war defeated their platform can have little hope of seeing their main demand carried out. This called on the government to dissociate itself from US policy.

After all, the economic policy—the three-year long operation of 'saving the pound' through attacking the wages and living conditions of almost every section of workers in Britain—is carried on to justify the massive loans graciously granted by President Johnson and his government. It means backing Johnson and imperialism all the way.

This reciprocal arrangement was further strengthened when George Brown visited the United Nations just a week before the Scarborough conference.

In New York he re-affirmed British support for US policy in Vietnam. His report was along the lines of that put by the US representative Arthur Goldberg who called for a ceasefire and negotiations.

Meanwhile the US continues to bomb North Vietnam, creeping nearer and nearer to its real target—China.

(The US's own economic crisis means it has to bring an area like China back into the world capitalist markets, a situation ended by the 1949 Chinese Revolution. America's planned anti-ballistic missile system is aimed particularly at future, possible Chinese nuclear retaliation.)

Facing imminent defeat in Vietnam, Brown, Goldberg and the US and British imperialists want another round-table discussion with the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front like that which finally brought about the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

But the war has reached its present pitch because the US completely ignored any of these Agreements. So what can the Vietnamese people gain from another 1954-type conference whose decisions will be cynically broken by the imperialists?

This is where the Labour Party moralists fall right into the right-wing's hands.

Clauses added to their 'dissociation' victory at Scarborough call for support for U Thant, United Nations General Secretary, in seeking to persuade the US to end bombing and for a settlement based in the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

Their calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and reunification of Vietnam under a government of the people's choice fall flat when linked with the previous demands.

All the suffering and cruelty of the war, which they deplore, can only be ended by a defeat of US imperialism in Vietnam and a victory for the courageous fighters of the National Liberation Front.

Footnote: Despite all US efforts to contain the Vietcong and cut off their supplies from the north, the latest official figures show a mounting US casualty list—to date 13,000 GIs have been killed in the fighting, the majority in the last year!

Internationally the capitalist press has tried to ignore the strike of 159,000 Ford motor workers in the United States. This however has not hidden the fact that the action of a quarter of America's auto workers marks a new stage in the history of the US labour movement.

Only the third major motor strike in the last 20 years, this dispute has dragged a very unwilling Walter Reuther, boss of the 640,000 strong United Auto Workers' Union into taking some kind of action on behalf of his members.

He knows that the fortunes of the American motor bosses are not favourable at the moment. Ford, in particular, are facing a 40 per cent drop in profits, General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors are in trouble too. Last year auto profits only amounted to about 14.5 per cent of the capital invested, and the industry has determined to improve on this this year.

The motor workers, on the other hand, seem determined to win and, although there does not appear to have been any news in the press as to the latest developments, the dispute has assumed great importance for the motor workers of the whole of the US.

So far this year there has been a continual history of unofficial strikes against the harsh conditions inside the plant and also to express general dissatisfaction with official UAW leadership.

This criticism of the leadership may prove to be the key to the present dispute, and whether final victory can be won.

Reuther is playing the strike the traditional way. On the one hand he is saying union funds cannot stand a long strike, and then his strike demands are phrased in such a way that the strikers are divided.

Reuther is demanding special increases for the privileged skilled workers who make



Reuther: Forced to take action.

up only 13 per cent of the Ford labour force, mainly white Americans of British or German origin.

For the other 87 per cent unskilled workers, mainly Negroes, white Americans of East European origin or Southern whites, the demands are more modest. The increases asked for range from 28s. down to 6s. 5d. over the next three years.

On top of this Reuther divides American motor workers off from their Canadian brothers by demanding protection against the use of labour in the plants across the border, instead of demanding the same rate for the job irrespective of which country the motors are produced in.

Other demands include that pension payments should be tied to the cost of living, a guaranteed annual wage and protection from non-union labour.

Although the motor companies dislike Reuther's demands, they depend on him to keep the militancy of the auto workers down to a 'manageable level'.

The motor bosses pin their hopes on Reuther to make some sort of deal possible. But the situation for the car worker is now becoming clearer.

American motor workers must go far beyond their union leadership in the fight for their demands. The struggle in America today is for the building of an American Labour Party that can advance demands of nationalization of the US motor industry so that it can be organized on a world production basis.

In this way skilled and unskilled, coloured and white workers can unite with their brothers in the world motor manufacturing centres for the betterment of all.

DEVLIN AND THE DOCKS

THE implementation of the Devlin Commission Report on the docks has become an explosive issue, especially amongst Liverpool dockers, who remain solid in their decision to carry on the strike against the Devlin scheme.

The Devlin Report, so the employers and Mr. Wilson said, would benefit the dockers and bring them permanent employment. But it has become clear from the terms of the Report that this so-called 'modernization' is, in fact, a direct attack on trade unionism and an attempt to speed-up at the expense of dockers' jobs. The dockers know too that many hard-won trade union rights will go by the board.

Result

The confusion sown on the London docks by the unofficial leadership, which has not explained the full implications of a fight against the Devlin Report, has resulted in the men returning to work.

Jack Dash, television's tame poodle, has repeatedly explained away the struggle in the ports as a question of economic demands, without posing the real struggle for nationalization under workers' control.

From the feeling amongst dockers in London it is obvious that had they been given real leadership they would not have returned to work but remained out with the Liverpool lads.

Our Keep Left reporter met one of a group of very determined young dockers who are showing the Labour government and the dock employers that they are not prepared to let the union leadership sell them out with vague promises.

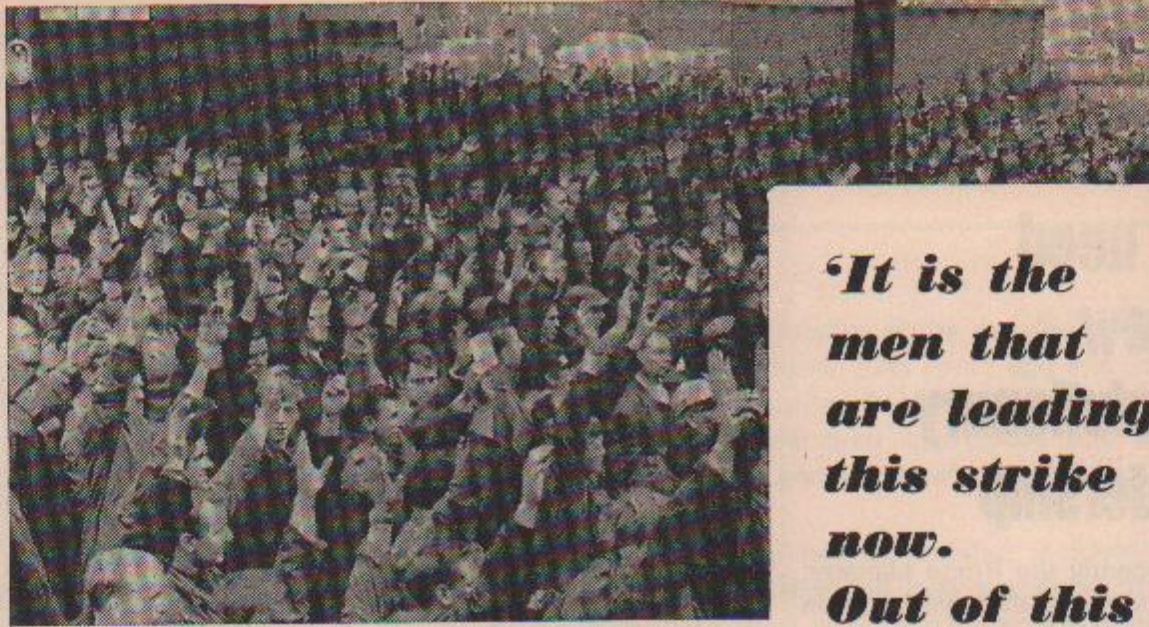
Tough

Twenty six years old, Jim (we cannot give his full name for obvious reasons) has been working on the docks for five years.

His introduction to the laws of the Dock Labour Board was tough. After working for only a few months he was disciplined for being away from the job—'I went off because my Dad was involved in a motor bike accident'.

On being brought before the Dock Labour Board he was disciplined and his book was taken away from him (this meant he could not get a job on the docks).

'I applied three times for my book back. The third time I was called before three members of the local Dock Labour Board. A lay official of the Transport



A young portworker speaks ...

and General Workers' Union told me they would allow me back if I stopped following my brother—he is a well-known militant on the docks and a member of the "Blue" (the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers union).

Jim had been working only a very short time on the docks when he was involved in his first strike. 'We were out for ten days on wages. We got promises from the union and went back. Twelve months later we got 11s.'

From this experience and others like it, Jim and his mates have few illusions in the union leadership. 'The union leadership is hand in glove with the employers. Officials should be put up for office every 12 months. We don't seem to be able to get rid of them.'

On Devlin he speaks with some feeling. 'It is a plan for the employers. A high court judge has brought in a scheme to suit the big employers. The worst thing is the discipline to get rid of militants. We know there will be big redundancies.'

Issue

In addition Jim says that the employers and the government are splitting the men by giving different local agreements.

He feels that although the dockers on Merseyside have remained solid in their strike, they should have pushed for nationalization and workers' control. 'They've let it slip now but it could have been a national issue,' he said.

Recognizing that the fight is now against the government Jim

commented that when Labour was first elected in 1964 he was delighted. 'I thought the industry would be nationalized and I supported Wilson's image. I thought he was working class with his pipe.'

He was not, however, very happy about his own MP whom, he says, has, as far as he knows, only made statements about abortion and defending the Duke of Edinburgh in the House of Commons.

Colours

'But I voted for him to get Wilson in.'

'I am disillusioned in the Labour government now. It's like choosing between two Tory policies.'

'When did the disillusionment start? There was everything. The government wasn't long before it showed the report on Devlin. There was the wage freeze and the rise in the cost of living. But I think it was the seamen's strike that did it for me. The way Wilson attacked them showed his colours.'

'I used to be with the Communist Party. But there is no fire in them. Down here they say the strength of the dockers is in the Transport and General Workers' Union and we should make the officials work. But any real leadership has to fight the officials.'

'The only leadership on the docks is not the union officials but the men themselves. It is the men that are leading this strike now. Out of this lot I think the dockers will get a leadership which can fight to win.'

'It is the men that are leading this strike now.'

Out of this lot I think the dockers will get a leadership which can fight to win'— says a young Merseyside docker

The Aberfan disaster and Lord Robens

IT IS now almost a year since the unforgettable tragedy of Aberfan, whose bitter memory will be forever green in the homes of those parents whose children were killed. After long months of protesting and waiting, the bereaved families will receive £5,000 each from the £1,750,000 Disaster Fund.

Meanwhile, a Committee of Enquiry laid the blame for the disaster squarely on the shoulders of the National Coal Board, and Lord Robens, the chairman, accepted this responsibility. He tendered his resignation, but was asked to withdraw it by the Labour government, and to this request he agreed.

On August 30, he embarked on a transatlantic voyage in the Queen Mary to New York in a suite once occupied by Sir Winston Churchill, which cost somewhere between £720 and £1,047.

He returned on September 20, occupying the main deck suite on the Queen Elizabeth costing £1,046. All in all, the total return trip cost the taxpayer well over £2,000.

On both voyages Lord and Lady Robens were accompanied by another couple and a man, thus ensuring that the suite was not unnecessarily overcrowded, like, for example, some of the miners' homes out in the Welsh valleys.

A spokesman for the Cunard Steamship Line explained that 'the suite is really two adjoining cabins pushed into one by removing the partition between them. . . . A first-class main deck suite comprises two beds, a sitting room, two baths, showers and a toilet'. This gentleman thoughtfully went on to say that 'I am not prepared to reveal the cost, but the Coal Board will be paying'.

We wonder how the unfortunate Aberfan families feel about such expenditure. So far as we are concerned, it is simply the Labour leaders at work and play.

Out now!



A Socialist Labour League pamphlet
The alternative to Wilson
Price: sixpence by G. HEALY



For copies of this pamphlet apply to:
The Socialist Labour League, 186a, Clapham High St., London, SW4.



We need a new revolutionary leadership

SPEAKING on the television recently the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson told his viewers that we were in for a 'hard winter'.

So far as the working class and the youth are concerned, this is certainly true. Under the Labour government we have now a permanent pool of unemployed. The cost of living and rents have shot up and the purchasing power of wages has been reduced. Meanwhile we are spending more money on arms than at any time in history, and every day we are getting deeper and deeper in debt to the American bankers.

In the most cringing way imaginable the Labour leaders support Johnson's genocidal war in Vietnam. Everywhere these traitors of the working class stand four-square with capitalism and against the millions of working people who elected them.



This state of affairs comes as no surprise to Keep Left. Over five years ago in May 1962 the same Harold Wilson voted for the proscription of our paper on the NEC of the Labour Party. He instituted a ban on Labour Party members reading it on the grounds that anyone found by a Labour Party official selling it, buying it or reading it could be expelled.

There were those fake lefts who said that we were too sharp in our criticism of Wilson. Dare these gentlemen raise their heads today after the results of the recent by-elections in Cambridge and Walthamstow? Labour has held the latter constituency constantly since 1929, and even in 1931 after the MacDonald debacle.

There is some justification for drawing the conclusion that if there were to be a General Election tomorrow, Labour would gain less seats than they did in the 1931 election.

So, because Keep Left spoke out well in advance to prepare the labour movement as to what was taking place, it was banned. Now we are speaking out again.

Millions of trade unionists are today turning against the Labour Party because of Wilson's policies. They are not going to Toryism, since they hate the employers with a real class hatred. But that is not enough. What every trade unionist, young and old, has to think about today is that an alternative to the Labour Party must be built up. We need a new revolutionary leadership, one that is dedicated to the struggle for socialist policies, and one that will fight the employers through thick and thin.



The Young Socialists, since its inception, has fought for the policy of building a new revolutionary leadership. Now, we insist that this is the only road. We were right about Wilson—and we believe we are right today.

You cannot answer unemployment under Capitalism without nationalization of the basic industries with no compensation and under workers' control. But the Wilson leadership will not carry out this task. If we are to implement such socialist policies on behalf of the working class, then it requires the building of an alternative revolutionary leadership.

It is no use people just getting 'fed up' with Wilson. It is necessary for them to turn their efforts towards the positive task of drawing the lessons from what he has done, and losing no time in joining with Keep Left and the Young Socialists in building this leadership within the labour and trade union movement.

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The years before



THE period after great revival in the class movement. striking miners in t (centre), April 191 of strikes. Then th deepened the grov Russian ruling cla soldiers died at the prepared the Bol these struggles by t tical battle agains tom left) and Lun right) who said idealism were not Marxism.

Third of a series of articles by P. Jeffries

1967 brings the 50th anniversary of the greatest event of this century, if not the whole of human history. Fifty years ago this year the first workers' revolution occurred in Russia. For the first time in human history the exploited masses overthrew their oppressors and laid the basis for a society where it would be possible to abolish classes, to end the exploitation of man by man.

This great event was not an isolated incident. It heralded a new stage in the fight for socialism all over the world. It gave a tremendous impetus to the development of the working-class movement in the rest of the capitalist world. Out of the events of 1917 the Communist International was born.

The overthrow of capitalism in Russia was a gain for the international working class. What had made this revolution possible? Why did it occur in backward Russia? What were the lessons to be learned from its preparation?

The Russian Revolution 1917

THE defeat of the 1905 Revolution ushered in a period of extreme difficulty for the revolutionary movement in Russia and especially for the Bolshevik Party.

After 1907 all pretence on the part of the Tsar to establish a 'democratic' system of government vanished. The Duma (Parliament) was dissolved and a wave of repression was directed against the working-class movement.

It was in this period of reaction and difficulties that the struggle for theory took on extreme importance inside the Bolshevik Party. Responding to the setbacks of the revolutionary movement a group inside the Party, led by Bogdanov and Lunacharsky, attempted to revise Marxism by trying to show that it was not incompatible with religion and idealism.

Re-hash

Lenin took up the sharpest fight with this group and replied to them in one of his major philosophical works, *Materialism and Empirio Criticism*. He insisted upon the material foundation of Marxism and showed that all the latest ideas of these revisionists were essentially a re-hash of the ideas of the leading idealist philosophers.

This battle was not on abstract questions. The Bolshevik Party had to learn how to retreat in this difficult period.

The victory of the working class is assured not merely if

the working class can attack; it must learn how to retreat and deal with those within the movement who, under the cover of revolutionary phrases, refuse to recognize this.

Lenin in this period insisted that it was necessary to carry out revolutionary work in the most reactionary institutions: trade unions, co-operative societies, insurance societies, etc.

Lenin's fight in this period was a necessary preparation for the period of great revival in the working-class movement after 1912—a revival which was sparked off by the shooting of striking miners in the Lena goldfields (Siberia) in April 1912, which led to a wave of strikes throughout Russia.

This revival was itself given a great push forward by the First World War. This war was, of course, the outcome of the growing economic, political and military conflicts between the leading capitalist countries. Russia, a backward country, was dragged into this world war with devastating effects upon her economy, which proved utterly incapable of taking the strain.

The stand taken by the Bolsheviks during the war separated them sharply from all other tendencies in the working class movement, whom they had fought against so determinedly in the pre-war years. The leaders of the old Socialist and Labour Parties, organized in the Second International, supported their 'own' ruling class in each country.

In the war the Bolsheviks fought for an internationalist line. They called for the solidarity of the world working

class against the capitalist war and urged the working class in each country to utilize the conditions of the war to overthrow their own capitalist states. In Russia, in line with this policy, Lenin and the Bolsheviks called for the overthrow of Tsardom.

At the outset of the war, Lenin appeared to lead an insignificant handful of people with little or no influence or support in the working-class movement. Large numbers of workers in each country, caught up in the initial wave of patriotism produced by the war, followed the old leaders.

New stage

But Lenin refused, as always, to base the strategy and tactics of the Party on the immediate consciousness of the working class. In his famous work *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, Lenin showed that the advent of war marked a new stage in the development of the capitalist system.

Capitalism, which had plunged the world into a barbarous war, could no longer claim to be 'progressive', as it had been for much of the nineteenth century. Now its very continuation threatened mankind with war, famine, disease, poverty and starvation for millions throughout the world.

These conditions impelled the working class forward into revolutionary struggles against the employers and the capitalist state. No longer was it possible for the working class to

win reforms peacefully and gradually from the capitalist system. The only road for the working class lay in a revolutionary fight to overthrow capitalism by force.

It was from this standpoint of the epoch, of one in which the working class had to organize for the taking of power, that Lenin determined his attitude to the war in 1914, whatever the temporary mood which might prevail in large sections of the working class in favour of the war.

Lenin showed that Marxism and the programme of the Party must be based upon the long-term, all-round interests of the working class and not upon short-run, immediate considerations, no matter how popular.

As the war developed, and the capitalists, in order to wage the war on a larger and larger scale, were forced increasingly to attack the living standards and organizations of the working class, and as the conditions of the actual war became more and more brutal, so the mood in the working class began to shift to one of opposition to the war.

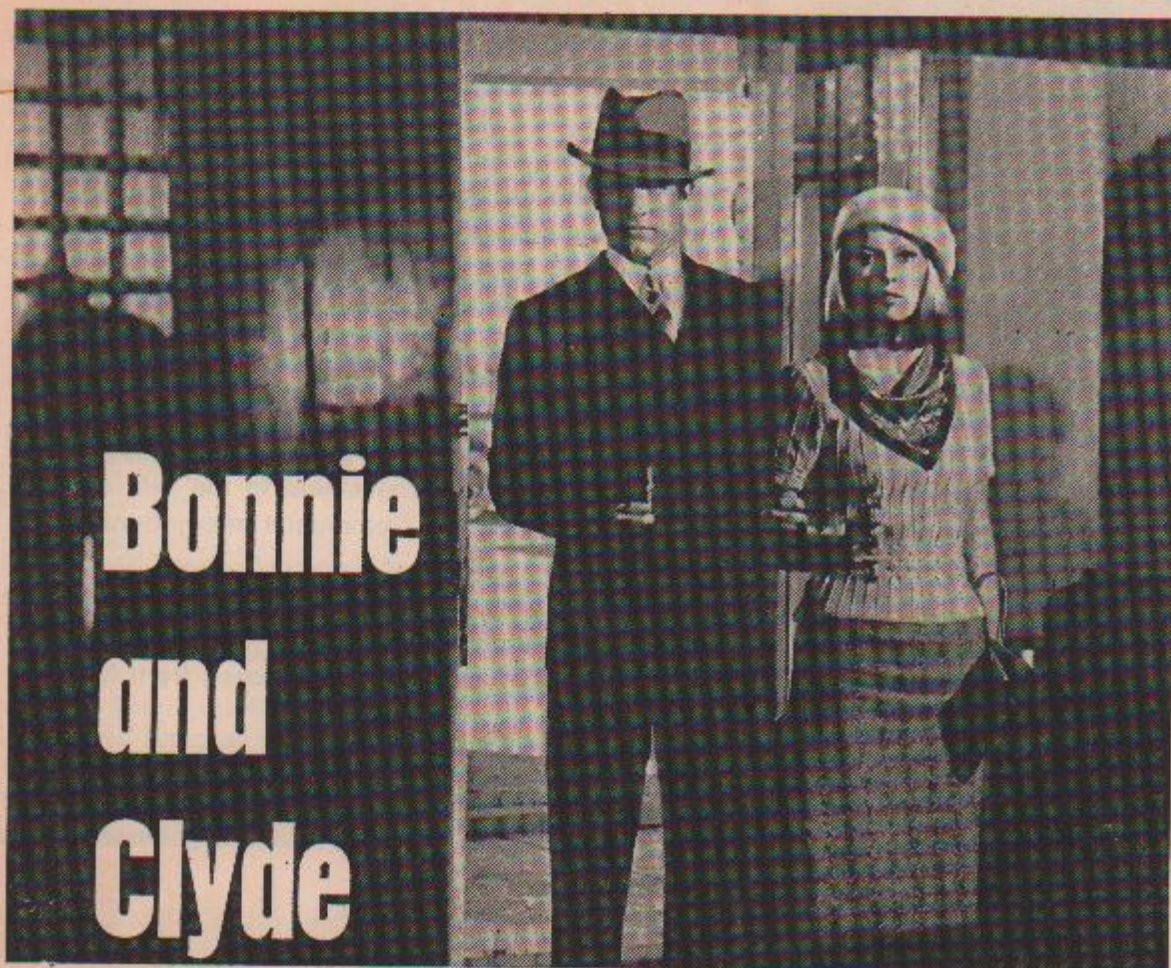
This opposition was no more clearly seen than in the case of Russia, where the very backwardness of the economy called for the harshest repressions against the working class.

This opposition was to explode into revolution by 1917, the year in which the working class, for the first time in history anywhere in the world, was to take power. How it did this 50 years ago will be the subject of our concluding article.



1912 heralded a Russian working-class crisis. The shooting of the Lena goldfields in 1912, led to a wave of strikes throughout the First World War. Thousands of workers died at the front (top). Lenin and the Bolshevik Party for taking up a theoretical battle with Bogdanov (bottom) showed that religion and idealism were incompatible with

review page



Bonnie and Clyde

Bonnie and Clyde
Produced by Warren Beatty
Directed by Arthur Penn
From Warner Bros.-Seven Arts

Starring: Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway, Michael J. Pollard and Gene Hackman

THIS FILM is the account of the exploits of the 'Barrow Gang' led by Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker in the Southern states of the USA in the 1930s.

The Wall Street crash of 1929 had put 15,000,000 out of work and thousands were driven from their land and from their homes by the bank monopolies, who demanded immediate payment of all debts.

The majority of the workers and poor farmers had to pile into old cars and head West to find work whilst a few, in desperation, turned to crime.

Bonnie and Clyde represent the latter. For a few brief months they fired their way across the Southern states flamboyantly robbing banks, gas stations and stores.

Eventually the Texas Rangers caught up with the gun-shooting pair in an ambush and pumped round after round of ammunition into their car before they could even reach for their guns.

Bonnie and Clyde were, in a way, symptomatic of the fighting spirit of the working class itself, whose strength was re-asserted in the building of massive trade union organization in the new industries which sprang up in the mid-1930s.

In the Heat of the Night
Directed by Norman Jewison
Released by United Artists
Hurry Sundown
Directed by Otto Preminger
Released by Paramount

OVER the last year there have been a large number of films dealing, in different ways, with the Negro question in the United States.

Apart from the two films reviewed here there has been 'The Chase' (reviewed previously in Keep Left) and 'Up the Down Staircase'.

The background to such film activity is the Detroit insurrection and riots in other slum areas where Negroes and poor whites have revolted against being the downtrodden section of Johnson's 'great society'.

The philosophy of the films is liberalism, that is they say that the problems of the Negro can be solved in a system where there are still the class divisions of employers and workers.

Both 'The Chase' and 'In the Heat of the Night' show that everything comes right in the end and common sense will prevail.

'Hurry Sundown' has an 'Uncle Tom' attitude to the Negroes—the film ends with them all marching

Expressed in the film is a very real hatred of the cops. Bonnie and Clyde and the gang capture a pursuing Sheriff and proceed to humiliate him in every way possible.

The film is a violent one, portraying very violent times, when the impoverished people of the US fought and scabbled for a living.

Bonnie and Clyde were the products of an era in which death from malnutrition and the birth of deformed babies suffering from rickets were commonplace.

If the stomachs of many of the film critics are too weak to take the horror of some of the scenes in Bonnie and Clyde it is because they do not like to be reminded that the suffering during the 1930s produced a fierce hatred of the capitalist system which, in the case of some, could only be expressed in a gun war with the police, the banks and authority.

This is Warren Beatty's first venture as a film producer and one hopes that his future efforts will give the same brilliance. Both his portrayal and that of Faye Dunaway as Bonnie will possibly stand out as performances of the year amongst those who appreciate worthwhile films.

off singing spirituals to reclaim their land.

The two films reviewed here are very different in quality, 'In the Heat of the Night' being far superior.

The question of racialism is tied to a murder hunt. Rod Steiger plays the Sheriff of a small Mississippi town where murder is committed.

His first suspect is a Negro who turns out to be a homicide specialist, played by Sidney Poitier.

Both these men give outstanding performances as the main conflict between the two characters develops. Their relationship is sometimes humorous and sometimes bitter and hateful but the Sheriff's racialism is gradually broken down.

'Hurry Sundown' is the story of an ambitious Southerner who uses every possible method to get what he wants, at the expense of the Negro farmers, his relations and eventually his own family life.

Definitely the least original of the two films, it stars Michael Caine and Jane Fonda.

Communist poet: MAYAKOVSKY

REVIEW by Karen Treacher

ON the day the Bolsheviks seized power, November 7, 1917, the Central Executive Committee of the Party called a conference of writers and artists to put forward a programme of co-operation with the new Soviet government.

Everyone was invited. Only five or six came, including the director Meyerhold, who was to launch the movement 'October in the Theatre', and the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, leader of the Moscow Futurists.

Mayakovsky had joined the underground Bolshevik Party in 1907 when he was 14. He carried on illegal activity, was arrested, and wrote his first poetry in prison. After his release he decided to leave the Party in order to study and train himself to 'create a Socialist art'.

In 1911 he entered the Moscow Art School where he first met members of the newly-formed Futurist group.

Already, before the Revolution, Mayakovsky and his fellow Futurists were in revolt against the brutality of Tsarist society, and the stifling little world of the Russian intelligentsia. Mayakovsky's famous love poem 'A Cloud in Trousers' poured scorn on the drawing-room poets who wrote of violins and nightingales, completely ignoring the sufferings of Russian workers and peasants.

Unlike former literary rebels, who had usually grown up into respectable citizens, unlike the Italian Futurists who supported Mussolini, the individualist revolt of the Russian Futurists was transformed by the Bolshevik Revolution, which struck down all the things they hated most.

Whilst other writers emigrated or fled to religion, they and other Leftist artists, carried out vital propaganda work during the Civil War, explaining the role of the Bolsheviks, the goals of the Red Army, and the necessity for discipline and efficiency in the face of White Guards and Interventionist armies.

To keep army morale high they ran trains carrying books, films, artists and poets to the soldiers at the front.

Mayakovsky designed a famous series of posters with popular verses calling for army volunteers, appealing for famine-stricken areas, fighting for hygiene and education against the religious backwardness which for so long had paralysed the Russian peasantry.

The Revolution had awakened a great thirst for learning among the Russian masses, and in the early 1920s there was a remarkable flowering in all fields of art. The Futurists aimed to create a language to describe the new world of technology and Socialist planning. Sometimes they leapt so far into the future that no one could understand what they wrote.

Lenin, who loved the great 19th century Russian poets, was no great admirer of Mayakovsky for this reason. His wife, Krupskaya, describes a visit to an art school where Lenin asked the students:

'What do you read? Do you read Pushkin?' 'Oh no,' someone said, 'after all he's a bourgeois, we read Mayakovsky.'

Vladimir Ilyich smiled and said: 'Hm, well I think Pushkin is better.'

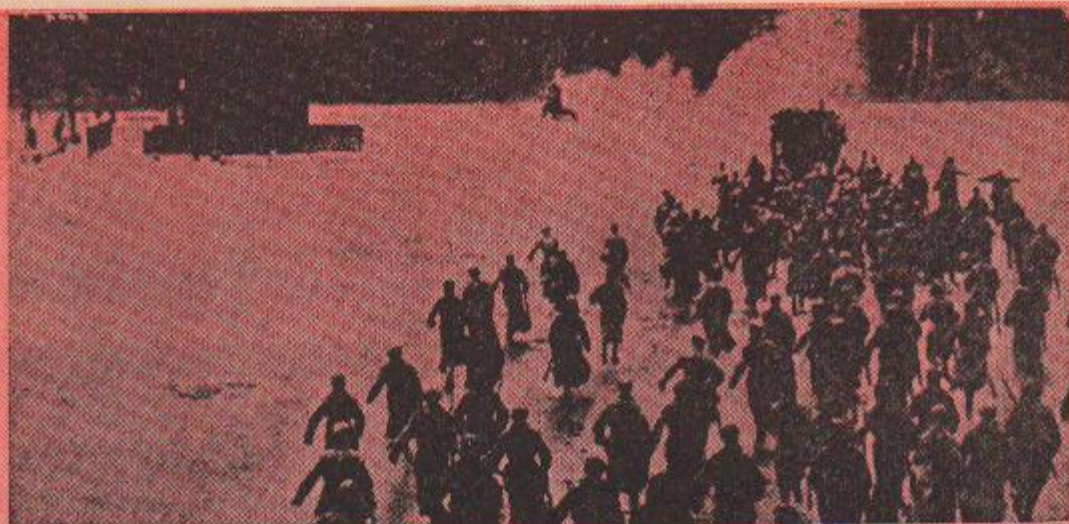
However, Lenin later read with great pleasure Mayakovsky's 'In Re Conferences' (1922) which describes bureaucrats cutting themselves in half to sit in two conferences at once.

Trotsky wished Mayakovsky success but felt that his poetry lacked 'an image of the Revolution worked over by nerves and brain'. Poems like '150,000,000' (1921) with its sweeping generalizations and bold but inaccurate images were out of touch with the imagination of the revolutionary workers.

In 'Vladimir Ilyich Lenin' (1924), written nine months after Lenin's death, Mayakovsky tried to catch in words the significance of Lenin, and the revolutionary traditions Lenin embodied. He also warned against those who would turn Lenin into a saint, while refusing to carry on his work:

I fear
the mausoleum
and official functions,
established statute
servility
may clog
with cloying unction
Lenin's
simplicity.

Continued on page 9—>



RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FIFTY YEARS AGO the Bolsheviks led the Russian working class in the successful overthrow of the ruling class and established workers' power. This world-shaking event of 1917 tolled the death knell for world capitalism and thrust the working class forward into a new stage in its battle against oppression.

The Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League are hiring a large hall in London on November 5 where they will organize celebrations for this historic event. As supporters of the Fourth International founded by Leon Trotsky, the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League, British section of the Fourth International, carry on the struggle of the Bolsheviks and their followers against imperialism.

Therefore the Young Socialists commemorate the Russian Revolution not just as something which took place in 1917 but as an event which represents forces that live in working-class struggles all over the world today—from Britain to Vietnam.

The truth about the Russian Revolution—particularly its betrayal by Stalinism—can only be told by the Trotskyist Fourth International and its supporters. That is why the Celebration will include in its programme items dealing with Leon Trotsky and the formation of the Left Opposition which fought for the continuation of the gains of the revolution against Stalin's policy of peaceful co-existence.

We call on all our readers and the Young Socialist branches and Federations to do their utmost to make this Celebration a resounding success.

ENTER NOW FOR COMPETITION

OUR WORK for the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution of 1917 is going ahead well. Striking posters advertising a half-day devoted to the achievements of this greatest event in the history of the world working class have gone up in many prominent places and thousands of leaflets are being distributed.

One most important part of these celebrations is the competition for the best entrant. Young Socialists and students are welcomed to depict, in any artistic form, what the Russian Revolution means to them.

Like the Young Socialists in our photograph many branches have already started work for the competition.

There are two grades of entry—one for beginners, which is for YS members who have not had a formal training in the arts (painting, writing, music, sculpture, etc.) and one for advanced, which is mainly for students who have acquired artistic skill and therefore have to be judged separately.

By taking part in this competition you will ensure the success of the Celebration at which all the entries will be on display. If you want to enter write to: 50th Anniversary, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4. (We will send you details about the collection of your entry in good time.)



MAYAKOVSKY Continued from page 8

In his poems and plays Mayakovsky constantly satirized the Stalinist bureaucrats who took advantage of Russia's precarious economic situation to further their own careers.

To those self-styled 'true proletarian writers' who attacked him for his lyricism he replied that he was fighting for the lyricism of the Revolution against those who were trying to smother it.

Lenin and Trotsky had always fought against the idea of an artificially-created 'proletarian culture' and a resolution drawn up for the 13th Party Congress by Trotsky, Bukharin and others, stated that 'the Party must declare itself for free competition between the various groups and trends'.

In 1925 however Stalin allowed RAPP (Association of Proletarian Writers) to smear and break up the non-political Writers' Union.

The way was being paved for the introduction of so-called 'socialist realism' as the official art of the Soviet Union, and the murder of those writers who refused to write in accordance with it.

Earlier Mayakovsky had been a keen film maker but now he came into conflict with Sovkino, the official Film Production Organization. The State Pub-

lishing House deliberately held up publication of his work.

In January 1930 his play *The Bathhouse* drew howls of disapproval from the official critics; in March his exhibition 'Twenty Years' Work' was boycotted. In his last speech one of the greatest poets of revolutionary Russia demanded 'help—not the glorification of non-existent virtues'. A few days later he shot himself.

Once safely dead, Mayakovsky was ready for sainthood. When Stalin declared him 'the greatest poet of our Socialist epoch', all those who had hounded him in his lifetime now unanimously praised him—while quietly censoring his work.

Mayakovsky's friends, like Meyerhold, who produced his plays, were killed; his enemies, like the critic Ermilov whose review of *The Bathhouse* accused its author of being a Trotskyist, survived to attack the present generation of young Soviet writers.

Mayakovsky's personal tragedy cannot be separated from the tragedy of the Revolution strangled by Stalin. Right at the end, depressed and confused in his isolation, Mayakovsky applied to join RAPP:

I mastered myself
and crushed underfoot
the throat
of my very own songs.

To console himself he dreamed of a bright socialist future but sometimes even the future turned black, as it does in his play *The Bedbug*, and suicide seemed the only way out.

While the fight of Trotsky and the Left Opposition was based on a clear understanding of the role of the bureaucracy in terms of the actual conditions of Russia in the 1920s, Mayakovsky's satire lacks this deeper understanding.

He himself said that 'a writer-revolutionary is one who is a participant in everyday workaday activity and the building of socialism.

'A writer has to start from his own experience, but how is he to make sense of that experience unless he is part of the central struggle of today—the disciplined struggle of the revolutionary Marxist party to decide the future of humanity.

Mayakovsky's poetry is available in MAYAKOVSKY, translated and edited by Herbert Marshall (Dennis Dobson, 1965). 'The Bedbug' is in THREE SOVIET PLAYS (Penguin, 1966). Trotsky's criticism is in LITERATURE AND REVOLUTION (Ann Arbon, 1960).

The Flower Children

ACCORDING to the so-called 'popular' press a new cult is sweeping Britain, that of the 'Flower Children' — also known as the 'Beautiful People' and 'Hippies'.

Under the guise of warning youth against it, the press, true weapon of capitalism, is giving it tremendous publicity, frequently making it appear very attractive to young people.

The cult of the 'Flower Children', which was started in the United States, has one basic message—that of complete escapism from reality. Their slogan 'turn on—tune in—drop out' is a call to drop out from the class struggle and escape into a fantasy world of drugs, psychedelic lighting and music.

They live in their own communities, mostly in San Francisco, and are mainly supported by cheques from their middle-class parents.

The birth of the 'Flower Children' in Britain has been greeted with tremendous publicity. There is a boutique selling 'hippie' clothes in Montague Square, and a shop is being set up to 'sell beautiful things to beautiful people'.

In Britain the cult has its own paper which is sold in a number of boutiques in the London area and tells of all the 'Flower Children's' activities. It claims to have a circulation of 20,000.

With all the publicity being given to the cult by the capitalist press, the function of this paper seems hardly necessary.

The 'Flower Children', who are basically a middle-class movement, are closely linked to the Dutch 'Provos', whose pathetic appearance at the Liège demonstration in Belgium in 1966 is remembered with contempt by all Young Socialists.

All the followers of this cult that I have ever spoken to show great hostility towards the capitalist system and towards the state, but instead of fighting it, as the YS is doing, they try to put it out of their minds; so by refusing to fight to overthrow capitalism, and by accepting it as a permanent fixture, they are in fact supporting it.

The Young Socialists held a successful International Assembly this summer where over 800 youth from 13 countries discussed the building of an international youth movement. From this Assembly we go forward to work for an International Conference of Socialist Youth in 1968.

Capitalism is using every weapon in its hands, such as the press and television, to direct the youth away from the class struggle.

The YS have, therefore, to fight in the factories, in the colleges and universities to direct youth towards the revolutionary policies of the YS and away from middle-class escapist movements.

Forward to the building of the Fourth International!

Forward from the International Assembly of Socialist Youth to the 1968 International Conference of Socialist Youth!

Marion Kavanagh,
Croydon.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG

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

Progress in Luton

AT the beginning of 1967 Watford Young Socialists started working in Luton to establish a YS branch. After several months of consistent work, we had recruited only a small number of young people.

But over the last month the situation has changed. The struggles of the Vauxhall workers and the high rate of unemployment amongst school leavers has made the youth much more interested in politics.

Many of the parents of these youth work at Vauxhall's, which means that the struggles of this section of workers affects the youth directly. The question of the Vauxhall stewards' fight against the management is a problem in which the youth are necessarily interested.

But some of the youth come to the YS meetings with the ideas of their parents, e.g. that the struggles at Vauxhall's can be won by the Vauxhall workers in isolation from other car workers. We have begun to take up a discussion with the new members in order to convince them that every struggle for better wages and conditions in the factory now means a political fight against Wilson.

This is a crucial part of the preparation for winning over adult trade unionists in Luton to the politics of the Young Socialists, especially those trade unionists in Vauxhall's, who will not win their fight with the employers unless they recognize that their struggle must be linked up with other sections of the working class, which are also under attack from the Labour government.

Another movement amongst the youth seeking a way forward, which we have begun to fight against, is the 'hippy' movement.

One of the hippies told us that he had left the Young Communist League 'in order to seek even more peaceful roads to socialism'!

Members of Luton YS.

Different Situation

WE in the Young Socialists are now working in an entirely different political situation. Workers who once supported Wilson are now coming into action against the Labour government.

The Young Socialists are increasingly being seen as the main fighting force against capitalism. Workers are now responding to our policies and are joining our movement.

The Labour government is attacking the youth more and more. Many youth are now unemployed in Leeds.

We have been out of work for about six months, apart from a few days. We went for a labouring job, the only one available.

We were turned down and told that there were no vacancies. On our way home we met a friend of ours, who is 16, and he told us that he had just been taken on by the same firm. But he is being used as cheap labour. Since we are older the employer would have had to pay us more.

We have been disallowed benefit from the dole office and told to go out and get jobs. When we asked them to get us a job, they said that there were no jobs anywhere for our age. We are 18.

It is obvious to us that the employers are using the threat of unemployment in order to get hold of cheap labour.

We have joined the Young Socialists because we think that this is the only way to fight back against the employers.

Rob Fisher,
Harehills YS.
Kevin Whitehouse,
Seacroft YS.

Education in the Young Socialists

THE South Yorkshire Region is holding a series of day schools, the first of which discussed the Russian Revolution. This class was the first Young Socialist meeting I had ever attended.

It got off to a good start with Peter Jeffries, who is writing the 'Russian Revolution' articles in Keep Left, talking on the events leading up to the Russian Revolution and their importance in relation to the British situation.

With the campaigning for this first class, which was held in the middle of September, the Young Socialists drew nine new young people into the YS. All of them were keen to join in discussions and ask questions.

Also many discussions arose between these new members during the lunch break, without the lead from the senior members of the Young Socialists.

The secretary collected a number of deposits from these new members for the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution Celebration, in London.

This meeting proved to be very successful and at the

next Regional School, which is to be held at Doncaster in October, we hope to draw more new members and hold another successful meeting.

Jeremy Walson,
Rotherham YS.

More Competitions Please!

IN addition to the publication of national and international items of interest, the editorial board of the Keep Left should also hold a series of competitions, for the purpose of enabling the youth with a flair for writing to submit short stories based on industrial and political struggles and topical essays.

These competitions must be organized on a regional basis and selected by the regional areas for submission to the editorial board of Keep Left.

Finally the articles submitted by the various regions should be selected by the editorial board, on the basis of the best three articles or stories, appearing in order of first, second and third and published in Keep Left each month.

These competitions will naturally be held every two or three months, thereby ensuring a series of articles on various topics to be available for publication in Keep Left.

From these competitions the Young Socialists will be able to draw out the best team of writers and reporters.

Amos Bux,
Manchester.

Monthly Competition

THERE has often been a call for more branch news to be sent in to Keep Left, and on several occasions there have been letters printed calling for competitions of one kind or another.

I think that one way of answering these needs would be to continue, on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, the kind of competition being run for the October Revolution Celebration.

The competition could be for the best photograph of YS activity, or a poster for use at YS branch meetings, or a poem.

A selection of the best entries could be printed in the Keep Left and a suitable prize awarded for the winning entry.

Alan Hitchcock,
Birmingham.

YS and Marxist Theory

A MEMBER of my branch asked how YS members who know nothing of Marxism can recruit other youth to the Young Socialists.

It is of course a first necessity to read Marxist literature and to learn about Marxism, but youth cannot develop themselves and take part in the building of a revolutionary party on theory alone.

It must be explained to new members how they can put this theory into practice. They must be shown how federation ECs and branch committees are run and how they can take part in the running of the branches and the building of the Young Socialists.

It is right to say that the youth should play a more active role in the committees and in the organization of the branches.

They cannot do this unless they are shown by the more experienced YS members.

It is right to say that the youth in the YS should have more responsibility but it is up to the more experienced members to show them how to use this responsibility.

The new members cannot go forward without this guidance. We have to work out this problem in East London.

Classes should be held in all areas to explain to new members and to committee members the role that they play in the building of the Young Socialists.

The youth in all areas must take a positive leading role in the building of this movement. It is only the youth who can build the YS but they must be shown how to relate Marxist theory to the building of the YS.

Henry Levy,
Secretary, Dagenham YS.

Politics on the Docks

AS supporters of Trotskyism and Marxism we in the Young Socialists judge and assess our political enemies and allies essentially by their actions.

The actions of some so-called London docks leaders, who are also sympathizers of the Communist Party, have displayed for all the working class to see a basic lack of any Marxist method.

What these so-called leaders do not understand is that each time they betray a section of the working class they expose their own true position and the position, in particular, of the Communist Party.

When we talk about the class consciousness of the

working class, or a section of it, we do not mean that the workers will become a whole lot of highly-developed Marxists immediately.

We mean that workers gain consciousness of their position through meeting head on with the forces of capitalism.

In their counter-revolutionary role the so-called leaders of the dockers exposed themselves. They did nothing to educate the dock workers as to the real implications of the Devlin Report. The result is that the dockers will have to learn these implications the hard way.

Many of those who have hitherto placed their trust in the present unofficial leadership will reject it and look around for a leadership they can rely on.

On the Young Socialists falls the responsibility of teaching them that the only party is one which links up their problems to the problems of the working class as a whole, and makes it clear that what is pending in their struggles is a head-on clash with the state machine, which raises the question of state power.

It is only a party which does more than just talk about state power that can lead to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

R. O'Neill,
Hackney YS.

Devlin Report on the Docks

ON September 18, when the Devlin Report came into force on the docks, thousands of dockers came out on strike against it.

I think that it would be a big step forward for the Young Socialists if we went down to the docks to speak to the dockers and win them over to our ideas—to show them that if the docks were nationalized under workers' control there would be no need for sackings; there would be a full working week and a reasonable wage.

We have to convince the dockers that the Young Socialists is the only alternative to Wilson.

On the docks it is not just a question of exposing Jack Dash. This has been done before several times.

Young dockers must put forward their own alternative leadership. That leadership must be young dockers who support the Young Socialists and fight for its policies.

Once a week some of our members go down to the docks and get a crowd of young dockers listening to our policies. From this we have managed to recruit young dockers to the Young Socialists.

I think that these young

révoltes

POUR LA CONSTRUCTION DE L'ORGANISATION RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE DE LA JEUNESSE

Annual
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£1 (post
included)

dockers could play an important part in the building of the YS and a lead in our area in the fight to nationalize the docks under workers' control.

P. Stearn,
East Ham YS.

Progress in West London

SINCE the International Assembly of Socialist Youth in the summer the West London Federation has been able to start up a new branch in North Kensington and increase the membership of its other branches.

Through a social programme, the most outstanding of which has been coach outings and sports, we have been able to attract large numbers of youth into the branches.

In the St. Pancras branch the membership has doubled and from this development we have been able to form a branch committee.

In two weeks time we are opening a discotheque which we will make a big success.

In Paddington we have undertaken a recruitment drive to build up the branch and in Kensington we are confident that the branch will increase its membership in the next month.

The federation committee has proposed that we should do the following:

1. Hold properly organized public meetings in our work to increase the circulation of Keep Left and to make contact with other youth; also estate sales every week must be planned.

2. Set up a new branch in Sommers Town.

3. In the social programme we intend to hold a dance in each area.

The social programme we have just completed met with great enthusiasm from our members in West London. By improving our programme we shall be able to build mass branches of the Young Socialists.

I think that in the present political situation it is possible to draw youth into the YS and to build a mass youth movement, with the help of an organized social programme.

S. Basham,
W. London.

Unemployment

TODAY we are faced with the largest spell of unemployment in the living memory of most members of the Young Socialists.

The last time we were in a similar situation was in 1963, when the outstanding feature was the trade unionists' lobby of Parliament.

This lobby played a great part in forcing the government to change its policy. Now we are in an even worse unemployment situation and again the North-East trade unionists have called a lobby of Parliament—on December 12.

Since only the Young Socialists are campaigning on the basis that capitalism is bankrupt and that social democracy is attacking the working class, with the assistance of the trade union leaders, the attendance of YS members is highly important, and all branches must make a great effort to send a delegation themselves. They must fight to get their trade union branches to support the lobby and to send a delegation to London.

C. Crigg,
Sunderland.

Building New Branches

THE Labour government's attacks on the working class are part of the world-wide crisis of imperialism.

The employers, in order to compete in a dwindling world market, are forced to drive down the standards of the working class, by speed up and automation. They attempt to discipline them with the threat of unemployment.

In the every-day struggle for wages and conditions in Britain and elsewhere today, workers find themselves up against not only the employers but their political representatives and the state.

It is in this situation that the International Assembly met this summer and posed the clear revolutionary alternative to the crisis of capitalism—the building of the working-class leadership.

In the South London Federation the decision was taken to carry out the programme of the Assembly, by extending the work of federation and building the Young Socialists in our area into a mass movement against Wilson and the employers.

An immediate campaign began in the Southwark area to establish a branch, which held a very successful first meeting two weeks after the camp.

The branch has formed a functioning committee and has held regular meetings

every week, whilst contributing to the federation activities.

The federation is also planning to establish a new branch in an area not yet covered, as part of the campaign for the Eighth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists in 1968.

Before every Young Socialist is the perspective of the Morecambe Conference and the building of a mass revolutionary movement of socialist youth.

Southwark YS.

Pointing the Way to Victory

WE think that the October Revolution in Russia is not a dead historical event but really points the way to victory for the world working class.

By making the celebration of the 50th Anniversary a success we make a big development in the struggle to build an alternative to Wilson.

In the East Midlands we are preparing for the celebrations by a massive recruiting campaign around the social programme, particularly the Football League and the discotheques.

Guest speakers are also going round each YS branch giving a series of talks on the various aspects of the revolution.

Young Socialist members have also painted large murals for the YS rooms showing the development of the revolution.

We also propose holding a day school in Leicester on October 22, followed by a torch-light demonstration and a film show of 'Viva Zapata'.

We are proposing to visit technical colleges, youth employment bureaux and the Universities, in order to try and involve as many youth as possible in the celebrations. This will be a big step towards a mass Young Socialist movement.

M. Beveridge,
R. Johnson.

The Meaning of Modernization

AS the crisis of capitalism deepens the Labour government is forced to step up its attacks on the living standards of the working class.

The policy of Wilson is to modernize British industry in the interests of the ruling class. To modernize, the

ruling class have to first take on and defeat the working class; in doing this the role of Wilson and company is to separate off sections of workers in order to isolate and split them.

The first section of the working class the Labour government took on was the seamen, who, because they were isolated, and through lack of leadership, were defeated.

The Labour government is now attempting to carry on an onslaught against the dockers through the Devlin Report, using the same methods as they used on the seamen, that is attempting to isolate them in preparation for defeat.

The Devlin Report, when put into action, will mean unemployment amongst the dockers and a complete reorganization of the labour force.

As capitalism tries to drive down the living standards of the working class in order to resolve its crisis, the working class, coming out of a boom period where it pushed its wages and conditions up, will inevitably fight back to keep its gains.

The dockers have shown by their actions, that they are against the Devlin Report and are opposed to Wilson and his anti-working class policies. But unless the dockers are united with the rest of the working class, with a leadership that will not sell out, they face the danger of being defeated.

We are now in a period when the working class have not only the employers to fight but the Labour government as well. The fight against the ruling class and its lackeys in the labour movement can only be a political fight.

The main call must be for the 'left' MPs to wage a fight inside the Parliamentary Labour Party for the removal of Wilson and for policies that will operate in the interests of the working class.

The only solution for the working class is the destruction of private ownership and the nationalization of the docks and all basic industries under complete workers' control.

J. Davis,
North East.

Swindon Dispute

IN Swindon there is a dispute in a small factory which, because of the actions carried out by the management, concerns the Young Socialists.

Young workers are being exploited tremendously and older workers even more so. We believe that the Young Socialists must play a major role in helping to support this strike.

Several of our members are helping to picket this factory and we are trying to get these young workers along to the YS meetings.

In this way we believe we will achieve much more in experience than we could in a week of canvassing.

Secretary,
Swindon YS.

Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Paper of the Workers' League USA
Room 8, 243 E. 10. St. NYC 10003, USA



It was a close finish for the South-West Young Socialists Federation at the London area swimming gala in September.

With the North-West Middlesex Federation running close behind for most of the contest the South-West team had to keep up a very high standard of swimming in order to win.

Most of the team's strength came from the girls whose competent swimming in all events put them in to the lead.

The most exciting fight for positions came in the relay with all the teams battling for points.

Western Region Young Socialists outing to Minehead



Bristol Young Socialists warm themselves round their huge bonfire on the beach at Minehead, Somerset, during a weekend outing for Western Region Young Socialists.

No easy sport victory for Leeds Federation

THE winners of this year's Yorkshire sports meeting were the Leeds YS Federation—but the victory was by no means an easy one.

Half-way through the afternoon the Sheffield Federation were in the lead, having won valuable points particularly in the girls' field events. It was in the field events that the Doncaster Federation team gained points for Sid Rowe's victory in the high jump.

Doncaster also made valuable ground in the boys' track

events where they won the 100 yds and 220 yds, but they were unable to keep this up in the longer races and lost points because of the weakness of their girls' team.

The promise Sheffield had shown in the early races and the field events was climaxed in the boys' mile. Here the far younger and smaller Mick Ellis from the Sheffield Federation ran an excellent race. Half-way round the last lap he was able to make a tremendous effort and ran in first ten yards before G. Singh and M. Singh of Bradford who took second and third places.

Later in the afternoon the stronger Leeds team were able to pick up the points that gave the final total of 43

points. They swept the board in the obstacle race, taking the three winning places, regardless of the water jump, which took its toll of the entrants from the other federations.

The only major setback to Leeds in these later events was the girls' tug of war. Here the physical strength of the Sheffield girls, seen in the shot and javelin, won them the tug of war from Leeds.

The boys of Sheffield and Doncaster, however, were no match for the Leeds team. Final position on the federation points table was Leeds 43, Sheffield 33, Doncaster 14. The winning team was presented with the shield at a dance held in the evening.

Student tells of 'disgraceful college conditions'

With the announcement of the National Union of Students on October 5 that large sections of young people who go to university have to study in squalid conditions, Keep Left was pleased to receive the following account from a young student about conditions in his training college in the Midlands.

THIS YEAR the intake of students has been greatly increased, leading to desperate overcrowding.

A college 'annexe' has been opened over seven miles from the college proper. This is to be used by all second-year students.

This annexe consists of a condemned secondary school and all students are in lodgings which are nothing short of scandalous with some sleeping on the floor—they have nowhere to keep clothes or books.

Whilst not quite so bad, conditions in the main college campus are also very serious. On applying to the college

all students receive a prospectus which clearly states that accommodation will be in single or double study-bed-rooms. We found single rooms containing two students and double rooms with three or four students and no study facilities whatsoever.

On top of this shortage of rooms we now find that several student hostels are being commandeered by lecturers for use as studies.

Our plight is further increased because, unlike the universities, we are not allowed to form any political organization and the only means of fighting back that we have is the Students' Union.

However at our union meeting on September 21 we decided to take the strongest possible action and demanded in a resolution the removal of lecturers from students' hostels and deploring the policy of expanding college intake without increasing expenditure on accommodation.

We demanded a speed-up of the building work at the annexe and decided to call a one-week strike of protest against these conditions.

Key to front page

Starting from the top left hand corner: left to right.

Zinoviev, G. E. (1883-1936). Party member 1901. Bolshevik 1903. Emigrated 1906-1907. Member of Central Committee. Active in St. Petersburg. 1907-1919 Lenin's assistant in exile. Returned in 1917. Pro-Stalin 1923. Joined Trotsky. Expelled 1927. Exiled 1932. Arrested 1934 and given 10-year sentence. 'Tried' and shot in 1936.

Lenin, V. I. (1870-1924). 1895 Founded Petersburg League of Struggle for Emancipation of the Working Class. 1897-1900 Exiled to Siberia. 1903 Founded the Bolshevik Party in the split of Russian Social Democracy. 1917 March Revolution. Returned to Russia in sealed train across Germany. Goes underground in July. Takes Party to November Insurrection. Founds Third International. Falls ill 1922. Begins fight against bureaucracy led by Stalin. Writes 'Testament'. Dies January 24, 1924.

Trotsky, L. D. (1881-1940). Active in workers' circles in Nikolayev. 1898 exiled to Siberia. Elected chairman of First Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies 1905. Arrested again, escaped to Vienna, issued 'Pravda'. Broke with Mensheviks. Returned to Russia 1917. Joined the Bolsheviks July 1917. As chairman of Petersburg Soviet led November insurrection. Member of Council of People's Foreign Affairs, People's Commissar of War on Political Bureau of CC of CPSU.

Leader of Left Opposition against Stalin and his 'peaceful co-existence' policy from 1923. Exiled 1928. Deprived of Soviet Citizenship and deported 1932. Murdered in Mexico by Stalin's agent 1940.

Sverdlov, J. M. (1885-1919). Bolshevik 1903. Professional revolutionary all over Russia. Arrested time and again. Member Central Committee 1913. Prominent organizer of October Revolution. Chairman of Central Executive Committee of Soviets. Most capable state administrator. Active on civil war fronts. Contracted typhus and died.

Joffe, A. A. (1883-1927). Social Democrat since 1900. Co-editor of Vienna 'Pravda' with Trotsky. 1908 exiled to Siberia. Joined Bolsheviks August 1917. Central Committee member 1917. Negotiated at Brest-Litovsk. Ambassador to Germany. Joined Left Opposition. Forced to suicide due to lack of medical treatment.

Kamenev, L. B. (1883-1936). Joined Social Democrats in 1901. Emigrated. Returned to edit 'Pravda'. Tried in 1915 and exiled to Siberia. Released 1917. Opposed the taking of power. Pro-Stalin 1923 then joined Trotsky. Expelled 1927. Arrested 1932 and exiled to Siberia. Five-year sentence after Kirov assassination. 'Tried' and shot 1936.

Kollontai, A. (1872-1952). Menshevik. Later joined Bolsheviks after collaborating in anti-war movement. Commissar Social Welfare. Left Communist and leader Workers' Opposition. Diplomatic representative Soviets. Brief sympathy for Opposition.

Bukharin, N. I. (1888-1938). Joined Bolsheviks 1908. Repeatedly arrested. Emigrated 1911. Returned February 1917. Editor 'Pravda'. Left Communist. Prominent in Comintern. 1929 denounced as right deviationist. Expelled 1937. 'Tried' and shot 1938.

Rykov, A. I. (1881-1938). Joined Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1900. Arrested 1901. Bolshevik Central Committee member at Third Congress. Member Politburo 1919. Chairman Sovnarkom 1921. Branded right deviationist in 1927. Expelled 1937. 'Tried' and shot 1938.

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