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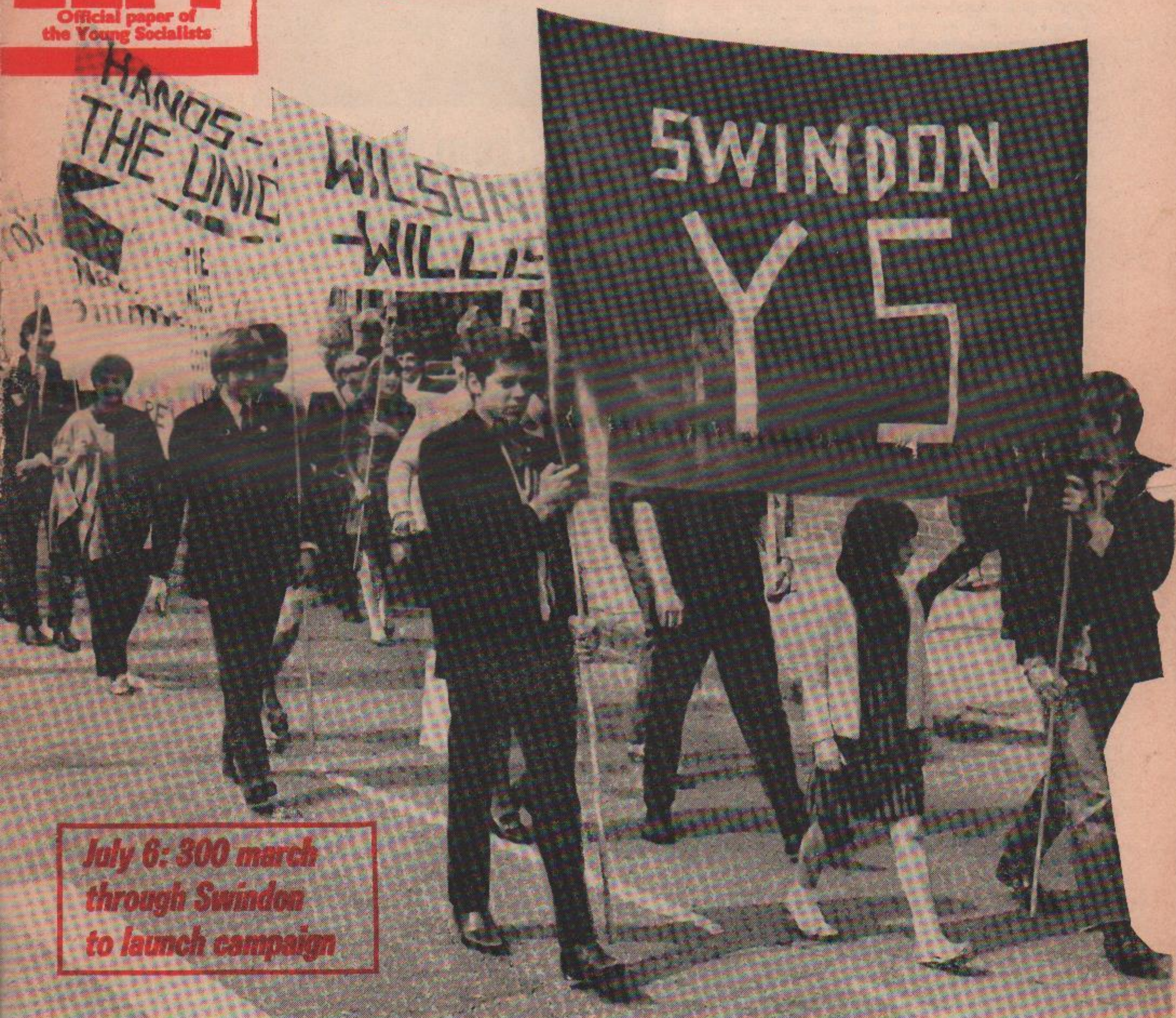
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Keep

LEFT

Official paper of
the Young Socialists

Y S swing into BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN



*July 6: 300 march
through Swindon
to launch campaign*

WILSON OUT—WILLIS IN

**REPORT
ON PAGE 5**

**(Y.S. prospective candidate
for Swindon Frank Willis)**



WORLD NEWS

Echoes of anti-imperialism

By Nick Peck

WE have pointed out on several occasions in Keep Left that the American troops in Vietnam are not simply defending the profits from that country — indeed far more money is spent on maintaining the war than is taken out of the country.

But as the United States imperialists know very well, a defeat in Vietnam would give a tremendous impetus to the neighbouring countries, as well as to workers in the West. We can see that this is so if we look at the conditions in Thailand.

Thailand is an extremely poor country with an average income of only 60 dollars a year. Many families, particularly in the North-East, have no cash income at all, they simply survive on what they can scrape from the soil.

Although personal incomes are very small it is a country which is very rich on natural wealth such as tin, rubber and oil. The benefits of these resources, however, go almost exclusively to America, which controls something like one-third of all foreign investment.

In return for 'military aid' the government of Thailand will facilitate the production, transport, export and transfer to the government of the United States of the raw and semi-processed materials required by America.

It is significant that, after the off-shore islands, the most important oil-producing region is in the North-East, which has the poorest population, and at the same time it is the area with the most active revolutionary movement.

The revolutionary army of Thailand, although not as large or as successful as the National Liberation Front in Vietnam, is nevertheless just as much a part of the Asian revolution.

It is for this reason that the Thai government is amongst the most zealous supporters of the United States Army, and in return Johnson is bolstering the corrupt regime with thousands of troops.

Throughout South East Asia workers and peasants are dealing mighty blows to the imperialists. Let no one think that the struggle goes on only in Vietnam — the fight of the National Liberation Front is echoed all over South East Asia.

by Jeremy de Rose

R. Efford writes on:

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS

THE French elections ended on June 30 with a victory for the Gaullists and a defeat for the main parties of the left who lost approximately half their seats, but we should not in any way be discouraged by this, or see it as the end of the great revolutionary upsurge of workers and youth, which we witnessed during May and the early part of June.

The elections, held on a date fixed by de Gaulle, under laws written by de Gaulle, and designed to give the workers poor representation, were for a parliament which de Gaulle can dissolve whenever he likes.

These elections solve nothing, instead they create new problems for the regime and the bourgeoisie. From reports it would appear that the latter are responding to the developing crisis by sending their own private hoards abroad, at almost the same rate as money disappears from the state treasury in defence of the franc.

To be expected

Under such conditions the decline of the left vote is to be expected. These parties, especially the Communist Party, traded a revolutionary strike of ten million workers for elections which they knew they could not win. Clearly many workers would not vote for them after such a sell-out. This, combined with the reaction of the middle classes to the great display of working-class strength in May, is sufficient to explain a Gaullist victory at this stage, especially when the young leadership of the May struggles does not have the vote and on the whole does not give its allegiance to the main left parties.

In the same way that the de-

cline of the Labour vote in Britain does not represent a defeat for the workers but under present conditions opens the road for the development of a leadership to take the workers to power, so the decline of the left vote in France is not a defeat.

In order to defeat the French workers de Gaulle must take back the concessions won in May. In fact he must take back all the concessions made during the past 100 years in order to stabilize French capital.

Just begun

Clearly the battle has only just begun. What is more the conditions for this battle are not becoming at all favourable for de Gaulle.

The two forces on which the regime has rested for the past 10 years are the extreme right wing and the Stalinists. The right is making more and more demands on de Gaulle, whilst the Communist Party leadership is becoming discredited as the party of bourgeois law and order, in the eyes of thousands of workers.

De Gaulle also faces problems within the ranks of his own party. The larger Gaullist force, now in parliament, is by no means homogenous, but open to splits and divisions, which began to appear before the elections.

The international economic crisis has been rapidly accelerated by the strikes in France and the prospect of devaluation of the franc now stares the country's employers in the face.

They respond by getting their money out of France.

Far from defeat, the development of the revolution has to continue in France. Despite illegality the revolutionary movement has to make big strides forward in this period.

The road to workers' power is never easy but our comrades in France and the working class have shown that it is possible to defeat capitalism. We in Britain

Continued on page four—>



News from America

by our New York Correspondent

WORKING class youth in the United States are now beginning to struggle on a mass scale. They know all too well the future that awaits them after finishing High School—dead-end jobs, the army, the unemployment queues.

The crisis of capitalism in the United States, as in Britain, hits the youth, especially those in the minority groups such as the Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Negroes.

The bourgeoisie then gives these minority youth the impression that they can fight back alone, that they should not trust their brothers. Racism is used by the ruling class and its henchmen, both black and white, to cause divisions amongst these young people and to separate them from older workers.

The technique of oppression is especially problematic in the US.

Out of the economic struggles of the youth the youth section of the Trotskyist Workers' League, the Revolutionary Youth Organizing Committee, has come into being. This new organization is based on a fight for working-class power in the United States. It fights against the conception that there can be student power or black power within the capitalist system.

Marxist education is a fundamental part of building this understanding. Classes in basic Marxist education are given each week and, because physical defence as well as political education has proved to be very important, karate lessons are also given.

The members of this committee have participated in demonstrations and rallies, supporting their comrades in 'Révoltes' and the Federation of Revolutionary Students in France.

In an intervention during the Poor People's March on Washington, the committee called on the trade unions to organize the poverty-stricken sections of the working class.

Their most recent activity has been to mobilize support for the hospital workers' strike in New York.

By the autumn the youth on the Revolutionary Organizing Committee plan to have a newspaper which will unite the struggles of the youth from various High Schools and provide a focal point around which to organize these youth for the critical period which is rapidly advancing in the United States.

We see now only the beginning in the US; but it is a good start. The youth in the Revolutionary Organizing Committee intend to implement Marxist theory in the United States and fight to understand the dialectical method, which is their greatest weapon against capitalist ideology.

Poor People's march—



Washington police move into Resurrection City with tear gas

Middle-class muddle

THE upsurge of Negroes in the United States is now beginning to go beyond the confines of 'black power'.

Many thousands of Negroes are now beginning to realize that their fight is a class fight by American working class against the ruling class and its black members and friends.

This process can be seen in the development of the famous Poor Peoples March, which was started by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Under the leadership of the Reverends Abernathy and the late King, its aim was to head off the development of socialist consciousness amongst Negro workers and students.

The aim of the PPM was to provide a continuous lobby of Congress — asking capitalist politicians to change the nature

of capitalist society. To this aim the marchers built a shanty town—Resurrection City in Washington Park—to house those taking part. Many poor people travelled thousands of miles to take part.

The Bulletin of International Socialism, which is the organ of the Workers' League in the United States, described how the lack of political direction caused many youth to become frustrated and press for a more militant programme—the men of God invited such great working-class leaders as Hubert Humphrey and Walter Reuther to address the marchers, and these frauds got the reception they so rightly deserved.

Eventually the march 'leaders' expelled 200 Detroit and Chicago youth for all manner of alleged crimes.

This was really the end of the whole venture because a few days later the shanty town was

declared illegal and the Negro mayor of Washington (appointed by LBJ) called in the police.

On Monday, June 24, 1,000 police pumped tear gas into Resurrection City then went in and demolished the place. The remaining people were told by Reverend Abernathy that they were going to be arrested and they were going to jail—300 were in fact arrested not long after this statement was made.

These people now face fines of 250 dollars and 90-day jail sentences. Once again middle-class politics has led to defeat and possible demoralization.

What was required was a political programme—not a protest. The early militancy of the PPM received big support from the trade unions and this is what really frightened its middle-class leadership.

Go-slow de-rails pay policy

by
a young
railway
worker

RAILWAYMEN, amongst the lowest paid workers in Britain, with basic rates starting at £11 2s., accustomed to working long hours of overtime to get a subsistence wage, have struck a blow at the Labour government incomes policy, the Railways Board and the bankers of the City of London.

From the start of the work-to-rule campaign the men on the main-line and underground trains were enthusiastic and determined to fight, despite the holding back of the union leadership.

The Railways Board was adamant, there could be no wage increase without a productivity deal. As the dispute developed the chairman of the Board Sir Henry Johnson threatened to suspend large numbers of workers without pay.

Then as the National Union of Railwaymen annual general meeting was sitting the Board made its final offer, a small wage increase to the lower-grade men. But despite the agreement to this proposal by part of the union leadership, it was thrown out by 62 votes to 14. A strike seemed inevitable.

On Thursday, July 4, Mr. Neal, the Board's negotiator, flew to Penzance and offered a 3 per cent all-round wage increase, which could be withdrawn in the event of the productivity talks failing.

The NUR negotiating committee would not agree to this proposal and Neal was eventually forced to concede that the 3 per cent wage increase would not be withdrawn in the event of the failure of the productivity talks.

Instead the NUR agreed to what the 'Sunday Telegraph' calls the 'meaningless pledge' that the target for achieving the pay and efficiency agreements 'will be at a date as near as possible to September 2'.

The Labour government and

The railmen have shown a determination to carry out a fight for a wage increase.



the Railways Board had to give in and the power of the working class won through despite the union leadership.

The City of London has taken alarm at the turn of events. It is obvious that the Labour government can no longer hold back the working class. In the face of a worsening economic crisis even a 3 per cent wage increase brings the threat of disaster for the employers. They are afraid that our victory means that other sections of the working class will go into battle for wage increases.

Railwaymen will not be content with 3 per cent however,

younger railwaymen in particular are determined to carry out a fight for a major increase in the basic wage and to throw out the treacherous right wing and Stalinist NUR leadership.

We want a leadership which will fight for a socialist policy:

25 per cent increase in wages!
NUR to withdraw from all productivity / unemployment talks!

Sack the Railways Board!
Workers' control of the industry!

Nationalization of the banks to provide cheap credit for the railways!

Student activity

by our Correspondent

WITH the ending of the academic year in most colleges and universities, it is important to draw the lessons of what have been very eventful months for students in many parts of the world.

In May and early June thousands of students came out night after night all over France to do battle with de Gaulle's 'strong-arm' police, and to link up with workers in demonstrations up to a million strong.

May also saw big student demonstrations in Spain, Belgium, Germany and Yugoslavia.

At the beginning of June, Rome police and right-wing groups clashed violently with students occupying their university premises, and similar struggles took place around the Columbia university in New York.

In Britain a number of art colleges have been occupied by students demanding greater academic freedom and self-government.

Students at universities such as Bradford have had to act firmly against the attempts of extreme right-wing Tories, like Powell and Sandys, to whip up

support for their reactionary ideas.

It is no accident that these two gentlemen intervene at precisely this stage against the students. What lies behind the whole student upsurge is the attack on education and social services, generated by the need of world imperialism to drive down the conditions won by the working class in the advanced capitalist countries.

Particularly in the last 18 months, students in this country have been the subject of a vicious 'smear' campaign by the press, the university authorities and the government. The intention was clearly to isolate the students from workers, who are also coming into big struggles.

But students can only hope to solve any of the problems which face them by uniting with the working class to overthrow capitalism, and establish a socialist system.

Education has absolutely no future under capitalism. When the employers require scientists, technicians or personnel officers, then they lay on the facilities for training such people, in the same way as they would build a machine to make sausages—as long as there is a market for them.

In times of crisis, slashing cuts in educational expenditure and

IN RETRO- SPECT

by David Maude



THE imminent arrival of Tariq Ali's businessman father in Britain raises an interesting question: suppose Tariq had urgently to visit Daddy sometime?

When you apply for a passport or a visa there is a space on the form (and it must be filled-in) headed 'Profession'.

How would Tariq fill in this space, I wonder?

Mr. A. confided to his usual retinue of pressmen in a pub on June 14 that he was 'giving it all up'. But what precisely is 'it'? There is, to say the least, no small amount of confusion here.

At the international student teach-in at the London School of Economics just a few hours before his heartrending announcement, Ali was described by a Mr. James Wickham as 'just someone who considers himself a revolutionary'.

The press variously describes him as 'ex-President of the Oxford Union' and as a 'rebel and television personality'. At the offices of the American revisionist paper 'Militant' they think he is a 'British anti-war leader and militant anti-racist'.

Its June 14 issue goes on: 'Popular among British youth ... Ali's revolutionary views have become a subject of in-

terest to the mass media' (my emphasis). We might add that the interest of the mass media in Ali's 'revolutionary' views was not unconnected with a certain amount of hard public relations work by himself!

In the absence of more precise information as to Ali's vocation—such as might make interesting reading on the sleeve of his forthcoming long, long player 'Headline News ... Again!'—the Passport Office might be forgiven for taking the easy way out and utilizing the simple title on a certain poster currently circulating from premises 'not a million miles from 22 Greek Street'.

Others doing rather well in the mass media of late include that well-known tragic-comedian Mr. John Lennon, MBE, and a young gentleman known, for reasons which have no connection with the public bar, as the 'Prince of Wales'.

Mr. Lennon made an exhibition of himself with some charity collecting boxes and by appearing hand in hand with a Miss Yoko Ono.

Miss Ono recently helped to produce a film which consisted entirely of long 'full-face' shots of people's buttocks.

It was no yoke.
Prince Charles bonnily made

Continued on page eight—>

Best Branch Competition

The biggest Branch
The most active Branch
The best Social Programme

Enter Now!

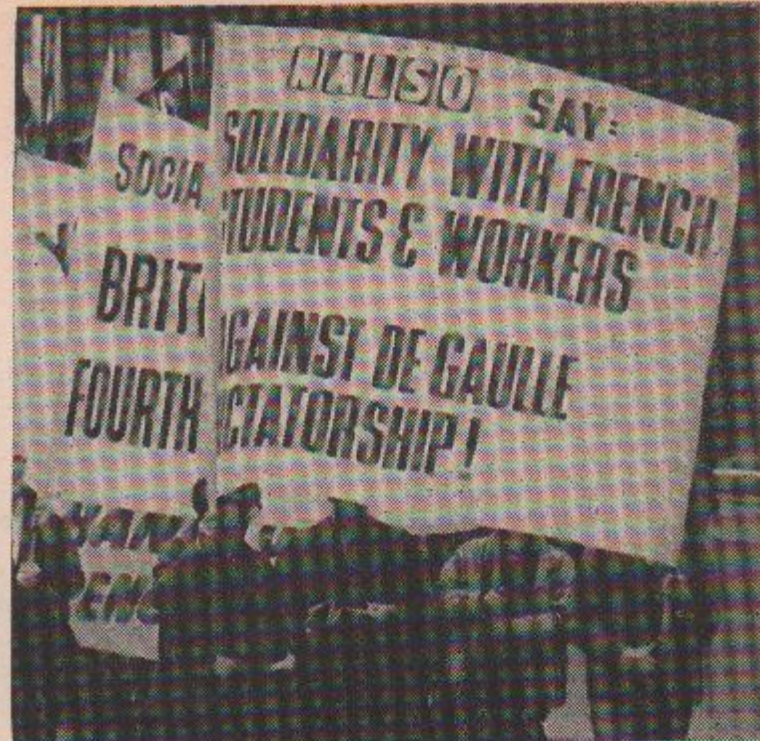
Send a report with photographs of the activities of your Branch during the next few months.

The best Branch will be judged at the Young Socialists' Summer Camp.

Win a record player!

a loud hailer!

or Sports equipment!



Forward to a united revolutionary movement of students and workers —form big branches of the Young Socialists.

standards are necessary. But these have to be carefully prepared for by the ruling class, and by the Labour government.

This is the meaning of the proposals put forward recently by meetings of university vice-chancellors, to curb the political activities both of students and of university and college staff.

It is well known that the vice-chancellors maintain close contacts with the very highest levels

of the government and the Civil Service. They have also good connections with big business circles, to whom they have from time to time to appeal for funds.

The line-up against the students is completed by the threats which have recently come from a number of local education authorities, to withdraw maintenance grants from students who involve themselves in protest demonstra-

Continued on page four—>



Peter Jeffries answers some leading questions

What has happened to the system

HOW much longer can the pound and the dollar survive further devaluation?

This is now the question placed before all the leading financiers and businessmen in the world, especially after the revolutionary upheavals in France.

There is widespread fear amongst these gentlemen that the days of affluence and prosperity are now over and that crisis, slump and mass unemployment are around the corner.

Why this lack of confidence amongst the most faithful supporters of capitalism? What has gone wrong with their system?

After the last war it appeared that US capitalism and the dollar were strong enough to ensure prosperity and expansion for the whole world capitalist system for an unlimited period. Everyone was able to speak about a 'new style capitalism' and pronounce Marx and Marxism dead.

In fact capitalism did not basically change. It still remained a system of production in which a small capitalist class owned and controlled all the means of producing wealth; decisions about production still remained tied to considerations of profit, not use.

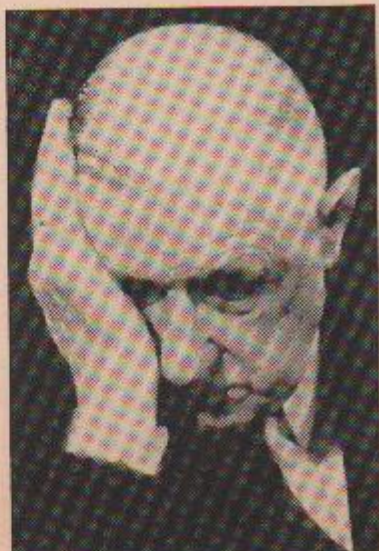
By the early 1960s the capitalist class began to get worried about the once mighty dollar. Perhaps it wasn't as strong as they had once thought. Many people began to say that it was 'overvalued'.

The reason for this was simple. In order to carry out a massive investment programme abroad as well as to make loans to many of the weaker capitalist countries of Europe America had been obliged to pump millions of dollars abroad. Expenditure on arms abroad to fight the threat of communism made this worse.

The result was that the volume of dollars circulating abroad got out of all proportion to the value of gold in the United States, which was available to support this paper money. A general crisis in paper money, especially the dollar and the pound, began to develop.

The pound was the first to experience these tremblings. It

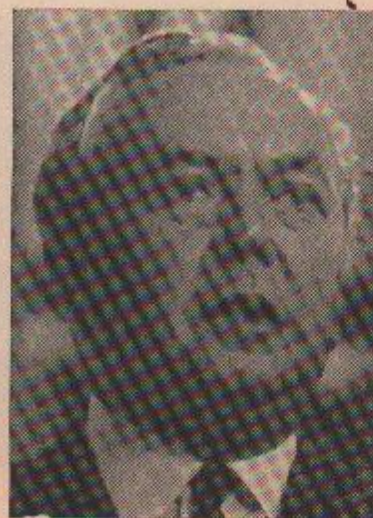
The Three Musketeers - fighting to



de Gaulle



Johnson



Wilson

save prosperity for capitalism

was only massive loans after 1964 from the Americans that prevented its devaluation by the Labour government. But the once mighty American capitalist class were unable to mobilize enough support.

Despite massive attacks on the working class: higher prices, a wage freeze, unemployment, deflationary budgets and so on Wilson was unable to hold the line.

Now 1967 saw the first major blow: the devaluation of the pound. Once Sterling had gone the dollar was right in the firing line. After over 20 years the Americans were forced to admit that the dollar was overvalued and in March of this year, amid the biggest monetary crisis since the war, the old system, which had served throughout the post-war boom, was scrapped in favour of the two-tier system.

But still nothing was solved. The American capitalists were play-

ing for time so that they could make longer term plans for a new money system in the world and prepare for a serious attack upon the working class of Europe and North America.

The last few weeks show that this timetable has been completely disrupted. The French working class in their massive strike struggles against General de Gaulle and French capitalism have plunged the franc into a first-class crisis. The whole financial world is waiting for the devaluation of the French currency.

But should the franc go, this would throw every currency into a major crisis. It would be like removing a stone from an archway. All the other stones would be in danger of immediate collapse.

The dollar is now weaker than ever. Despite strenuous attempts by LBJ, dollars continue to flow from the States.

The US balance of payments remains in a permanent crisis. Nobody foresees any solution to this crisis. The war in Vietnam adds a continual strain to the already tottering dollar.

As for the pound, the devaluation of last year has solved nothing. Despite Wilson's pledge that this would give it a new lease of life and help get Britain moving, the situation has grown worse. The balance of payments remains massively in deficit, the pound sinks lower and lower on the world money markets.

The capitalist class can only answer this crisis by preparing even greater attacks upon the working class all over the world but especially in Europe and America.

Only by extracting more value from the labour of the working class can stability be restored to the pound and the dollar.

But this is a massive task for the employers. France has shown this. The working class is now on the offensive. In other words both classes are out to attack the positions of the other.

In Britain, railwaymen and engineers now prepare for major battles with the employers and the government to improve their living standards at a time when the employers, backed by Wilson, have to drive wages and working conditions down.

This is the new stage we have now reached the present world crisis. The post-war boom has now ended. We have now entered the period of major and decisive struggles between the workers and the bosses in the whole of America and Europe.

The crucial question remains: the building of a leadership for the working class which can take advantage of this situation and lead the working class to power and socialism.

Student Activity -from page 3

tions and other political activities.

When Powell and Sandys attack the students, they are clearly flying a kite for some really big attacks in the near future.

How can these be fought?

A number of trends have developed in the recent past—under the influence in the main of revisionist opponents of the Young Socialists—which look for a 'short-cut' answer.

Only a bare minimum of political agreement is needed, they tell us, in order to engage in 'revolutionary activity'.

At a recent meeting in the University of London, David Adelstein—one of the 'organizers' of the sit-in at the London School of Economics at the beginning of last year—said that he thought 'confusion and ignorance were in some ways an advantage in students'.

If you do not have a firm line, runs this 'theory', you can get in on the ground floor of anything that is happening with the minimum of baggage.

We want to bring the Young Socialists right into the universities, to recruit students in large numbers and form big branches based on the colleges.

Into these branches we will also recruit young workers in order to take forward a united campaign, to link the students' fight with that of young workers against low wages, the incomes policy, unemployment and racialism.

In the colleges the YS branches will fight for student representation on the governing bodies of the university, for complete autonomy of the students' unions, and for freedom to organize with young workers on all the problems which face both sections.

Revisionism, anarchism, confusion, attacks on Marxism and on the need to build a Marxist party—these can only weaken and destroy the student movement.

Forward to the united revolutionary movement of students and young workers!

French elections -from page 2

can only assist this struggle if we learn very seriously from the lessons of their struggle—that the building of a revolutionary leadership is of paramount importance and that the role of Stalinism is one of counter-revolution.

We have to fight for the raising of the bans on the left organizations in France by a big campaign in the British labour movement.

For us the demands we raise are:

Down with the Stalinist betrayal.

Lift the bans on all the left movements made illegal.

Long live the French revolution.

For a Socialist United States of Europe.

Leon Trotsky

ON SALE NOW

This is an invaluable record of Leon Trotsky's struggle against the petty-bourgeois opposition in the Socialist Workers' Party of America during the last two years of his life—1939-1940. It was not just a fight against the revisionism of James Burnham and Max Shachtman, but a struggle of living forces for Bolshevism in the Fourth International.

Illustrated board cover * 263 pages * Price 10s. 6d.
Cloth bound * illustrated dust cover * Price 21s. 0d.

IN DEFENCE OF MARXISM

Young Socialists make a big impression



Prospective candidate Frank Willis heads the YS demonstration.

JULY 6 marked an important step forward for the Young Socialists. Three hundred trade unionists and YS members demonstrated through the streets of Swindon, in Wiltshire, to launch our first-ever election campaign.

We decided at our Eighth Annual Conference in April to stand a candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Swindon—not because we think you can achieve socialism through parliament, but because we have to give a real answer to the question now faced by millions of workers: 'what is the alternative to Wilson's treachery?'

The conference decision was made as a part of the whole policy put forward by the National Committee at Morecambe for building a revolutionary alternative leadership in the working class. And we're not going to pull any punches from this policy in the Swindon campaign.

Our programme is:

- Nationalization of the banks and basic industries
- Workers' control of industry
- Repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act
- Full support to the National Liberation Front in Vietnam

● World socialist revolution.

This is the basis of our prospective candidate's platform in Swindon.

A packed meeting following the July 6 demonstration gave an enthusiastic reception to the news that the prospective candidate adopted by the Swindon YS branch for the election was local trade unionist Frank Willis.

Over £40 was collected at the meeting to start off an election campaign fund which will be supported by the Young Socialists all over the country.

As YS national secretary Sheila Torrance stated at the meeting, the campaign will now really swing into action in the Swindon area. Permanent premises will be found, and systematic canvassing will be worked out and begun.

Though the present Labour MP Francis Noel-Baker has not yet formally resigned his seat, he has already announced his intention to do so on the grounds that he has urgent business to attend to in Greece.

Socialist Labour League national secretary Gerry Healy demanded at the meeting that the local Labour Party apologize to Labour voters in Swindon for this 'gross desertion'.

Scotland Region demonstration demands: 'lift the bans in France'

SCOTLAND Region Young Socialist joined together at the end of June for a rally and demonstration in Glasgow against the attacks of the de Gaulle regime on the left organizations in France.

Slogans on the demonstration demanded the release of those imprisoned, the raising of the ban on the left organiza-

tions, an end to the betrayals of the Wilson government, and the building of the daily 'News-letter', paper of the Socialist Labour League.

These demands and especially 'equal pay for women', met with a great deal of support from those workers watching the march.

Adult trade unionists and members of the Socialist Labour League joined the demonstration behind the banner of the Clydeside Liaison Com-

mittee for the defence of the trade unions.

At an open air meeting £8 was collected towards the French Solidarity Fund set up by the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists.

In the evening a very successful dance was organized in Govan Town Hall and the trophy for the National Football Tournament was presented to a member of Govan Young Socialists football team.

A NEW BADGE FOR THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

THERE have been a tremendous number of applications for the Young Socialists' badge competition

Jim's design was simple but effective—a red star on a gold background with 'YS' in large black lettering.

After a number of discussions, the National

Committee has finally selected the design by Jim Delliston of Willesden Young Socialists in the Middlesex Region.

To the other competitors I should like to say this—do not give up hope, we shall be holding a competition every year, if not every six months, so you will be able to enter again.



Jim Delliston

I would like to thank all those who took part in the competition for their obvious effort and interest.

If anyone would like to design a banner motif for the Young Socialists, please send a drawing as soon as possible.

S. Torrance, National Secretary.

Y.S. Camp July 27 to August 10

FROM July 27 to August 10 we are holding our annual summer school under canvas on the Essex coast.

Three hundred trade unionists and Young Socialists are attending as students at the school each week. Many have arranged to stay for the full fortnight.

In a special course of lectures on the basis of the ideas of Marxism students will be discussing where the capitalist system came from, how it works, how the capitalist state operates as the instrument of oppression of the employers over the working class, and how the working class acts as a revolutionary force to overthrow this state.

They will be learning why Marxism is a science, in oppo-

sition to forms of idealism such as religion, individualism and impressionism.

Every year those who attend the camp find it a tremendous springboard in the work of building the Young Socialists, and in fighting for YS policies in the trade unions and the colleges.

The school is a real training-ground for revolutionaries.

Those who come along will thoroughly educate and enjoy themselves at the same time, during the one or two weeks of their stay.

The camp is very professionally run, and there are a wide range of social activities, including a group and record dances, films and talent competitions.

Sport is exceptionally well catered for this year, with plenty of opportunities for football and swimming.

A thoroughly good time!

Keep Left

Full support for our French comrades

July-August 1968

NO ONE should imagine that the revolutionary upsurge of May and June in France is now a dead issue.

Despite a temporary defeat in de Gaulle's elections at the end of last month, the occupation of the factories by ten million workers, and the heroic battles of students against the police remain enormously significant and decisive events.

A number of left-wing movements have been banned by de Gaulle as a result of their activities during May and June.

Of these, the Young Socialists is in political solidarity with the youth group around 'Révoltes', the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste and the FER (Federation of Revolutionary Students).

Founded on April 28 this year, the FER fought from the beginning to turn students towards the working class in order to build, with workers, the revolutionary party that will put an end to capitalism in France for good.

This is why it was banned on June 14, along with the organization that preceded the founding conference of FER, the CLER (Liaison Committee of Revolutionary Students).

When members of the OCI in the Sud-Aviation factory at Nantes—comrades of those in the FER—succeeded in the middle of May in beginning the great wave of factory occupations, this highlighted the correctness of the Trotskyist policies of the FER.

This was followed up when comrades were able to speak to and call for the occupation of the Renault factory at Billancourt, near Paris, despite Stalinist opposition.

When the physical attacks of the Gaullist police proved unable to break the revolutionary spirit of the students, they were followed up with illegalization and arrests.

A number of left-wing leaders went on hunger strike after they were arrested. They included Argentin, a leader of the FER, who has now been released with a number of others.

The Young Socialists have campaigned ever since the bans were announced to defend and restore the rights of all of the 'dissolved' organizations.

But we declare our full political solidarity with the FER because we believe that the lesson of France for students and young workers in this country is quite different from that drawn by the Tariq Ali and the so-called 'Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation' set up recently at a meeting in the London School of Economics.

The FER has a programme and a policy for strengthening its ties with those in the factories and recruiting students to the revolutionary party.

This is also the policy of the Young Socialists. The 'Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation' has no policy and no programme, apart from some vague talk about students 'detonating' the revolutionary struggles of the working class. At the first sign of any real struggle this organization must collapse as a result of its own internal contradictions.

It has refused to raise the central question from France—that of the counter-revolutionary role of the Stalinist parties—and it is incapable of launching a real campaign for the lifting of the political bans.

KEEP LEFT pledges to continue the campaign to restore full legal rights to the FER and all other left-wing organizations in France.

London Swimming Gala
Lime Grove Swimming Baths
Friday, September 6, 7 p.m.

ENTRY FORM

GIRLS

- One length breast stroke
One length back stroke
One length free style
One length Butterfly
100 yds. breast stroke
100 yds. free style
Relay free style
Diving

BOYS

- One length breast stroke
One length back stroke
One length free style
One length butterfly
100 yds. breast stroke
100 yds. free style
Relay free style
Diving

Admission and entry 1s 6d.

SCHOOL-



LEAVERS

June's unemployment figures are the highest for this time of the year since 1940.

The Wilson government and the bankers are going to force thousands of young people leaving school to share the fate of these young lads below.



Mark Jenkins interviews the young people who will leave school this summer.

THOUSANDS of school leavers will, in the course of July, discover that getting a job these days is a difficult proposition. They will be entering 'the labour market' as workers. But at the moment there is not a great demand for 'labour'. Youth are therefore likely to find themselves unwanted commodities.

In mid-June the unemployment figures were the highest since 1940. The total number of people registered as out of work was 569,000 or 517,000 allowing for seasonal variations.

In other words 2.4 per cent of the labour force is now jobless. The worst hit areas are Scotland, Wales and the North-West, but in London unemployment is increasing also. A number of large engineering works have closed down in the past year in South London.

Compete

Youth now find themselves competing with adults for available jobs. Such is the picture after four years of a Labour government. Wilson has deliberately created this problem. His aim has been increased 'productivity'—fewer people doing more work—and increased profits for the bosses.

Youth also find that such other jobs as are available have little or no prospects, either from the point of view of wages or increasing their skills. Even those who are trained as apprentices find the wages and conditions arduous.

To find out what youth think about the job situation, Keep Left visited a large South London comprehensive school. We spoke to the 15-year-olds during their lunch hour.

Marilyn Fairweather, aged 15, was one of the lucky ones. She will shortly begin a hairdressing job in Streatham. When she explained the conditions to me however, the prospect did not look at all bright.

Three-year

'I'll get £5 a week to start off with, for a six-day week. Each day I'll finish at 6 p.m. but Wednesdays it'll be 7 p.m. and Friday 8 p.m.' She is very interested in hairdressing because she will meet lots of people. 'It is a three-year course' she said, 'I have signed a contract. They can sue me if I leave. There are a number of people leaving there at the

moment. That's how I got the job. When they get to 17, they want jobs with more money. Also they get scabs on their hands through constantly having them in water. I think I will last the course though'.

Her friend Anita Laird is staying on to take the CSE examination. She told me: 'I'd leave if I found a decent job. I've looked but there seem to be only telephonists' jobs. I'm staying on to learn typing. In the Civil Service I could get £8 17s. 6d. at 16 with three weeks' holiday but with CSE I hope to get more money. The trouble is that wages stay the same as you get older. It is my mother who wants me to stay on.'

Apprentice

Fifteen-year-old David Bone told Keep Left, 'I will probably stay on and take exams.'

The number of people who have managed to get apprenticeships are very few indeed. We met two lads who succeeded. In each case it was their fathers who took the initiative.

Alan Cunningham said, 'My Dad's a printer. He got me into it. There aren't many with apprenticeships. My wage will be between £5 and £6 a week. It goes up by £1 a week each birthday.' The apprenticeship will take Alan six years to complete.

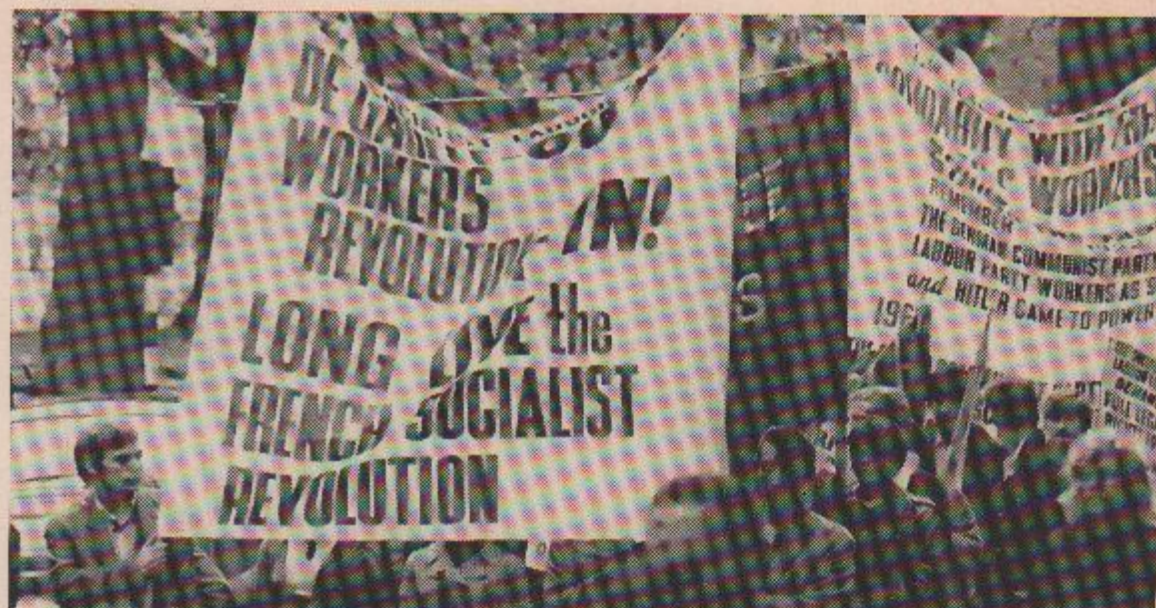
Keith Waller was due to take an aptitude test for a toolmaking apprenticeship. If he passed he would be starting work with a South London manufacturing company. 'I'll be getting £4 a week. It's not much to start with but when my apprenticeship is over, in five years, it will be all right. My Dad got me the job.'

Teachers

Other boys we spoke to were not at all impressed with school life and had plenty to say about their teachers and the courses they had to put up with. The youth employment officer came to the school to find jobs for the school leavers. In some cases teachers encouraged boys to stay on. 'They get a bonus for having a big sixth form' said one lad glibly, 'so it's in their interest'.

Many of those who stay on to take exams today do so because the alternative is no work.

The Young Socialists have a duty to fight to recruit school leavers, not to allow them to become demoralized. We must show that there is a way forward and a future for youth—by fighting to build a movement that will put an end to capitalism and unemployment.



The front of the march down Park Lane to Knightsbridge.

French solidarity fund—we reach our target!

THE French Solidarity Fund to assist our comrades in France, which was launched at a public meeting held by the Socialist Labour League on Sunday, June 2 at the Beaver Hall, has received a tremendous response from Young Socialists branches and trade unionists.

As you read this article the figure will have zoomed well over the £1,000 target. Our readers and supporters have risen to the occasion in a magnificent way and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking you.

Since June 2 the fund has become of greater importance due to the repressive measures introduced by de Gaulle.

Eleven left organizations have been made illegal, including our sister organizations, Révoltes, the Federation of Revolutionary Students, and the Organisation Communiste

Internationaliste. The Editor of Révoltes and five others were arrested and imprisoned.

The Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League were the first in Britain to organize demonstrations and meetings in support of the French working class at every crucial stage of their struggle.

On Sunday, June 23 a 500-strong march of Young Socialists and adult supporters marched down Park Lane to Knightsbridge in protest against the banning of the left organizations in France.

A deputation of Socialist Labour League and Young Socialist members handed in a letter at the French Embassy demanding that the ban be lifted.

Keep Left Editor Aileen Jennings warned at a meeting after the demonstration that de Gaulle was being made a Trojan Horse for the fascist regime of tomorrow.

'Because there is a Channel between us and France don't think it will not be the same here in Britain,' she added.

'The Young Socialists will defend all organizations which are attacked by the de Gaulle

regime, including the Communist Party, even though it has agreed to the fraudulent elections.'

Since that demonstration the campaign has been joined by 100 Labour MPs who sent a letter to de Gaulle asking that the ban be lifted from the illegal organizations—and in the last few weeks a large number of shop stewards up and down the country have also sent letters and petitions.

At a meeting called by the Socialist Labour League on Monday, July 1 an audience of 400 heard Gerry Healy, the League's National Secretary, underline the importance of the struggle in France for the British working class.

'Not only has the working class emerged with big gains and intensified the crisis of capitalism all over Western Europe and the world,' he said, 'they have shown the working class in Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States that you can fight—you can win—even in a police state.'

The upsurge in France showed that the revolutionary movement of the working class cannot be written off, he said.



Mike Banda, editor of the Newsletter, answers the slanders made against the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste at the meeting on July 1.

Villa Rides
Paramount Pictures
Director Buzz Kulik
Starring
Yul Brynner and
Robert Mitchum

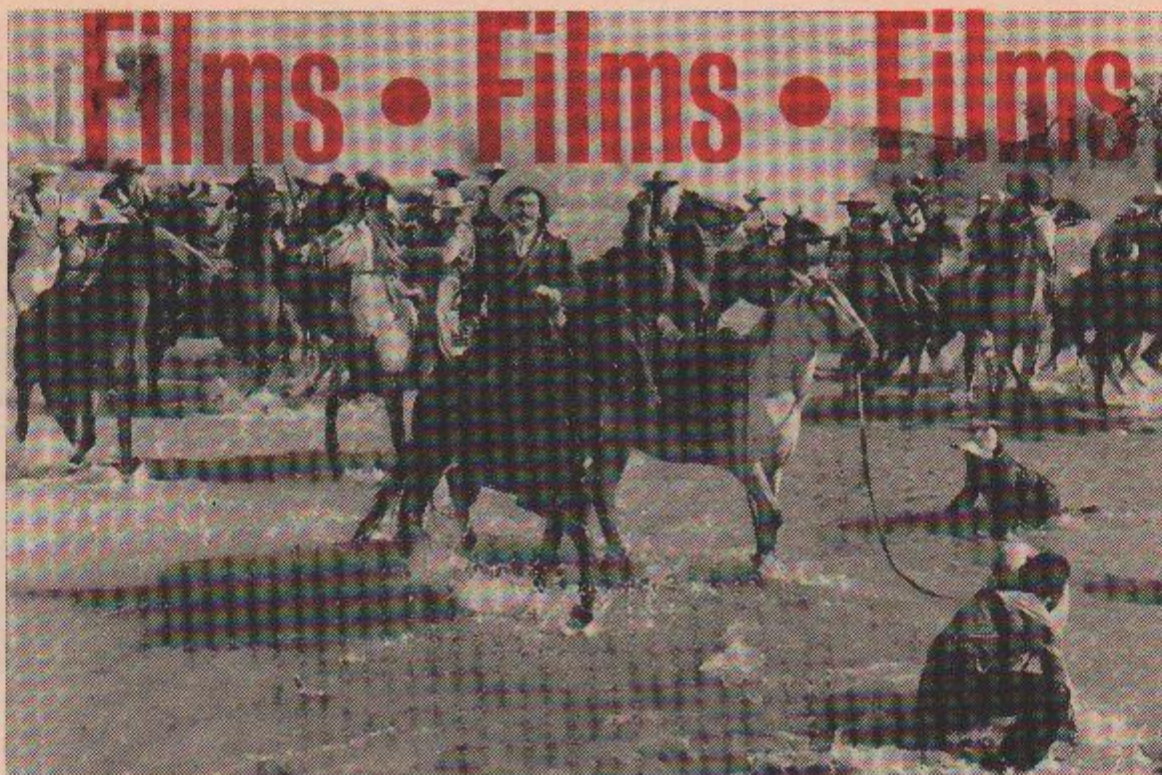
PANCHO VILLA, along with Emiliano Zapata, was a leader in the peasant movement in the Mexican revolution of 1910 and 1911.

Although the peasants were the backbone of the revolution in fact it was always under the control of the just-emerging bourgeoisie (Mexican-Indian/Spanish), since they alone had a worked-out programme.

The two wings of the revolution had joined together to fight their common enemy, the semi-feudal state and its supporters, the army, the church and the foreign capitalists. They did this however with two very different objectives. Mexico was at this time under the bondage system which tied the debt-ridden peasants as slaves to the landowners.

So the peasantry were fighting for a return to communal land-ownership whilst the bourgeoisie wanted to turn the peons into wage-slaves, to smash the grip of the land-owners.

Although the two forces came



together in the revolution there was at the same time a conflict between them, Villa and Zapata being regarded by the bourgeoisie as a danger to their aims.

The conflict of different class forces provides material for an excellent film, and it is a great pity that the director Buzz Kulick has not taken advantage of it, instead of concentrating on one incident in the revolution.

The very narrow limits of the film's story have obviously led to a distortion of motives, and in some instances a complete disregard for historical accuracy.

Loyalty

The general setting of the film is one in which Villa and his followers are fighting 'for the revolution' (which in the context of this film could mean anything) against the 'Colorados' whom I assume are the supporters of the just-overthrown dictator Porfirio Diaz).

Villa has unqualified loyalty to the new president, Madero, of whose army he is a general, but a deep distrust of a rival general, who is also fighting in the vicinity (and who later overthrows Madero).

Obviously this rivalry is an expression of the two different classes in the revolutionary army, but the film portrays it as a con-

flict of personalities — personal ambition versus devotion to the revolution.

The actual incident on which the film concentrates is Villa's acquisition of a bi-plane and its reluctant pilot, which he uses to spot the enemy and drop efficient, if crude, home-made bombs. He thus captures a train and uses it to take a town which Madero has ordered his rival to capture.

The use of a plane by Villa is probably historically accurate (the credit titles are shown against actual photographs which include a plane), but I think that much of the remainder is fictional—indeed the film itself is based on a novel.

Yul Brynner plays the part of Villa with as much sympathy as the script allows, which is not much. His ruthlessness, as necessary in the Mexican as in any other revolution, his bravery and fascination with mechanical objects are entirely plausible, but those qualities which identified him with the peasant movement are either ignored or inserted very clumsily.

Thus he refers to the land only once ('this is my wife') in a setting that robs the words of any meaning. His disgust with Madero's high-living as President

is expressed in the remark 'leave this palace and come back to your people', whereas Madero in fact never came from 'the people' Villa refers to.

Perhaps accidentally the false morality of capitalism is aptly put in a remark to the gringo pilot, played by Robert Mitchum.

This is a man who will do anything for money, and he only gets involved with Villa when his plane gets damaged—whilst gun-running to the Colorados.

After he has criticized Villa for his ruthlessness, Pancho points out what the Colorados do with the weapons he supplies (thus making him as guilty) and comments, 'It must be a terrible thing to kill someone without hating them'.

Mitchum's acting is quite convincing if only because, for probably the first time, he loses every fight he gets into.

Non-starter

In short, because the class meaning of the revolution is left out, we have a film about fighting which could be between anybody else, about anything else.

As a colourful, action-packed, quick-moving film it is as good or as bad as hundreds of others. As a serious reconstruction of a fascinating period of man's struggle to tear down class barriers, it is a non-starter.

Review by Nick Peck

IN RETROSPECT

from page three the grade with his 'excellent' first-year exam results at Cambridge. The Master of his college, Lord Butler of Saffron Waldren, was 'very glad' when he was told.

Far be it from any newspaper which reported the news to suggest that there might be anything wrong with the Prince's university career; that George Wigg should be called in to inspect the Prince's food and drink or anything like that.

Could it be that like the noble Lord, the editors have also heard of the Tower?

Directed by Peter Hall.
Produced by Thomas Clyde.
Screenplay by Jeremy Brooks
from the play 'Eh' by Henry
Living.
Starring David Warner and
Cilla Black.
A Cavalcade-Universal pro-
duction.

Review by Martin Meyer

FROM the short run that 'Work is a Four Letter Word' has been given in the West End it is apparent that this film is a flop.

This is not really surprising since it is too unfashionably late to fit in with the escapist mood of last year.

Basically a fantasy on the effects of automation on capitalist society, some fundamental problems of society are touched upon, but the film rapidly veers off into the escapist world of drugs.

Last year when the main trend amongst middle-class youth, reflected in hippyism and drug cults, was to avoid the main problems facing humanity, this film might have won a response from West End audiences.

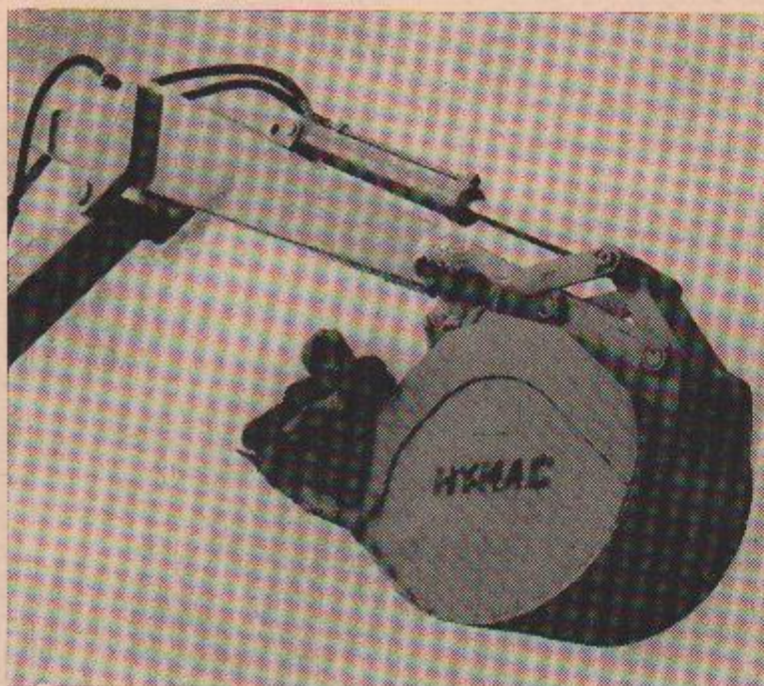
But the events in France have rudely shaken this mood and

people are now looking for much more serious solutions.

The film is set in the future when everyone works for the super monopoly DICE, which is rapidly automating all its plants.

Some of the opening scenes are imaginative, showing the DICE workers starting their day to an Emperor Rosko-type voice telling them what a happy new day it is; then shots of workers 'checking' 100 per cent automated processes; shots of abandoned streets called Productivity Street, and Britain First Street; scenes where the managing director, relaxing in the sauna bath, discusses what to do with all the workers when the rest of his plants are automated.

After this promising start, however, the film rapidly degenerates into a weak farce, badly imitating 'Morgan' with David Warner again playing havoc with established order. As the idealistic hero he grows psychedelic



Cilla Black and David Warner—the newly-weds.

complete farce when Val accidentally drops a packet of mushroom seeds. The power station is covered in mushrooms, everybody starts by eating them, they end up by destroying the entire DICE combine and everybody lives happily ever after.

The film ends on a note of

complete farce when Val accidentally drops a packet of mushroom seeds. The power station is covered in mushrooms, everybody starts by eating them, they end up by destroying the entire DICE combine and everybody lives happily ever after.

BOOK

REVIEW

'Risinghill: Death of a Comprehensive School.'

Leila Berg.

A Pelican Original. 1968. 6s.

THE reason for educating working-class children is to train them for work in the factories. Accordingly, no importance is attached to the development of initiative, self-expression or individual talents.

What matters is conformity and discipline, enforced by authoritarian and physical means. As a result the tougher secondary schools are battlegrounds into which the police are called from time to time when the pupils get big enough to hit back. This is rarely discussed in the Colleges of Education, since people have to be enticed into the profession.

MYTH

The idea that the introduction of comprehensive schools could somehow change this situation was a reformist myth, dear to the heart of all social democrats.

That is not to say that the abolition of 11-plus selection is not desirable, since its purpose is to channel all but a tiny minority of working-class children into the worst schools. Educational reforms should be fought for, but to build too much on them is to foster illusions and complacency.

Dr. John Daniels of Nottingham, for instance, has argued that a minor re-organization such as the abolition of streaming will considerably improve the academic progress of all children.

FACT

This is nonsense. Streaming is one of the ways in which the education system is biased against the working class and its abolition would be an improvement. But the basic fact is that the educational structure reflects the class structure of society.

All those with illusions about a gradual 'democratization' of education received a shock when they learned the fate of the Risinghill Co-Educational Comprehensive School in Islington from Leila Berg's book.

CLAIM

This school was opened in March 1960 under the headship of Mr. Michael Duane. In 1965 it was closed by the London County Council, whose claim that its premises had to be used in a different way was believed by hardly anyone.

Duane treated even the tough children of the Islington slums as human beings. As a result he was hated by governors, education officials, some of his teachers and above all by the pompous officials on the LCC, Labour and Tory alike.

(One Labour supporter on the board of governors asked of these Islington kids: 'why can't they play like Hampstead children?')

But the main row was over corporal punishment. Duane refused to beat his pupils into submission.

Continued on page nine →

Donovan Commission Report

A subtle form of flattery

by a Keep Left Correspondent

"WELL I don't think we are as close to this as France was (i.e. revolution—writer's note). The reason is that I think the trade union movement has been taken into the government decision-making process in the last decade to a far greater degree than in France. What we face however is the need to translate this process to the shop floor. This IS WHERE THE DONOVAN REPORT COMES IN." (our emphasis)

These words of Wilson's latest super-minister, Barbara Castle, pin down the danger for the working class in the recommendations of the Donovan report—the recently-published findings of the Royal Commission on Trades Unions and Employers' Associations.

Read it

Workers and socialists should not be disarmed by its mild conciliatory tone; read it carefully—note especially—"These proposals will assist an incomes policy to work effectively by exposing the WHOLE (our emphasis) process of pay settlement to the influence of policy". (read politics). And even more ominous for the industrial militant; "The function of the Industrial Relations Com-

mission (proposed in the report) and the Prices and Incomes Board are different but the work of one will assist the other".

The processes not 'exposed' to the PIB, the report notes, are the day-to-day shop floor struggles over bonus and piece-work rates, hours and working conditions. It is, remember, successful fights waged by stewards on these issues, that have been the biggest factor in increasing the living standards of the working class since the war.

Crusade

The 1960s' crusade by the employers against shop floor power and unofficial strikes, which culminated in the appointment of the Commission in 1965, was caused by the inability of the capitalist class to concede on these very issues, because of the economic crisis they faced and still face.

The aim, therefore, of Donovan and his trade union sidekicks (Woodcock, Robens, etc.) is to discipline the leadership of the rank and file, e.g. "... effective and orderly collective bargaining is required over such issues as the control of incentive schemes, the regulation of hours actually worked, the use of job evaluation, work practices and the linking of changes in pay to changes in performance, facilities for shop stewards and disciplinary rules and appeals".

It is this unofficial leadership that the report proposes to draw into the net of state machinery.

They recommend agreements embracing all workers and all types of jobs be drawn up in all industries and factories, that 'justice' of the agreement would be judged by another innovation, an Industrial Relations Commission.

Any disputes over an agreement would be settled by an Industrial Court, and any individual dispute by a 'labour tribunal'. The question of penalties for breach of agreement 'would come to be reviewed in the light of experience', states the report.

In short, issues which have been the independent concern of stewards since the war would be subject to some form of state manipulation and procedure.

The report employs a subtle form of flattery, it admits the stewards are powerful, recognises them as such and invites them to step into the same bureaucratic net that swallowed their union 'leaders' long ago—the stewards must now become 'responsible' is Donovan's cry.

Crucial

Donovan, however, is right about one thing, the time has come for industry-wide organization on the shop floor. The crucial question is what kind of organization and to what end.

On this Donovan is quite clear. The central issue of the factory agreement will 'put in the hands of management an instrument—the factory agreement—which, properly used, can contribute to higher productivity'.

Higher productivity serves to

cheapen commodities and shorten the part of the working day a worker pays back his employer for his own wages, the other part of the working day goes to the employer. In other words it is a means of increasing surplus value, or profit.

Answer

The militants must answer Donovan with their own organization. The legislation based upon this report will constitute a political attack on the independence of the working man.

The working class therefore can only fight it successfully in a united manner with an organization that embraces all stewards in every union. And since Donovan's proposals rest on certain assumptions about the correct economic policy to pursue, the workers will have to pose an alternative socialist policy to expose the capitalist clichés about productivity, technology, etc.

Only by the construction of an All Trades Unions Alliance with a complete political alternative to capitalism will workers be able to resist this attack.

No regimentation on the shop floor.

Build the All Trades Unions Alliance against Donovan.

Reject all productivity deals under capitalism.

Nationalize the industries, put them under workers' control.

Book review from page 8

The LCC held two positions on this question. It had issued a 'progressive' booklet for public circulation in which it discouraged the use of violence against children. But in 1959 it published a confidential internal booklet which was issued to all new teachers saying that children could be hit with two canes of an 'approved pattern'.

The real views of the 'experts' emerged in a discussion between head teachers, education officials and the author:

'He (a headmaster) then said that this boy went to a well-known public school (pausing, and looking here at the Chief Inspector, the two of them nodding to each other) and one day during the vacation he was having a bath, and he, the father, said, "Can I come in, my boy?", and entering, saw that his son's back was covered in red weals; so he said, "Aha, my boy, I see you have been in some trouble. What was the cause of it?" His son did not want to tell him because he did not consider it important; but he said, "Tell me, my boy." And at last his son told him that he had helped a friend who had got into trouble to write out his lines. And his father said, "Yes, of course you must be punished for that." And he concluded "I am sure it did him some good. Yes, I know that beating gave my boy something." At this they broke into little smiles and nodded knowingly and looked pleased.'

Leila Berg describes three arguments which were used against the school. The first was that its academic achievement was poor. In fact its academic results were rising in face of great disadvantages. For instance, comprehensive schools are supposed to get children over an even spread of ability range.

In fact this rarely happens and at Rivinghill there was no intake with more than 0.8 per cent (8 in 1,000) in the top ability group and 81.5 per cent of the children came from the two lowest ability groups.

The second argument was that the intake of children was going down. Yet at this time the intake was going down in all London secondary schools, and in some schools it went down more than at Rivinghill.

(It couldn't do much else at Rivinghill since the LCC's policy is to fill grammar schools first, then single-sex schools, then schools in better districts.) The author also brings evidence that parents were being discouraged by the authorities from sending their children to Duane's school.

Officialdom also claimed that there was unruly behaviour at the school and some of the teachers who were opposed to Duane lent themselves to wild stories of physical attacks. In fact, the number of children before the courts actually went down considerably—a remarkable thing since Duane accepted children who were turned away from or out of more 'respectable' schools.

There can be little doubt that many people, including members of his own staff, wanted Duane out and conspired to get him out.

(One interesting aspect of this is that there was a group of Communist Party members on the staff. This group split over support for Duane and his methods.)

Here was a classic case of the bureaucrats, the time-servers and the mediocrities in charge of British education closing ranks against a threat to their hypocritical system of cheap schooling for the working class.

So-called 'progressive educationalists' who abandoned the revolutionary movement many years ago, have written numerous 'advanced' theses—but they leave the real class forces in education unchallenged.



the choice for working-class tenants

overcrowding in this

increases of up to 10s a week in this



BUT WHO REALLY IS TO BLAME?

LAMBETH COUNCIL, for many years Labour controlled, has been won by the Tories.

Their first act has been to announce rent increases on all council flats of between 6s. 9d. and 10s. a week, with similar increases next year.

Lambeth is an area with a massive housing problem. Thousands of families live in overcrowded, damp rooms, paying £4, £5 a week, or more.

The fact that parts of Lambeth, such as Brixton, have a large number of coloured immigrants has been used time and again by the landlords, the Tories, and by the Labour councillors who have refused to take up any fight against the real causes of the problem—the banks charging high interest rates, the landlords who push up the price of land, the building and building supplies industries which build for profit, and the Labour government which, instead of nationalizing the banks, the land and the building industry, helps them make their profits.

It was no surprise that in Lambeth, as in so many other areas in the country, few Labour supporters turned out to vote at the council elections.

Fourteen of the newly-elected Tory councillors celebrated their victory by issuing a statement blaming immigrant workers for the 'major problem in housing, education and welfare services' and calling for a 'complete ban on all further immigration into this borough'.

The Lambeth branch of the Socialist Labour League and the YS branches in the area immediately hit back. 'Beware of the Tory Confidence Trick!' they said in a widely distributed leaflet, warning that the Tories were out to divide the workers' struggle through racialism.

They called for an immediate campaign to force the Labour councillors and MPs to fight to:

'Open the books of the Council to a committee of trade

unionists and tenants. Show everyone where the money really goes to. Expose the profits of the bankers for all to see.

'Demand the Councils fight the bankers. Go into deficit and tell the bankers they will not get their profits. Tell them houses and schools come first.

'Requisition all empty property for the immediate housing of homeless families.

'An immediate crash housing programme on existing empty land, using direct labour which would also provide work for many unemployed workers.

'Oppose any attempts by the Tory Council to raise rents as they did on the GLC.

'Tell the Labour MPs to back those policies in parliament and fight for the nationalization of the land, the banks and the building industry, so that housing can be built for people's need and not for the profits of the bosses and the bankers. Tell them that if they will not do so, then we shall withdraw our support in the next general election and support candidates who will fight for socialist policies.

'Build workers' defence squads which will unite all workers, black and white, to defend both immigrant workers and trade unionists against fascist attacks.

'Unite all workers to fight for these policies.'

The Tory decision to raise rents has shown clearly that their attack on immigrant workers was a preparation for this new attack on the living standards of all workers.

The Young Socialists are planning a demonstration through the area on Saturday, July 13, against racialism and the wage-freeze policies of the Labour government. They are determined to build a mass movement which will unite all workers and tenants against the racialists, the Tories and their Labour hangers-on.

Keep Left Reporter

Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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

pital. One woman was picked up and bundled into a police van where she was raped.

The commission also reported a number of cases where the police had shaved women's heads and stripped them naked. This often happened in public.

The savage treatment of men included beating them in the genitals. It was common practice to force prisoners who were brought to the stations to run a gauntlet of CRS armed with clubs, before putting them in the cells.

There were also cases of ambulance teams being brutally beaten and patients on stretchers who were beaten up.

It was reported that a typical police statement was: 'you have got two of our chaps. We will shoot you as we shot in the repression against the Arabs when we finished off 150 of them. You didn't know that did you?'. This statement was backed up later when the CRS shot a student and a young married worker.

These state actions are by no means unorganized or the actions of a few individuals, but a systematic driving down and demoralization programme to throw terror into the working class.

We must learn the lessons of France and prepare by building a mass movement and mobilizing the trade unions. We should be quite clear on the urgency to prepare now. The British police force, at this moment, are stock-piling riot gas (CS) which has caused 350 known deaths in Vietnam.

A government station in Britain produces 60 tons a year and claims it has no permanent effects.

The French working class have been taught that spontaneous actions are not enough; the answer to the CRS and the British police force and their masters is the organized force of the working class behind a revolutionary programme.

Forward with the French Revolution!
Forward to the British Revolution!

Mobilize workers to form defence squads!

Forward to the Soviet States of Europe!

Clapham YS member and Trade Unionist.

Also to say that the British working class is docile is untrue. They have perhaps the most violent history of all—remember the Tolpuddle martyrs, the Peterloo massacre and the Jarrow marchers.

There are many reasons why a revolt is more likely here than it was in France. Firstly in Britain the vast majority of the population is working class, that is to say they are people who receive wages for work done in a privately-owned business.

All these people have common interests. In France the economy is based on agriculture, self-employed farmers wanting the best possible price for their products. The French working class have different interests—their demands raise the question of nationalization under workers' control.

Secondly, de Gaulle has been a virtual dictator for 10 years and the French working class have had a rough time of it. They turn first to the Communist Party which has a large amount of support amongst the working class and the CP leadership responds by betraying the general strike and preserving the regime. In this country the traditional working-class party is in government and everybody is quite clear on its role and its intentions.

Another point is that the standard of living is higher here than in France. Workers have gained this through their trade unions. The Royal Commission, which will do much to try and cripple this organization, and the employers' refusal over the engineers' pay claim, will incite mass action from these workers.

The decisive action is the building of a theoretical leadership now amongst the workers. Rest assured that the employers are preparing for an onslaught.

Young Socialists must fight to convince people that only a political battle on a Marxist understanding can overthrow the capitalist system.

J. Delliston, Willesden YS.

'Overtime'

Mechanical minds which think alike,

Are oft induced to dream
Towards a life of better ends,
Towards a life of swivel chairs.
With this thought their life becomes

A way beyond their means.
Their minds blank,
Their hands are willing;
Their minds blank,
Their boss is willing;
Their minds blank,
Tax men are willing;
Their minds blank,
But they are willing.

Stop! and think of the crime
When you are a robot in the manager's time.

To him you are but a word in a rhyme,
To fill in your 'card' with that extra time,

So that he may live when he's past his prime.

You can't live for ever with a mind that is blind,
You can't live a life planned on overtime.

Roger Wilding, Rotherham YS.

Marxist anarchists against the Young Socialists.

In a period when thousands of workers are moving into political action against the Labour government, these characters now want us to follow them blindly into fights with the police.

In 1964 the state capitalist group (IS) told us that the struggles lay inside the Labour Party and that if we left the Labour Party we would be isolated.

Now they tell us that we are wrong to concentrate in the trade union movement, that we should be protesting and building barricades.

The lessons we draw from France are that the decisive force is the working class and its revolutionary leadership.

These anarchist groups refuse to turn towards the working class, so in the final analysis they oppose it.

We can have no unity with these people, our aims are completely opposed. We stand for the revolutionary party, they aim to destroy it.

G. Yates Birmingham

This is the basic philosophical reason why the YS opposes drug-taking. Apart from this there is the fact that the people who take these drugs seem to degenerate very rapidly, and are not in the least good advertisements for the drug experience.

John Spencer, Putney YS.

Seeing the police through rose-tinted spectacles

I THINK there are certain tendencies amongst the new members in the Young Socialists and amongst the working class, to see the police force through rose-tinted glasses to the extent that atrocities are excused with the conception that the police are protecting everybody against 'extremists'. I think it is important to see where these idealistic conceptions of the police force come from.

If we look at the capitalist mass media we find a police force that a lot of people recognize. This is a police where kindly PC 49s pat 'nasty young hooligans' on the head and teach them, with candy and kisses, to respect and uphold private property.

When that veneer had worn thin a 'nasty' policeman came on the screen. This policeman hated his job but carried on with it 'because someone had to do it'.

This heroic personal sacrifice idea has been utterly smashed by the deeds of the CRS in France. (It is interesting to note that the atrocities have also been played down by the capitalist press.)

A commission set up by the National Union of Students (UNEP) and the National University of Teachers (SNES) pledged itself to inquire into police brutality and deliberately confined itself to cases of peaceful citizens who were not involved in actions against the de Gaullist regime.

These are some of the facts uncovered by the commission.

During the height of the street fighting, an 18-year-old boy was attacked whilst walking on a bridge across the Seine on his way home. The police tried to force him into the river. Whilst hanging from the parapet he was beaten on the head and hands with clubs. The boy was then taken to a police station where he was savagely beaten and he is still in hospital.

A young woman was sitting in her front room when the police threw a tear gas bomb through the front window. The bomb exploded directly in front of her face and she was removed to hospital.

Materialism versus the 'drug experience'

D. OUTHWAITE, who wrote in the May issue of the Keep Left, misses the main point about drug taking. He puts forward the idea that 'the adoption of drugs by a socialist who uses them properly [!] would further his knowledge of himself in relation to socialism'.

The question here, fundamentally, is how people further their knowledge in relation to socialism.

Knowledge in relation to socialism, as every Marxist knows, is not achieved by contemplation. It comes out of a struggle to apply and develop the ideas and theories of Marxism in the process of building a revolutionary leadership. This is a conscious process. But the essence of hemp and LSD is that they distort consciousness.

All one would achieve by taking these drugs, whatever one's politics, might be some doubtful knowledge of the effects of the drug. How this assists the struggle for socialism is, to say the least, unclear.

The discussion is not helped by Comrade Outhwaite's assertion that a drug 'reveals situations which are relevant to one's experience and outlook'.

He implies that idealists would have 'idealist experiences' whilst materialists would have 'materialist experiences'—whatever these may be. But people do not exist in these fixed categories. One becomes a materialist only by a continuous and conscious struggle against idealism.

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

Leadership—the decisive issue

ON THE demonstration last weekend (May 26) we saw once again that only the Young Socialists can give a lead to the working class.

The actions of the anarchists and the International Socialists were quite clear. They tried to divert us from the main questions and get us involved in all sorts of adventures, which could discredit us in the eyes of factory workers and help the police to organize against us.

We have to insist that we have only one job, and that is to build the revolutionary party in this country and to take the power out of the hands of big business.

The demonstration makes it much easier for us to see where this alliance of forces stands. The International Socialist group call themselves Marxists but they are prepared to ally with petty-bourgeois anti-

EDITOR'S POSTBOX
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'Detonators' and the class struggle

THE heroic struggle of the students of the Sorbonne, the fight against Kiesinger's emergency laws in Berlin and against bureaucracy in Yugoslavia, and the role of the students of Peking University in China's 'cultural' revolution all show the developing hatred of large numbers of students for capitalism and bureaucracy.

Recent events in Britain have shown that, here as well, students will fight the attacks of the Wilson government on grants and standards of education.

The moves of the extremist Tories to stir up trouble and then call for legislation against left-wing movements in the universities are a clear warning that there is no more a 'peaceful' road to socialism in Britain than anywhere else.

Whilst it is the duty of every Marxist to support the demands for student control of education, we must fight all those who separate this from the fight of the working class, by saying that there is a special role for students, who must act as a 'detonator' for the working class.

If students fight with the police, so the 'theory' goes, the working class will spontaneously lose all the illusions about society engendered by capitalism.

In the same way that the capitalist class has maintained its rule with the promise of reforms under a Labour government, now that the working class is breaking from reformism and the Labour Party, it tells us that the working class can seize power without the fight to build the party.

Sections of the student movement, the trained administrators of capitalism, now come forward with a 'left' front to disarm the working class in the face of a massive offensive by the international ruling class.

This is the role of groups like 'International Socialism' and the Pabloites around 'The Militant', who deny the role of the revolutionary party as the preparation of the working class for power.

There is no unity between the Young Socialists and those who argue that the working class can achieve socialism by copying middle-class adven-

Strategy and Tactics in the Imperialist Epoch

by Leon Trotsky Price 2/6

Available from: New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High St, London, S.W.4



turers who are themselves seeking reforms from a system bent on destroying, and not raising, living standards.

It was the organized power of the working class that forced de Gaulle to concede the demands of the students. By themselves, the students had achieved nothing, and the Trotskyists in Paris were correct in calling for a withdrawal from the barricades and a campaign around the factories for a massive demonstration of students and workers.

The French working class has been temporarily disarmed because of the Stalinists, but the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste (sister organization of the Socialist Labour League), helped in the universities by its supporters in the Fédération des Etudiants Révolutionnaires, had fought the Stalinists, and all their allies who seek to destroy the revolutionary party under the cover of 'left' talk: we must conduct a ceaseless campaign to force de Gaulle to lift the ban on all left-wing groups in France.

The lessons are clear: the international crisis of capitalism means that even the simplest demands of the students or workers can only be met by the taking of power by the working class, through the fight to build the revolutionary party.

Marxists must fight to build this party inside the universities, and students trained in the struggle for Marxism inside the National Association of Labour Student Organizations can now break out to win the support of large numbers of students forced into politics for the first time.

They must call on the resources and experience of the Young Socialists to make a massive intervention inside the universities.

We are not content to stage sit-ins to make capitalism a little bit better for students:

Marxists fight to end capitalism for ever!

Dave Bruce, NALSO EC (Bromley YS).

'Under the belt'

AS Marxists, as well as defending our position against economic and political arguments, we sometimes have to defeat potentially more tricky arguments.

These 'under the belt' questions come from people who

Of the second argument, that revolutionary parties are made up of neurotics, there is perhaps just a little truth. People who join a revolutionary party must hate the system enough to want to overthrow it. What is forgotten is that 14 per cent of the population see a psychiatrist once in their lives; the growth of organizations like the 'Samaritans' proves this.

If comrades feel that anyone is blaming everything on the capitalist system because of lack of success in things, it should be pointed out that whilst capitalism does put

See you in September

As usual at this time of year we publish a July-August issue whilst our printers are on holiday. But we shall be back to normal monthly publication in September.

Editor

criticize not Marxism itself, but Marxists. Generally speaking these arguments can be divided into two types. The first is that Marxism is not a science but a religion and second that revolutionary parties are made up of people who are neurotic, frustrated, power seeking and so on—in a word, malcontents who want to destroy the kind of state that they feel has been unkind to them and replace it with either a communist or fascist one.

Let us try and answer the first question. What is in fact religion? I think, to put it in its simplest form, that it is a belief that if certain things are done during life, peace and happiness will follow after death.

R. N. Carew Hunt, a non-Marxist said: 'But for its devotees communism has the value of a religion in so far as it is felt to provide a complete explanation of reality and of man as part of reality, and at the same time to give to life as does religion, a sense of purpose'.

If anything discloses the barrenness of bourgeois thought it is this! The Marxist must be continually trying to develop his ideas to explain reality, whilst the religious person, unable to comprehend reality, turns to metaphysical alternatives.

During the period when Stalinism was growing, the revolutionary Marxist wing was trying to develop its ideas but the idealists fell for 'theoretical' stale buns, i.e. the personality cult of Stalin.

Thus Stalinism tends to take on the role of a religion. Is it not strange that due to a trick of dialectics there is more religion in 'communist' Russia than there is atheism in 'christian' Britain?

The point is that the economic nature of Russia is more backward than that of Britain even though it is a socialist country.

strains on people, that if it does not provide jobs that suit people, it is non-Marxist to harbour a destructive hatred. Marxists should look for the causes of the hatred and then a balanced contempt of society can be developed, which is constructive.

This problem is really only minute since the people who should be the least fed up with the society they live in are in fact the most Marxist, i.e. the students.

The point is that these problems must be answered in a political way for they have class roots.

I would very much like readers to comment on my letter.

D. Jenkins, Cardiff YS.

The power of the working class

SOCIAL revolution now faces the working class in Britain. Reformism is finished. Workers' power is the only thing that can solve the problems of the oppressed class.

Recent events such as industrial strikes and student uprisings show that workers are not going to accept the attacks of the capitalist class. They show the great power of the working class and how it can cripple the capitalist system.

For instance take the rail go-slow. It not only affects the railway industry—but virtually the whole means of production. Railways are used in transporting capitalist goods and also workers—the labour which can produce surplus value for the employers.

If workers cannot get to work then they cannot make any surplus value for their em-

ployers who get angry and write in their press that the railwaymen are causing unnecessary inconvenience to the public.

But are not the capitalists and big businessmen an unnecessary inconvenience to the working-class public? Of course they are, and we have reached a stage in capitalism when the working class, especially in Britain, will react violently to further attacks by the capitalist class.

In France, the enormous power of the working class was shown clearly as the whole country came to a standstill.

Those workers in France were ready to take the power. They had everything to their advantage for a social revolution, except one thing—a developed leadership. Without leadership the working class can get nowhere and only be led to defeat.

The reactionary role of the Communist Party was fully exposed during the French workers' revolt.

That situation in France—that revolutionary situation—lacked a leadership; and that situation in France blew up in a matter of days. The same kind of situation could explode in Britain at any time.

It is up to the Young Socialists to provide the correct leadership which will take workers to victory in the not-too-distant revolution.

Bermondsey YS member.

New line of attack

A NEW line of attack has been opened up for the capitalists in their drive to bleed the working class.

Because of the complete sell-out of the working class by the Labour leaders, the party of the capitalists, the Tory party, has gained control of many of the county and borough councils.

Last month's Keep Left pointed to the enormous increase in fees for recreational facilities, which is a big blow directed at the youth. But this is not all. Wandsworth Borough Council have proposed the termination of the 'direct labour' scheme.

Although the council initially stated that there would be no sackings, the local workers know differently. One trade unionist in the building trade estimated over 100 sackings amongst the painters, and many hundreds more from amongst the plasterers, chippies, brickies and labourers—over 600 men in all.

Since Wandsworth is one of the biggest employers of 'direct labour', the Tories obviously have similar plans for many more workers on other councils.

Not only will this cause unemployment but it hands back to private contractors these juicy plums of council contracts, so that they can amass wealth at the expense of the workers through increased rents and rates payments. Quite obviously rents will be put up to pay for this.

Couple this with the 'natural wastage' policy of the Tory Greater London Council (this reactionary, anti-working-class policy of employing no new labour, which results in a steady decline of the labour force, increased exploitation of those remaining, and the closing of avenues of employment particularly for the youth).

Building workers and all trade unionists must unite with the tenants in Wandsworth to call a halt now to this policy.

L. H., Putney

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London win by 12 points



Onlookers see L. Wandle (West Midlands) reach 86 ft. 6 ins. with a tremendous effort to win the discus.

- First—London 46 points
- Second—Yorkshire 34 points
- Third—Middlesex 16 points
- Fourth—Southern Region 14 points
- Fifth—East Midlands 11 points
- Sixth—West Midlands 9 points
- Seventh—North East 1 point

AS a first venture the National Young Socialists' Sports Day held at the Leicester Stadium on Sunday, June 23 was a highly successful event with some good times being set for future records.

Teams from all parts of the country participated and in spite of intermittent heavy rain the events were smoothly organized by the Leicester Federation of Young Socialists.

All competitors put up good performances but from the very beginning it was obvious that the London team were setting up stiff competition.

There was plenty to watch in the track events with the mile giving the most improbable result. Jones from Yorkshire, who had a bad start and ran the first two laps well behind the other runners, was able, after a tremendous spurt, to overtake first the stragglers and then the leading man, A. Butcher from London, to win a spectacular sprint in the last 100 yards.

The times however for this race, 5 mins. 3.5 secs. and 5 mins. 37.8 secs., were not as good as those set up at the London Sports Day, where both the first and second clocked just over 4 minutes.

London again did well in the girls' 100 yards event with C. McCarthy giving nearly as good a performance as the boys in 11.9 seconds.

At the end of the afternoon London walked away with the sports trophy with a clear lead of 12 points over their nearest rival Yorkshire.



London representative, all-rounder R. Milne, was presented with the national sports trophy at Leicester.

RESULTS

(L)—London, (S)—Southern Region, (Mx)—Middlesex, (WM)—West Midlands, (EM)—East Midlands, (NE)—North East, (Y)—Yorkshire.

Girls' 110 yds. hurdles: S. Wroe 13 secs. (Y); M. Wright (L).

Boys' 110 yds. hurdles: R. Milne 10.1 secs. (L); Chesterton (EM); J. Bangs (Mx).

Boys' 880 yds.: J. Wright 2 mins. 12.2 secs. (EM); A. Holmes (S); J. Stockburn (Y).

Girls' 100 yds.: C. McCarthy 11.9 secs. (L); L. Moore (SY); A. Kirton (Mx).

Boys' 100 yds.: R. Milne 11.1 secs. (L); R. Henry (S); N. Bangs (Mx).

Girls' 440 yds.: J. McGee 1 min. 24 secs. (L); L. Moore (Y);

Boys' 440 yds.: J. Wright 1 min. 8 secs. (EM); A. Gros (L); J. Stockburn (Y).

Girls' 220 yds.: L. Moore 29.9 secs. (Y); P. Woolfe (L); J. Courtney (Mx).

Boys' 220 yds.: L. Lloyd-William 26.3 secs. (Mx); R. Singh

(EM); R. Jones (L).

Girls' Relay: London 1 min. 2 secs; Yorkshire; Southern.

Boys' Relay: London 53 secs.; Middlesex; Southern.

Boys' mile: B. Jones 5 min. 3.5 secs (Y); A. Butcher (L); J. Holmes (S).

Girls' high jump: S. Wroe 4 ft. 3ins. (Y); M. Wright (L); A. Parker (WM).

Boys' high jump: P. Singh 5 ft. 2 ins. (S); Godfrey (Mx); M. Biggs (EM).

Girls' javelin: Miles 70 ft. 10½ ins. (L); J. Courtney (Mx); C. Slaughter (Y).

Boys' javelin: A. Etchels 136 ft. 10 ins. (Y); M. Finnegan (WM); P. Steannet (L).

Girls' long jump: L. Moore 16 ft. 2 ins. (Y); D. Smart (L); S. Johns (NE).

Boys' long jump: R. Milne 18 ft. 7 ins. (L); M. Ordell (S); C. Molloy (WM).

Girls' discus: L. Wandle 86 ft. 6 ins. (WM); C. McCarthy (L); J. Courtney (Mx).

Boys' discus: A. Eichel 115 ft. (Y); A. Spring (WM).

London area sports day



- South-West (SW) 50 pts.;
- North-East Middlesex (NE) 44 pts.;
- West (W) 31 pts.;
- Acton (A) 30 pts.;
- Southall (S) 21 pts.;
- South-East (SE) 20 pts.;
- East (E) 19 pts.;
- Southern Region (SR) 15 pts.;
- Watford (W) 13 pts.;
- South (Sth) 11 pts.;
- Dagenham (D) 11 pts.

Boys' 100 yds.: R. Milne 11.6 secs. (SW); Carling (SE); Eroll (SW).

Girls' 100 yds.: I. Smart 14.8 secs. (SW); M. Wright (SE); J. McGee (W).

Boys' 220 yds.: Matthews 25.2 secs. (NE); Carling (SE); Milne (SW).

Girls' 220 yds.: Walle 34 secs. (D); L. Smart (SW); L. Eddy (Sth).

Boys' 440 yds.: Quiggley 60 secs. (NE); Scotcher (SR); Gros (SW).

Girls' 440 yds.: McGee 1 min. 27 secs. (W); J. Gibson (E); M.



Bambrick (S).

Boys' 880 yds.: O'Hara 2 min. 48 secs. (NE); J. Scott (SW); Tracy (W).

Boys' mile: O'Hara 4 min. 39.6 secs. (NE); Butcher (SW); Homes (SR).

Boys' Hurdles: Quiggley (NE); R. Milne (SW); Williams (Herts).

Girls' Hurdles: Lorraine (W).

Boys' Relay: South East, Willesden, West.

Girls' Relay: South West, Acton, West.

Boys' Long Jump: S. Matthew 20 ft. 8½ ins. (NE); L. Deary (A); E. Norman (SW).

Girls' Long Jump: L. Eddy 12 ft. 5½ ins. (S); J. McGee (W); L. Smart (SW).

Boys' High Jump: Perry (A); Godfrey (NE); Terry (W).

Boys' Discus: Socrates (NE); H. Levy (D).

Girls' Discus: Rossana (SW); Flowers (NE).

Boys' Javelin: G. Corbett (NE).

Girls' Javelin: J. Courtney (NE); P. Blatchford (SW).