

# Keep Left

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UNITES APPRENTICES • YOUNG WORKERS

STUDENTS • UNEMPLOYED AND IMMIGRANT YOUTH

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## Calling all Apprentices!

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(YS National Committee member)

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# WORLD NEWS

## Czechoslovakia - the crisis not resolved

Keep Left Correspondent

WITH the ending of negotiations between the Czech leaders and the Soviet bureaucracy at the end of August and the putting into operation of the deal agreed by Dubcek and Svoboda, it is obvious that the problems below the surface which produced the Czechoslovakian crisis are in no way resolved.

This is quite simply because the eruption of the crisis, which resulted in the intervention of the Soviet troops and the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries in August, is a sharp reflection of the growing instability of the Stalinist bureaucracy as a whole.

This bureaucracy did not grow out of the Russian Revolution of 1917. It developed as a result of the pressures of imperialism on an isolated, economically backward Soviet Union.

### DEGENERATION

In the leadership of this break from the Bolshevik programme was Joseph Stalin who had the old Bolshevik leaders murdered and the many thousands who opposed him thrown into concentration camps and prison.

He established the political control of a privileged bureaucracy and in order to preserve that position he collaborated with imperialism. These policies led to the defeat of the revolutions in Europe during the 1920s and 1930s and eventually endangered the survival of the Soviet Union itself.

After the Second World War, the bureaucracy sabotaged the revolution in the West and occupied Eastern Europe only to preserve a buffer zone for defence. Puppet regimes were installed, like that of Dubcek's predecessor—regimes which reflected the political structure in the Soviet Union.

These regimes earned the hatred of the working class.

Today the whole of the international working class has to fight it out with imperialism and with bureaucracy. The struggles of the workers in the Eastern European countries and in the Soviet Union run parallel with the struggles of the working class in the capitalist countries.

This pressure building up from the working class has forced splits inside the bureaucracy. In the Soviet Union Koyzgin and company wanted to use force; Dubcek wanted to make concessions as a safety valve by moving towards a restoration of capitalism.

But one thing they were agreed upon—the working class must be held back at all costs.

Proof of this is Dubcek's reaction to the Soviet intervention. At no time were the workers armed and called into action. Eventually Dubcek was only too willing to make a deal—he resolved to solve the situation by

tightening up on internal security, thus giving a free hand to the secret police.

No one should be surprised by Dubcek's acquiescence. He was house-trained by the Kremlin. He is their boy. Well-schooled in Stalinist betrayal he pursues policies which are detrimental to the working class.

### HOTCH-POTCH

So the liberals, radicals and hotch-potch of Christians who screamed 'Dubcek, Dubcek' outside the Soviet Embassy, just after the invasion, now find him a very strange and embarrassing political bed-fellow.

They are joined by John Gollan of the British Communist Party, Tariq Ali of the International Marxist Group and the state capitalists of International Socialism.

When the chips are down these groups always line up with the right wing. This is particularly true of the 'state capitalist' International Socialism group and the International Marxists.

In 1964, when the Young Socialists were fighting in the Labour Party, these groups united with each other and the right-wing leadership against us.

When we broke from the Labour Party to fight the betrayals of the Wilson government, they denounced us as 'sectarians' and supported the Communist Party in its attempt to split and sabotage our activities.

Now some of them have belatedly discovered that after collaborating with the right wing and waging no struggle, it is now time to leave the Labour Party.

But they have not gone far. Czechoslovakia brought them all together again.

### ANTI-COMMUNISTS

On August 26 the Labour Party held a rally in London. People who have never previously batted an eyelid at a single one of the monstrous crimes of world imperialism proposed a resolution denouncing 'Russian imperialism'.

With right wingers, reactionaries, Czech nationalists, and former White Guards, the state capitalists and the Pabloites marched in full unity. Their slogan of 'Russian Nazism' obviously suited the requirements of the counter-revolutionaries with whom they rubbed shoulders.

Their demand 'US out of Vietnam, USSR out of Czechoslovakia' equated the Soviet Union with Western imperialism.

This suited the British establishment and its supporters right down to the ground. Was it for this reason that 'The Guardian' ignored the 2,500-strong Young Socialists/Socialist Labour League march and lumped us in with the 'state capitalists' and their White Guard collaborators?

We have made it quite clear that as Trotskyists we do not support Dubcek and that we do not equate the Russian bureaucracy with imperialism.

Continued on page four →



## Mexico - three killed 720 arrested

Keep Left Reporter

MEXICO'S ruling party Partido de la Revolucion Institucional has been in power for 40 years—years in which it has claimed to carry on the most democratic constitution in the world.

But the democracy existed on paper only. In reality what has existed in Mexico is a Bonapartist regime which has carried out vicious actions against the working class and the students.

Two years ago Mexican Trotskyist Dr. Fausto Davila was arrested on trumped-up charges of terrorism. He has not yet been released.

This is the background to the riots of students at the Mexico university. They reflect an unrest and hatred for the government which has been steadily growing.

In Mexico there is still wide-spread rural poverty, thousands of workers live in slums whilst the government lavishly prepares for this year's Olympic Games which are being held in the country in October.

Unrest amongst the students began when the army was sent into the university following several demonstrations.

Traditionally the university is completely autonomous and it was the breaking up of this independence by government forces that caused bigger and more violent demonstrations.

The extreme brutality of the police, evident from the many press photographs, has resulted in three deaths. Meanwhile the international newspapers bleat plaintively about the effect on the Olympic Games.

Many hundreds are suffering from wounds and the effects of tear gas and so far 720 arrests have been made.

There have been reports that some of the 'ordinary citizens' are armed.

As in France, however, the same essential lessons apply to a situation where the workers and students are embattled with the police, the army and the government.

There can be no spontaneous overthrow of the power of the PRI, it has to be led by a Marxist revolutionary party for which there is no substitute.

USA

# A move to extreme right

By Nick Peck

FROM all over the United States reports are coming in of savage attacks by members of the police against left-wing organizations and demonstrations.

These brutal actions are reported to have been organized by an unofficial extreme right-wing organization inside the police called the Law Enforcement Group.

It was in Chicago that these activities first hit the headlines when police raided the Democratic Party convention and mercilessly beat up people opposing the Vietnam war.

The outcry that this raised brought to light a large number of similar incidents, most of which are directed against the militant Black Panther group.

In Oakland, California, for instance, two cops stopped their car outside the Black Panther headquarters, drew their revolvers and fired shots into the building, aiming at a poster of one of the Panther leaders.

On September 4 over 200 police beat up a group of 12 Black Panthers, including girls, who turned up at a Brooklyn court to attend the trial of some of the group's leaders.

The 12 were attacked as they left on the sixth floor and the presiding judge covered up for the cops, who were all wearing Wallace for President buttons.

## GHETTOS

In Maine, a 17-year-old Negro boy was dangled by his heels by two policemen, from a bridge 80 feet over a river.

The world's mightiest imperialist power is terrorizing militant groups because of the potential amongst the pent-up Negroes in the ghettos, amongst the youth and amongst the developing strike movements in the factories.

It is significant that the group of police who took part in the beatings at the Brooklyn Court were wearing Wallace buttons. A former Governor of Alabama, George Wallace, is third party candidate in the Presidential elections. His views on segregation and racism are well known. He appeals both to the extreme right-wing sections of the ruling class and the backward, lumpen, workers of the United States.

The national press forecasts that he could win 30 per cent of the votes in the election in a three-cornered fight.

The rise of Wallace and his thugs is a sure sign of the fact that the American ruling class as a whole is moving towards more and more reactionary solutions to its crisis.

The demand therefore for a Labour Party in which white and Negro workers can unite on a programme of defeat for the ruling class, which will expose the hoax of the Liberal politics of the Democratic Party and fight to protect the trade union rights of all sections assumes a new urgency. Our support for the Workers' League, Marxist sister organization of the Young Socialists in the US must be seen within this context.

# 30 years since the 'Transitional Programme' was written:-

## It is still the ONLY programme for power

THIRTY years ago delegates were returning to all parts of the world from a secret conference, held somewhere in Switzerland. This was the September 1938 founding conference of the Fourth International.

The secrecy was necessary to protect the revolutionary movement, not only against the capitalist police, but also against the agents of the Soviet bureaucracy.

Stalin's thugs had murdered those leaders of the October Revolution who remained on Soviet soil, in the Moscow Trials of 1936-1938. His hand had also reached out into Europe and America to destroy many of those who joined Leon Trotsky in the fight to continue Lenin's policies.

1938 was one of the darkest periods in the history of Marxism. The betrayals of the revolution by the Stalinist bureaucrats led to the boody defeats for the workers, under both the fascist and 'democratic' forms of capitalist rule.

Trotsky, exiled and hounded by Stalin, battled on to uphold the principles of revolutionary socialism. The new problems facing the workers' movement had to be analyzed; a new—Fourth—International had to be built to replace Lenin's Third International, betrayed by Stalin.

The lessons of this struggle were summarized in the Transitional Programme, drafted by Trotsky

and adopted by the conference. The continuation of capitalism was ensured only by the treachery of the right-wing and Stalinist leaderships. If humanity was to go forward, the working class had to accomplish its historic task of building a leadership and taking power into its own hands.

The Marxists had to intervene in every aspect of the struggle of the working class against the bosses. They had to bridge the gulf between the thinking of millions of workers faced with chronic unemployment and a new world imperialist war, and the problem of political power.

The Soviet Union, endangered by the criminal policies of Stalinism, had to be defended by the working class of the whole world. The bureaucrats had to be cleared out and workers' democracy restored.

The past 30 years have seen the rise of 'theories' that the working class was incapable of taking power, that the bureaucracy was all powerful or that socialism could come about without the fight for revolutionary principles and organization.

1968, so different from 1938, has thrown all such theories into the dustbin.

In France, millions of workers went into action against the bosses, who were only saved by a crisis-ridden Stalinist leadership.

In Britain, the Young Socialists bring a new generation to Marxism. As they prepare with the Socialist Labour League for the establishment of a daily



Trotsky and leaders of the Left Opposition on their way to exile in Siberia in 1928.

Trotskyist newspaper the engineering workers prepare for battle.

This leap forward in the building of the revolutionary movement is the fulfilment of Trotsky's programme.

'The present crisis in human culture is the crisis in the proletarian leadership.'

The advanced workers, united in the Fourth International, show their class the way out of the crisis.

They offer a programme based on international experience in the struggle of the proletariat and

of all the oppressed of the world for liberation.

For thousands of young people and adult workers the next period in Britain will prove that Trotsky's Transitional Programme, written as it was 30 years ago, is fully vindicated. The daily revolutionary paper must, for this reason, become a reality.

Keep Left says to all these workers, and students too—place yourselves under the banner of the Fourth International. It is the banner of approaching victory!

# Young Socialists pledge fight for daily Newsletter

A DAILY Trotskyist newspaper early in September 1969—that was the call made by the Socialist Labour League Central Committee at its meeting at the end of August.

The Young Socialists will pledge themselves to work might and main to carry out this historic step for the revolutionary movement.

The daily paper is both possible and vitally necessary.

It is now exactly 30 years since the Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky and his supporters founded the Fourth International, after the destruction of the Third International by Joseph Stalin and his policies of co-existence with capitalism.

Today that programme is of manifold importance. The working class internationally is on the offensive. The May events in France, the workers' and peasants' offensive in Vietnam and in Britain the preparation for a national strike of engineering workers and the Trades Union Congress' vote against the Labour government's prices and incomes policy mean revolution is on the agenda in the advanced capitalist countries.

Alongside this, the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia shows the instability of the Stalinist bureaucracy. In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union the political struggle of the working class will be fought alongside that of the workers in the capitalist countries.

In Britain 'The Newsletter' and the Socialist Labour League, section of the Fourth International, have led the Young Socialists and trained its cadres in the fight to build a mass socialist youth movement.

From 1960 to 1964 they provided the leadership for the Young Socialists in the fight against the Labour Party right wing. Since then the League and 'The Newsletter' have fought to extend the lessons of the Young Socialists' victory over the bureaucracy and reformism to the adult workers.

Now in 1968 these lessons and those of Trotsky's Transitional Programme are the basis for the working class to prepare for the British revolution.

The YS will work as never before for the mass rally on November 10 at the Camden Town Hall to mark 30 years' history of the fight for the policies of the Transitional Programme and the Fourth International and the campaign for the revolutionary daily paper.

£10,000 is the target set for November 10 as part of the £25,000 needed to start the daily. The challenge for all our readers and the members of the Young Socialists is the fight to help raise that money for a paper which will organize the working class to take power!

## Forward to daily Newsletter Socialist Labour League Rally

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1968

3 p.m.

St. Pancras Assembly Rooms Camden Town Hall, N.W.1

Admission 7s. 6d.

## The Pope's encyclical

### A promise to maintain ignorance

By John Spencer

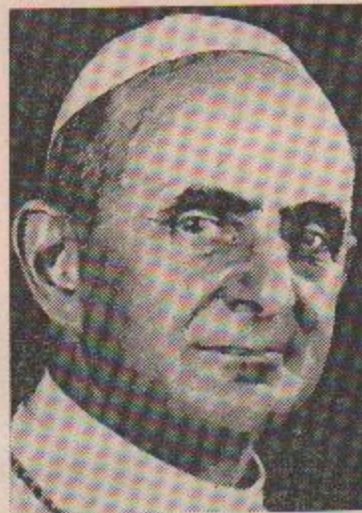
THE Pope's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*—which reiterates the ban on Roman Catholics using birth control—has evoked a hysterical reaction from all sorts of middle-class liberals.

These people are shocked to discover that the new-style, trendy, twentieth-century papacy we have heard so much about since the end of the war is as viciously reactionary as it was in the days of the Inquisition.

The ban represents a promise by the Pope to continue to maintain the ignorance, poverty, misery and disease in which his religion notoriously maintains its unfortunate followers.

It is a declaration of war on the workers and peasants of South America, Spain, Portugal, and anywhere else where the papal writ can be made to run.

The encyclical comes as no surprise to Marxists, who have



A declaration of war on workers, always recognized that the Roman Catholic Church is one of the most powerful friends of the exploiting class all over the world.

We do not forget that the Vatican was the first state to recognize Franco in Spain. We have not forgotten the attempts of the Catholic hierarchy to strangle the Soviet Union at its birth. We know the part played by organizations like Catholic Action in the trade union and labour movement, weighing in on the side of every anti-communist and witch-hunter.

Continued on page five →

# Repeal the Prices and Incomes Act—TUC policy

THE enormous vote of 7,746,000 in favour of the repeal of the Labour government's Prices and Incomes Act at the 100th Trades Union Congress in September showed the pressure of the increasing confident militancy of the working class on the trade union leaders for all to see.

The motion, presented by the Transport and General Workers' Union, which received only 1,022,000 votes against, in no way reflected a change of heart on the part of the trade union leadership. On the contrary, during the course of the conference they revealed a desperate

desire to cling to reformist politics.

Mirrored in this decision was the rejection by the organized working class not only of Wilson, but also of the Woodcock brand of class-compromise and betrayal.

With TUC policy now against the government's Prices and Incomes Act the leadership must be forced by the labour movement to call a fight against the government. A General Strike against the incomes policy and for the repeal of the Act is really on the cards for the British working class.

This means a big fight in the trade unions because the Blackpool conference showed the complete inability of the 'left' trade union leaders such as Cousins and Scanlon to give any alternative to Wilson.

Congress heard strong pleas

from Woodcock and other leading trade union bureaucrats to keeping the existing form of co-operation between capitalism and the trade unions ticking along the reformist track it has followed for the last 100 years.

But on the question of Woodcock's own idea of a 'voluntary' incomes policy there was an enormous vote against and the motion got through with only a 34,000 majority.

However, President of the Amalgamated Engineering and Foundry Workers' Union Hugh Scanlon could not answer Woodcock. He advocated a policy of high wages and high economic growth. Never once did he or any other trade union leader try to win support for or even mention the engineers' strike for a wage increase due to begin on October 21.

Yet every delegate was aware that Barbara Castle, Minister of Labour, was at the conference as a representative of the Labour government's policy of attacking wages.

Complaints from the 'lefts' that industrial relations are being 'eroded' by the employers and the Labour government went hand-in-hand with a complete refusal to face up to a real socialist alternative of nationalization under workers' control.

It was not their own wishes, but enormous pressure from their rank-and-file members that resulted in the 7,000,000 votes for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act on the fourth day of the Congress.

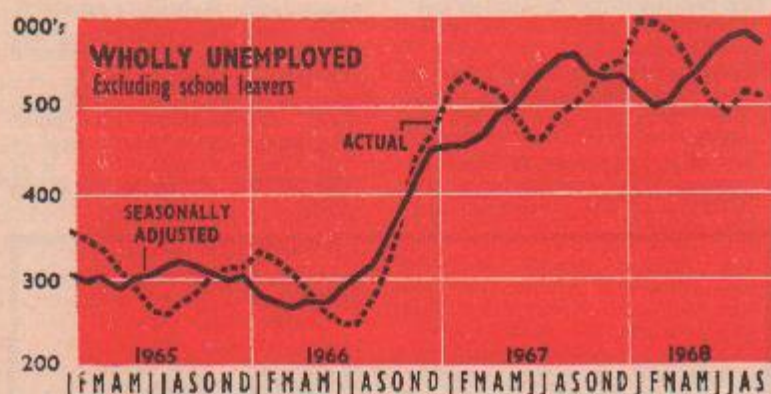
And this is the policy fought for by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League alone on lobbies of parliament and

demonstrations from January 1966 onwards.

Today the policies of the Young Socialists and the All Trades Unions Alliance provide the only road out of the crisis of reformism in the trade unions revealed at the TUC.

The October 26 conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance is absolutely on time with the engineering strike due for October 21.

This action by some 3,000,000 workers poses big questions for the British working class which will not be answered by the TUC leadership. In its statements and campaigns only the All Trades Unions Alliance has shown that it is prepared to build a revolutionary alternative to the trade union bureaucrats and the Labour government.



## GREEN LIGHT GIVEN FOR MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

BY PETER JEFFRIES

**UNEMPLOYMENT will rise to nearly three-quarters of a million by next winter. This is the firm belief of all leading economists and financiers in this country.**

Already unemployment is at its highest point for this time of the year since 1940. Although it may fluctuate from month to month—the latest figures in fact show a slight fall—there is a definite trend upwards.

This rising trend is no 'accident'. It is being deliberately created by the Labour government.

### Czechoslovakia

from page two

So far 'The Guardian' has failed to publish letters from the Socialist Labour League correcting its erroneous report, though it published a letter on the subject from an obscure sect which consists of two and a half men and one cat.

Needless to say, 'The Guardian' like all the national press, gives plenty of publicity to Tariq Ali, presenting such people as 'revolutionaries' and thus obscuring the real issues from the working class.

The Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League are serious revolutionary organizations. We do not collaborate with reactionaries.

We defend the gains of the Russian Revolution in 1917 as a blow against world imperialism. We oppose any attempt to take back those historic achievements made by the working class.

We shall fight to unite the struggles of the workers in the capitalist countries with the workers of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The fight against the Stalinist bureaucracy is not a moral issue, it is part of the international class struggle to overthrow a degenerate capitalist system and its henchmen in the bureaucracy and establish world socialism.

Everybody knows that a pool of unemployment will be used by the employers in an attempt to weaken the fighting capacity of those who remain in jobs.

Youth, in particular, will be badly hit. Already in areas such as the North-East coast, thousands of youth are condemned to the dole queue after leaving school this summer. Under this Labour government they face the prospect of never having a job.

The GEC-English Electric merger, like all the previous mergers which have taken place this year, will swell the dole queues.

The green light for this merger was given by the Wilson cabinet. Not a finger was raised against this giant which will now employ 250,000 workers.

Meanwhile the Labour government operate a 'get tough' policy in the Social Security system in order to demoralize the unemployed. The Minister, Judith Hart, announced that local officials would give a searching and detailed interview to those out of work.

Coupled with a growing witch-hunt in some sections of the capitalist press against so-called 'scroungers', the scene is being set for conditions of mass unemployment like those of the '30s.

The conclusion to Judith Hart's statements could very possibly be the cutting of the dole money once unemployment has reached 1,000,000. This Labour government is not thinking of unemployment in temporary terms but as a means of impoverishing the working class in order to save capitalism.

Whilst the employers, with the help of the Labour government, prepare for battle with the working class the pound staggers from crisis to crisis. Last month the international bankers raised a loan of 2,000,000,000 dollars to prevent further devaluation.

The condition for such an enormous sum is that the screws are put on the British working class.

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## Unemployment threat—youth must fight for a future

### A report from the North-East

**REPRESENTATIVES** from the Education Committees and Youth Employment offices of the whole of the Tyneside met in Newcastle on September 11 to discuss the scarcity of jobs for school-leavers in the area.

They were not able to offer any kind of solution to a situation where there are 60,000 unemployed in the North-East and the figure is expected to increase sharply over the next few months.

Such high figures cannot be explained away as seasonal. The Labour government and the employers have got together to draw up a plan for the mines of the Durham area and for the shipyards of the Tyneside (the Geddes Report) which has resulted in massive redundancies.

The North-East has always relied on mining, shipbuilding and engineering for employment. These are the industries today which are denying the youth jobs to such an extent there are 4,000 without employment.

A report published by the Sunderland Education Committee revealed that on August 13 this year there was a total of 1,059 (766 boys and 293 girls) unemployed in the town. An analysis of this total stated that 583 boys and 197 girls had never had any form of employment.

The report goes on to state that these figures show that 52.7 per cent of the boys and 22 per cent of the girls who left school this summer did not find jobs. 'The immediate future presents a rather gloomy picture as (1) cannot see the level of employment opportunities increasing at present.'

A closer look at the tables presented in the report makes this the understatement of the year. Especially if we consider that in Sunderland out of a total population of 215,000 there is an adult male unemployment figure of over 10 per cent.

These figures below are taken from the report figures and tables; they show the number of jobs available.

#### Building industry and allied trades

One apprentice bricklayer  
One apprentice plasterer  
One apprentice plumber

#### Shipbuilding

No apprenticeships at all only three office workers

The mining industry is not mentioned.

#### Engineering and allied trades

One apprentice electrician  
One apprentice welder  
Two apprentice aircraft fitters  
Two apprentice core makers  
One apprentice sheet metal worker

#### One apprentice moulder

**Two labourers.**  
A spokesman for the Youth Employment Office said that it would be reasonable to expect that 1968 to 1969 would be the worst-ever period for apprenticeships.

We can see from these figures the direct relationship between the economic crisis of the employing class and their attempt to speed up, rationalize, and streamline industry at the expense of the working class.

If we look at the shipbuilding industry we can see that this is so. The Geddes Report, agreed by the Labour government, intends to bring a permanent decline in apprenticeships. And to enable mobility of labour present apprentices are being trained in a variety of jobs so that one man or boy can cover four men's jobs.

#### Consequences

This is the system which is producing a situation where youth are denied the right to a job and a future.

According to the Mayor of Newcastle youth unemployment has dangerous social consequences. He said that one way of fitting young people in socially was to introduce new government training centres to the North-East to train the youth in new skills and to pay them money they would normally receive from the dole.

We would like to ask the Mayor of Newcastle what the hell is he talking about?

New skills for what? Factories that come into the area have the most up-to-date automated plant—provided by government grants—and only employ a drop in the ocean of the unemployed.

We have another alternative to the degradation enforced on the youth by capitalism.

Our programme says:  
**Unity of employed and unemployed youth to fight the Labour government and its policies.**

We say yes, train the youth in training centres, but these centres must be under the control of local trade union committees.

We demand that every unemployed young person be given the right to join a trade union and become organized.

Above all we demand the nationalization of industry under workers' control to ensure that every young boy and girl has the right to a future in which they can use their talents and skills.



Unemployment in the 30s—this is what the Labour government wants to return to.

## Calling all Apprentices

# Barrow strike - 'a test case' say apprentices

FOR three months now apprentices at the Vickers Armstrong factory in Barrow have been out on strike.

Last March, the firm brought in a new wages structure which meant a reduction of roughly 30s. a week for the apprentices.

The union took the claim to a Special National Conference on March 7, 1968, but failure to agree was recorded.

A mass meeting of the apprentices was called in May. The new rates were proposed to be introduced on June 1 so they agreed to strike on June 5 against the revised wages system.

After three weeks of the strike the management offered to negotiate and the apprentices returned to work. The following Monday the employers stated that no offer would be made and on the following Wednesday a mass meeting of the apprentices was again held.

They agreed to continue the stoppage and they have been out on strike since that day.

The apprentices have had to exist without strike pay but the adult workers, who are also out on strike at Vickers, Barrow, have levied themselves 2s. 6d. a week from their own strike money to give to the apprentices.

A lot of support from other apprentices has been coming in for the lads at Barrow. From Vickers in Leeds £14 was sent.

On Saturday September 21 apprentices from several parts of the country met to discuss a national campaign of support for the Barrow strike.

It was agreed to raise collections for the strikers in every area; where possible through the district committees, trade union branches and on the factory floor. Meetings of apprentices were to

be called up and down the country to discuss the Barrow strike.

As Roger Kerr, an apprentice from Barrow said: 'This is a test case. Our factory could be used as a jumping-off ground to attack apprentices' wages throughout the country'.

A call for a National Conference to be held later this year would be made to all District Committees for all engineering and shipyard apprentices to discuss the demands of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers Youth Charter.

The main demands of the apprentices are:

- ★ A 35-hour week.
- ★ Four weeks holiday a year.
- ★ 60 per cent of the adult rate at 15 years of age

- ★ 90 per cent of the adult rate at 20 years of age.

The engineers' strike on October 21 and the implementation of productivity deals in the factories and shipyards will mean thousands of apprentices will become involved in big wages struggles.

All apprentices and young workers must support the struggle at Barrow. Their strike is a fight on behalf of all young workers whose standards are being threatened.

Keep Left urges its readers to campaign for support for the Barrow apprentices. Send your donations to Brian Tucker, Apprentices Strike Committee, 114 Duke Street, Barrow in Furness, Lancs.

## AEF strike a decisive struggle

By Mark Jenkins

THE most important class battle in Britain since the 1926 General Strike is now scheduled to begin on October 21, when some 3,000,000 engineering workers answer the decision of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions made on September 9 to strike in support of their current pay claim.

The employers have said that they will not improve on their offer of two 6s. increases with productivity strings.

The strike decision of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers, the largest union in the Confederation, was taken at a meeting of the national committee in Blackpool on August 30.

Present were hundreds of lobbying shop stewards, many of them YS members, supporters of the Socialist Labour League and Communist Party members. They had travelled through the

night to demand a strike call from the AEF leaders.

The engineers have certainly been patient. For over a year their claim for: 30s. for skilled men with proportionate increases for semi-skilled, unskilled and women workers phased over three years; new minimum rates for semi-skilled, unskilled and women workers; three weeks' annual holiday and progress towards equal pay, has been under discussion.

The employers are only prepared to offer: 6s. for skilled men in 1969 and a further 6s. in January 1970, with 5s. 6d. for semi-skilled men, 5s. for unskilled and 4s. 6d. for women operatives on the same dates; minimum rates of £17 for skilled men, £13 7s. 6d. for unskilled and £12 6s. for women; one day's holiday extra in 1969 and 1970 and abolition of craft differentials, acceptance of work-study and time-and-motion study, flexibility and mobility of labour and craft training at any age.

The employers have the full support of the government in opposing the engineers.

If the engineering workers are to win their strike they must defeat the Wilson government, which in turn is trying to defeat the engineers in order to implement its prices and incomes policy of attacking wages and conditions.

We must say from the start that the engineers' strike is a political strike and it is more than that. What happens in this strike affects the whole future of the working class in Britain.

There is no doubt that the engineers have the power to defeat the employers and the government. The big question is what government is to replace Wilson.

The official AEF policy demands the nationalization of the entire engineering industry under workers' control.

Without doubt this is the only policy that can answer the needs of the engineering workers at this time. It is the only reply to the giant mergers like

*Continued on page six* →

## Apprentices have a big



The first major lobby in 1968 by AEF members outside the management-union talks.

## stake in the engineering strike

By Hughie Nicol

THE engineering strike of October 21 poses extremely vital questions for apprentices and junior workers.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers boasts a membership of 80,000 apprentices and junior workers in its youth section. Yet the decisions which are taken each year and drawn up into the Youth Charter are completely ignored by the union leadership.

The union leadership has always been very cautious about the apprentices' struggles. They try desperately to stifle the energies of the young workers who want to fight.

These have been the dangers in the past. But the national engineering strike will have a widespread radicalizing affect on the youth, many of whom are not yet organized into the trade unions.

During the one-day stoppage staged by the AEF earlier this year young workers in some cases were left in the factories. The bosses made them do work normally done by the men.

Young workers don't like to scab on the men outside. No matter what the trade union leaders

think or say the youth want to fight.

This coming engineering strike is no token strike. It is a confrontation between the employing class and the working class. The bosses will pull no punches and maximum unity is essential.

The engineering apprentices have a big stake in this strike. Conditions laid down by the employers for a wage increase are productivity agreements, Measured-Day Work and clauses on mobility, at any age.

The junior workers' committees must demand that the AEF leadership gives all apprentices full trade union backing in a fight for the right to strike alongside their adult brothers.

The call must be for:

- Mass meetings in all the localities to discuss the implications of this strike in relation to the apprentices.
- A campaign for 100 per cent trade unionism amongst junior workers.
- For factory-based committees of young workers.
- For full trade union rights for youth including the right to strike.
- For the inclusion of the AEF Youth Charter in this present claim.

- Scrap existing indentures, give all young workers full training and apprenticeships.
- Complete unity in action between the youth and the adult trade unionists in the fight for these claims.
- No strings attached to the full claim.

The Young Socialists fully support these demands and we call on all young workers in engineering to take up an immediate fight within the AEF for the implementation of these policies.

More important still is the necessity for all young workers to join with the All Trades Unions Alliance, which unites the working class of all industries and trade unions in a fight both against the employers and the Labour government.

Central to this fight is the demand for nationalization of the engineering industry under workers' control, without compensation.

The Young Socialists are working to build a mass socialist youth organization and an alternative revolutionary leadership to the social-democratic betrayers. That is why we urge all apprentices and youth in engineering to join our movement and fight for a socialist programme.

## Tyneside JWC resolution

THE Tyneside Junior Workers' Committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers passed a resolution re-affirming its previous policies on the engineering strike at a meeting on September 12.

They demanded that the AEF Youth Charter be included in the union's present claim and stated: 'We deplore any attempt to split or isolate the youth from the adult trade unionists'.

The resolution also demanded; 'that apprentices and junior workers be instructed, with the official backing of the union, to withdraw their labour on October 21'.

In the discussion it was agreed to seek the approval of the district committee to send speakers from the junior workers' committee to speak at mass meetings of apprentices in all the major factories in the locality. It was suggested that a campaign should be launched immediately for 100 per cent trade unionism amongst the youth and for the setting-up of factory-based committees of apprentices and junior workers.

## The Pope

continued from page 3

We also know that the Catholic Church are not the only specialists in selling falsehoods to the working class. With all the ardour of bureaucrats engaged in counter-revolution, the Stalinist leaders have been wooing the Church in what they are pleased to call the 'dialogue between christians and Marxists(!)'.

This exchange of ideas between masters in the art of duping the working class has been going along at a cracking pace, and will no doubt continue to do so, once the Stalinists have recovered from their embarrassment at being caught in the act with the black-cassocked opponents of birth control.

The Stalinist bureaucrats hope that the holy men will assist them in their attempts to arrive at peaceful co-existence with imperialism. The priests know that the Stalinists can be relied on to head off the working class from the struggle for power.

This anti-working-class line-up is a sure indication of the desperation of imperialism, which is forced to pull all its forces and allies into line to face a showdown with the working class.

Our answer to the 'Dialogue' must be to redouble our efforts to build the Young Socialists as a conscious revolutionary leader-conquer its backwardness.

# Keep Left

Vol. 17 No. 9 October 1968

## Full support for Barrow apprentices

ON October 21, thousands of young engineering workers and apprentices are due to plunge, with their older trade union brothers, into a massive struggle with the employers and the Labour government.

This engineering strike means big responsibilities for the Young Socialists. From 1960 onwards, it was young workers and apprentices who fought to smash the stranglehold of the Labour Party bureaucrats on the Young Socialists, and then to carry through the campaign against the incomes policy, brought in by the treacherous Labour government. Seven million workers have now joined this campaign through the vote at the Trades Union Congress for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act.

But this does not mean that trade union leaders like Frank Cousins and Hugh Scanlon, who moved the TUC resolution for repeal of this Act, are really prepared to fight. The main guarantee against betrayal and defeat is the revolutionary will of the youth.

In every industry today, the employers are pushing through productivity deals which mean speed-up, unemployment, and wage-cuts.

They attempt to reach into every shop stewards' committee and trade union branch with high-powered campaigns for new wage structures and methods of payment.

The Prices and Incomes Board has just published a new report extolling the virtues of the method known as job evaluation. Directors from the top seven combines in the motor industry are pushing the Labour government to introduce legal penalties for workers who go on unofficial strike against deals agreed between employers and union leaders.

Deals now being negotiated with, or even signed by, trade union officials do not affect older workers only.

Apprentices at Barrow-in-Furness have been on strike for over three months now against the introduction, by their employer—Vickers Shipbuilding Group—of a new wage structure which would mean a cut of approximately 30s. a week.

They are receiving support from older trade unionists—also on strike—who are levying 2s. 6d. out of their own money for the apprentices.

These apprentices are perfectly right to describe their struggle, as they do elsewhere in this issue of KEEP LEFT, as 'a test case'. Attempts to cut their wages are in line with all the policies of the Labour government.

But the working class is fighting back. And it is particularly through the training of young Marxists in the Young Socialists that we can fight and win.

Not even the most basic conditions of the working class can today be defended or improved without a political fight against the capitalist system.

More and more, the attack on apprentices is taking the same form as the attack on older workers. At the Netherton factory of English Electric, 150 apprentices have gone out of the gate in the last year.

The only policy in this situation is one including the nationalization of the banks, and monopolies like Vickers and English Electric, without compensation and under workers' control.

A fight around these policies must be organized on the widest possible scale.

KEEP LEFT welcomes news of the meeting on September 21 to discuss support for the Barrow apprentices' struggle. Of great importance are its decisions to organize meetings for apprentices in different parts of the country, and to work for a national apprentices' conference later this year. The AEF Youth Charter which they will discuss has very close links with the Young Socialists' programme for young workers.

Apprentices and young workers will form the iron core of leaders in the British Revolution.

### AEF strike

—Continued from page five

English Electric-GEC, which inevitably mean closures and sackings.

To fight for these policies means a political fight not only to remove Wilson and the right-wing leadership of the Labour Party but also with the 'left' trade union leaders who confine themselves merely to 'opposition'.

The AEF leadership must be watched carefully by the rank and file. Already there has been an agreement to introduce Measured-Day Work in the Linwood car factory in Scotland.

We cannot have any illusions

in the trade union bureaucracy. It is not to them that we must look for the leadership necessary to win the engineers' strike.

YS engineers and apprentices must begin to organize with the utmost urgency for the All Trades Unions Alliance conference to be held in Birmingham on October 26.

This conference now assumes vital importance for the entire working class. Here the struggle will be carried forward to forge a political leadership in the trade unions that can be a real alternative to Wilson.

## Launching the...

# YOUNG SOCIALIST



The lessons of events in France . . .

### STUDENTS AND THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

(Vol. 7, No. 1 of 'Marxist', magazine of the Leeds University Union Marxist Society. Copies may be obtained from the Young Socialists, or from YS Student Societies.)

Reviewed by Dave Maude

THIS pamphlet ends with a call to establish Young Socialist Student Societies in every university and college. It calls for an integration of student Marxists into the struggle for a revolutionary socialist leadership of the working class.

The universities are not separate from the rest of society but reflect the crisis of capitalism and the social upheavals generated by this crisis. The problems facing students, whether they are grant problems or problems of discipline, etc., cannot be solved outside the struggle to overthrow capitalism.

This is the task of the working class. For example, the clamping down on university political activity following provocations by the right wing of the Tory Party stems from the move by this section of the ruling class to discipline the working class—particularly the engineering workers.

### Struggle to train cadres

The so-called Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation is completely opposed to this conception. It is engaged in building a student-only movement. They argue that the students can act as a detonator to the working class. The job of students, so far as they are concerned, is to shock the working class into action. This is why punch-ups with the police are attractive.

But this is not at all a correct Marxist interpretation of what happened in France. They are totally unable to face the central problem raised by France—to break the grip of Stalinism on the working class. This can be answered only by the patient struggle to train cadres in the working class. Involved here is the day-in and day-out fight in the class for Marxism; that is, a scientific understanding of the role of the different tendencies in the working class.

The pamphlet shows how those who fail to fight for Marxism in the working class inevitably succumb to the ideology of the ruling class and end up by assisting it in practice. The history of the revisionist groups, which have come together to form the RSSF, is studied from this standpoint. It is therefore an invaluable weapon for those students who wish to train themselves as serious revolutionaries and not simply as emotional rebels.

The pamphlet describes how revisionist groups drift with the prevailing tide of opinion amongst democratic bourgeois circles because they fail to defend Marxism against the tide. Thus in 1964 they were all for staying in the Labour Party as the only arena of activity and denounced the Young Socialists for breaking from Wilson and leading the campaign against the Labour government's prices and incomes policy.

Then in 1965 and 1966 they were swept along by syndicalism, opposing the YS's fight for politics in the unions. They denounced our struggle to expose Stalinism. Yet when every reactionary in the world attacks the Soviet Union over Czechoslovakia, the revisionists screamed loudest against 'Nazism' thus making themselves respectable.

The pamphlet emphasizes the crucial nature of the struggle for theory. It must be read by every student.



. . . and in Czechoslovakia  
Marxist leadership of the  
bu

by George Myers

# LIST STUDENT SOCIETIES

**THE engineering strike at the end of October will be a decisive confrontation with the employing class.**

Gone are the days of compromise for the labour movement. The decision of the Trades Union Congress for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act means the possibility of a General Strike against the Labour government.

The working class is coming decisively onto the scene. This means the British revolution is on the agenda.

Students in the universities are not separate from these historic struggles. The offensive of the employers and the determination of the working class pose the urgency of building a revolutionary leadership which will guide the working class to the taking of power.

This decisive factor—the revolutionary leadership—must be trained inside the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League. Only in this way can adequate preparation be made against both the employers and their agents in the working-class movement—the reformist trade union leaders and the Stalinists.

It is to meet this need that the Young Socialist Student Societies are being established. To recruit students who fight for the Young Socialists' concept of a revolutionary alternative to the reformist leadership of Wilson and company.

We are opposed to those who call for student-worker unity without stating the basis for such unity. The only unity for us can be the unity of Marxist fighters, battling in the colleges and the factories against the confusers, against the revisionist falsifiers and opponents of Marxism, and against those who hesitate before a fight.

In 1966 student supporters of the Young Socialists entered the National Association of Labour Student Organizations (NALSO)—then the Labour Party student movement.

In the following year-and-a-half we won a majority of the organization for our policies, and were then disowned by the Labour Party.

We consider that it is now necessary, through the Young Socialists, to unify the struggle amongst working-class youth and students for the development of Marxist cadres. So we are closing down the old Marxist and socialist societies and NALSO, and setting up Young Socialist Student Societies which will work closely with the YS federations in the towns.

## Continuous battle against reformism

The class struggle finds its reflection in the universities. It is the same capitalist crisis which produces education cuts that mean a lower standard of living for the working class.

The 'liberal' image of British universities is going out of the window, because the crisis demands that education be tied more closely and more ruthlessly to the needs of the employers.

Students, like workers, will fight back. Young Socialist Student Societies will fight to lead these struggles recognizing that it is the overthrow of capitalism by the working class that is necessary for success.

Our message to students is this. The future of mankind will be decided in the course of the class battles now developing. Join the Young Socialist Student Societies. Train yourselves and others—workers and students—as Marxists able to build the revolutionary party which will be the decisive factor in these events.

Nineteen Sixty-Eight is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Fourth International by Leon Trotsky.

The events of this year have provided an enormous vindication of the hard struggle through those 30 years to build this International. The battle has been waged continually against the reformists and Stalinists and against false 'sympathizers' who indulged only in phrase-mongering about revolution.

The working class in France in May and June this year confounded all the cynics, such as those who inhabit groups like 'International Socialism' and the so-called 'International Marxist Group'.

These revisionists had pronounced the Western European working class politically impotent. For them, revolutionary prospects were only to be found a long way off in the so-called 'Third World'.

Consequently they refused to prepare the West European workers for struggle.

France exposed the counter-revolutionary role of the Communist Party for all to see. But of course some do not want to see. The revisionists have always refused to expose the Stalinists before the working class.

## Revisionists degrade principles

But when the Warsaw Pact army units moved into Czechoslovakia, they became super-anti-communists.

Phrases about 'Soviet imperialism' and 'Russian Nazism' were on everyone's lips from the Ukrainian White Guard emigrés to the revisionists. All joined hands on August 25 to denounce the invasion and . . . to support Dubcek!

Alas! Within a week both Russian tanks and Dubcek were happily co-existing. Dubcek re-introduced press censorship and began strengthening the secret police.

Only the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League carried Trotsky's analysis of bureaucracy forward. We held our own demonstration against the invasion in opposition to the anti-communists, and at the same time warned that Dubcek was but another Stalinist bureaucrat.

Our attention was turned to the independent mobilization of the Czech workers behind revolutionary leadership—for the defence of Czech nationalized property, and for the clearing out of the bureaucracy.

October 27 will see a further stage in the revisionists' degradation of revolutionary principles.

The groups made famous in Grosvenor Square on March 17 are again combining for a demonstration against the Vietnam war. Like Grosvenor Square this is to be a protest demonstration organized around a completely unprincipled alliance of 'state capitalists', Stalinists, revisionists, hippies, and supporters of Mao.

The theory is that television and press coverage of their scuffles with the police in some way helps the struggle of the Vietnamese workers and peasants against imperialism.

But no ad hoc committee of anti-Marxists is going to help the Vietnamese Revolution.

Without the struggle to smash imperialism in its lairs in the USA and Western Europe, and the building of a Marxist party to lead the working class to a successful conclusion of this struggle, Sunday afternoon skirmishes with the Metropolitan Police are not only futile, but actually do a service to capitalism by attempting to divert the working class from the struggle to resolve the crisis in its leadership.

There will be no 'spontaneous' revolution.

France proves that without Trotskyist leadership, the working class will be unable to sort out its friends from its enemies—particularly those who come disguised!

The revolutionary implications of struggles such as the French general strike and the engineers' strike in this country, cannot be realized in the conquest of power without scientific, Marxist leadership.

The essence of Bolshevism is that Marxist leaders can be trained only through constant struggle and study inside the revolutionary party.

**We urge all students who seriously want to fight for the overthrow of capitalism and for a dictatorship of the proletariat to join the Young Socialist Student Societies and prepare consciously for this task.**

## 'Libertarian Marxism' Marxism without Marx

**FAR** away from the fight among students for revolutionary politics based on Marxist principles, which is basic in the formation of Young Socialist Student Societies, is the so-called Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation, set up earlier this year.

In the region of 500 people attended this organization's founding conference in the London School of Economics on June 15 and 16. What were they there for? A look at the document they discussed—called 'Towards a revolutionary student movement'—gives us an indication.

'Towards a revolutionary student movement' starts from a fundamental rejection of Marxism, shipped in under cover of impressions of the revolutionary events of May and June in France.

For Marxists the main lesson from France is that Stalinism remains the main barrier between the working class and the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, and that the only means of fighting for power is through the building of a revolutionary party based on Trotskyist principles.

But 'Towards a revolutionary student movement' has *nothing* to say about the crisis of leadership in the working class and the cynical betrayal of the French Communist Party.

Without the building of a revolutionary party in struggle against the old bureaucratic leaderships of the working class there can be no workers' power.

Tariq Ali describes his philosophy, and this is very much in line with that of the RSSF, as 'libertarian Marxism'.

### Slavish adaptation

In fact all this amounts to is a slavish adaptation to all the middle-class prejudices against revolutionary politics.

Always sensitive to the nature of revisionist currents, the Stalinists were quickly able to size up the RSSF and move in on it.

Despite formal criticisms of the 'bureaucratic' role of the Communist Party in France, on the second day of the RSSF conference two Communist Party members were nominated *without opposition* onto the 25-man co-ordinating committee.

In the main dominated by members of Mr. Tony Cliff's 'state capitalist' International Socialism group (so called because they say the Soviet Union has now gone back to capitalism), this committee also includes anarchists and a member of the revisionist 'Militant' group from Brighton.

The Communist Party's 'Morning Star' was particularly sympathetic to the RSSF's four-point programme of opposition to racism; anti-capitalist alliance with workers; student power; and solidarity with national liberation struggles.

But this programme in fact represents no real danger to capitalism or to Stalinism.

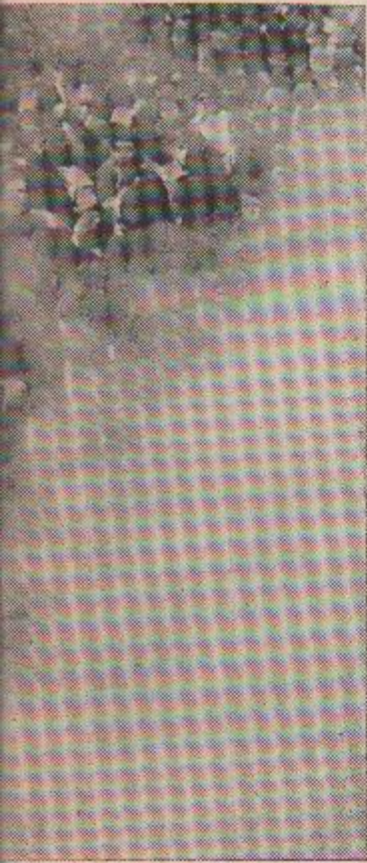
The student-worker alliance it proposes is used as a *substitute* for building the party; for training a Marxist cadre in struggle against revisionism of all shades.

In place of serious political work amongst youth, and in the trade unions, we are presented with the 'theory' that students can somehow 'detonate' the class struggle by fighting the police.

The state, the RSSF echoes Mr. Ali, must be made 'objectively irrelevant'. But the question of leading the working class itself to take the state power is left to another day.

The condemnation of both US and Soviet 'imperialism' during the Czech crisis by Ali and other RSSF supporters received great sympathy from that 'liberal' capitalist daily 'The Guardian', of which a leading 'state capitalist' is now assistant editor.

Young Socialist Student Societies will be established in the sharpest possible struggle against this brand of middle-class anti-Marxist misleadership.



ia mean a revolutionary  
working class must be  
ilt.

# The man behind 'The Bofors Gun'

### A KEEP LEFT INTERVIEW

ANYONE who went to see the film 'The Bofors Gun' will have been impressed by the impact of its brutal expression and raw humour. It is a sharply perceptive commentary on army life.

Its author, John McGrath, adapted it from his play 'Events While Guarding the Bofors Gun'. His own experiences whilst doing National Service in Germany provided the basic material.

First presented at the Hampstead Theatre, the play was later put on at a Bonn theatre in Germany. It got a mixed reception. There were some fascists in the audience.

John McGrath took his curtain call with the workers' salute of a raised clenched fist. Pandemonium broke out, he recalls.

In the Bofors gun, John McGrath sees the epitome of the obsolescence of the British role as a policeman of the world. These types of guns are hopelessly out of date, yet they stood for British rule and had to be guarded.

He recalls manoeuvres in the Egyptian desert with a Bofors gun in which he and a group of British soldiers were technically knocked out within seconds by American jets which appeared as pin spots in the sky one minute and in the next were immediately overhead claiming McGrath and his fellow soldiers 'victims', even before they had a chance to 'operate' the gun.

Already in the pipeline is his next film 'Mick', being directed by Jack Gold. He and Gold worked together on 'The Bofors Gun'.

About levels of violence within society—the physical violence in the streets of Liverpool and the more subtle, but just as ruthless, violence of the business world—this film tells the story of a businessman who carries out a self-appointed vengeance on the death of his father.

John McGrath is from Birkenhead. The son of a schoolteacher, he went to school in Wales during the war.

After his National Service, he read English at St. John's College, Oxford, and wrote plays for the university.

One of them caught the attention of critic Kenneth Tynan. The play was given a good review and John McGrath was commissioned to write another by London's Royal Court Theatre.

For a time after leaving university he read plays for the Royal Court 'just to keep alive'.

Then he worked for the BBC for four or five years.

His plays written during this period have been watched by millions—some of them have become a by-word in every household.

With Troy Kennedy Martin he wrote the first series of 'Z Cars'.

Their aim, he explained, was to show the social reality of the massive concrete jungle of Liverpool's satellite town, Kirkby, through the eyes of a police 'highway patrol'.

Its first few appearances caused a big storm. The two playwrights found it far from easy to get their original scripts onto the screen. They were not exactly the darlings of Britain's watch committees.

John McGrath also teamed up with Troy Kennedy Martin to write 'Diary of a Young Man', which was directed on BBC by Kenneth Loach.

As a director for BBC, McGrath worked on several plays: 'Wedding Dress' by Edna O'Brien, and a documentary on the Manchester working men's clubs called 'The Entertainers'.

In this latter film he was something of a pioneer—it was the first time a television team had shot on location with video tape, that is, with the enormously bulky television studio cameras, instead of a film camera.

In the next period he is working on three more plays. He works on several at once, doing the necessary research work, letting it build up to a pressure and then getting it all down on paper.

The first two will be of particular interest in this period. One is about a Labour Party idealist caught up in the last three elections.

The other is to be a play about James Maxton, one of the founders of the Independent Labour Party. McGrath says he wants to show the classic example of a militant sucked in by social democracy.

His third play 'The Adapting Man' shows the predicament of a man who adapts to life and everybody and finds he has no personal centre.

A very prolific, hard-working playwright, John McGrath will continue to write plays which have a basic social theme.

It is for this reason that such playwrights must not be seen as people who struggle with themselves to put pen to paper, but as people who have to struggle against the control of the capitalist media to contact the widest possible working-class audience through films, theatre, TV and radio. It is an exacting task.

## BOOK

**'HOUSE OF BONDAGE'**  
By Ernest Cole. Text with Thomas Flaherty  
Published by Allen Lane, The Penguin Press, 1968  
Price 63s.

THE BLACK South African worker is among the most exploited in the world. Trade unions are illegal, wages are very low, and the white ruling class attempts to control where he is to live.

What this means in practice is shown by the photographs of Ernest Cole, with far more clarity than words would have.

Ernest Cole is a black South African who grew up in the environment which he has photographed. He knew that to publish this book it would be necessary for him to leave South Africa, and decided to do so when the police, unaware of his real reason for taking photographs, offered him a job as informer!

Passes and labour permits are the means by which the government controls the movements of African workers who must have passes if they work in 'white' urban areas.

Cole has photographed the queues for passes, the pass checks, and the prisons. One-third of the prison sentences are for 'being at the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong papers'.

If the government decides that his labour is surplus, the African can be sent away from the town in which he lives. Imprisoned Africans are used as free labour by the Boer farmers.

Control of the African's movement is combined with very low



A young child cries from acute hunger—one of the many photographs in Ernest Cole's book.

wages and poor working conditions; nearly half the population is estimated to be living at below subsistence level. The maximum

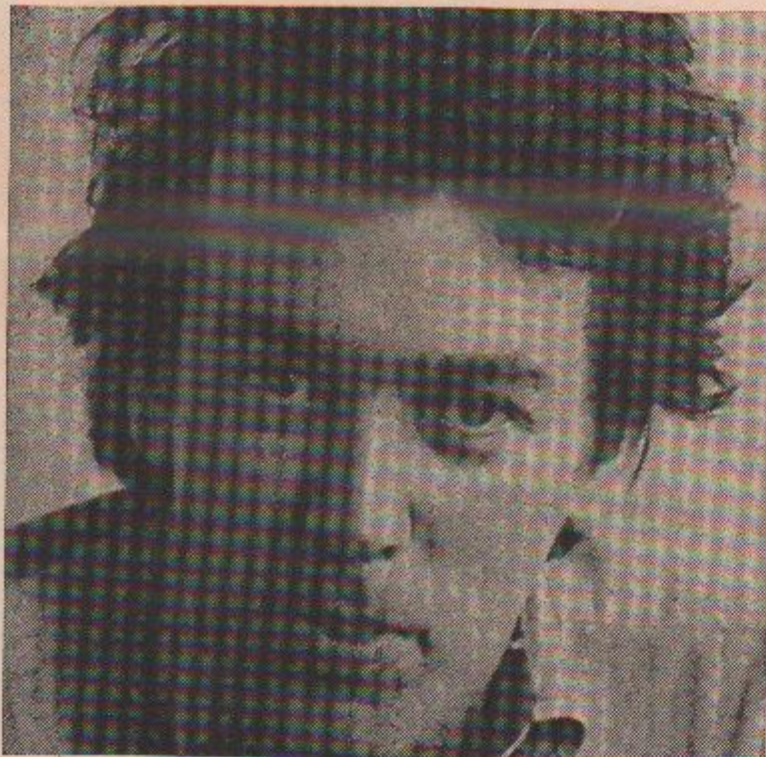
## Unemployment From page four

Meanwhile the capitalists struggle amongst themselves for survival. US capitalism is insisting that the German bankers should raise the value of the Mark. This would curb the flow of imports into the United States and help to check some of the drain on America's balance of payments.

But the German employing class has refused to do this in order to preserve its own interests.

Such disunity however does not mean that the various sections of the international capitalist class do not band together. On the contrary they are preparing to taken on the working class as a means of saving their own skin—that is the meaning of the engineering strike in Britain and the growing unemployment.

Such an onslaught can only be answered by the mobilization of both the employed and unemployed working class in unity around the fight to replace the right-wing Labour leadership with a revolutionary leadership which will fight for nationalization under workers' control without compensation. This is the only answer to a future of mass unemployment for the working class.



Playwright John McGrath.

## film

**THE BOFORS GUN**  
A Universal Film  
Starring David Warner  
and Nicol Williamson  
Directed by Jack Gold

UNLIKE many specialist and foreign films which do not get out of London, this one certainly should have done.

But it is now almost certain that it will not get a showing on the big circuits because the Rank Organization, which was approached to put it on its giant network, found it too explosive.

It certainly is that. Apart from the barrack-room language,

limited scenes and gruesome ending, which would go down in big business's black book, it is the subject matter which confirms that big business will not attempt to exploit every possible outlet. And why?

Because idealism, the basis of most of the coloured, candy-floss, cinema-going today, is dealt a nice, neat chop at the back of its flabby neck.

Trevor Evans, lance bombardier, from a lower middle-class Manchester home, is looking—for the second time—for a short-term officers' commission.

Gunner O'Rourke, regular soldier, about to pass his 30th birthday, is the constant rebel—particularly rebellious against the army, Queen and country, which he has 'served' for a number of years.

These two characters are thrown together by John McGrath, who adapted the screenplay from his own play,

into the confined space of a small guardroom in Germany 1954. There are six guards with the 'bom' in charge.

It is Evans' last night before he returns to England for officer training. Everything must go well for him. But Dan O'Rourke has other ideas.

To O'Rourke, Evans is the epitome of everything he dislikes about authority.

But Evans is not yet authority and appears so weak that it is doubtful if he could ever assert any.

He is in a transitional stage of 'running with the (officer) foxes or jumping with the (rank and file) hounds'.

O'Rourke takes full advantage of this, imposing his moods and scheme on all the others.

Things really get out of hand when he and the cockney Featherstone are allowed to go to the NAAFI 'for ten minutes' to buy their cigarette supply.

The tension increases as Evans waits for O'Rourke's return. He

eventually makes excuses for O'Rourke to the sergeant and everybody—to justify himself—when O'Rourke at first spends several hours getting drunk, and then when he returns with Featherstone absolutely paralytic.

The final impact of the confrontation on the perimeter of the guard area brings home the nature of the idealist—especially when faced with a self-destructive character like O'Rourke.

After worming and squirming for so long to safeguard and defend the man who for the previous few hours has been kicking him in the teeth verbally, Evans finally admits he doesn't really care about anybody or anything—except, perhaps, to go home—and lands a kick in the ribs of a now defenceless O'Rourke.

The Irishman's final expression of hate for everyone and everything is to commit hara-kiri with his bayonet.

It is difficult to express in a short film review how compelling,

intense and yet how clear this film is.

Its attributes are due particularly to the moulding by director Jack Gold. To increase the tension he uses several 'long takes'—of four or five minutes, in which the camera whirls around the barrack room in long shot and close-up to startling effect.

Basically, because it was a play, it is in these close-ups that Nicol Williamson (a tremendous film debut as O'Rourke) and David Warner (Evans) are really convincing.

Colour, too, adds to the atmosphere—with certain processing the team on this film have filtered and up-grained this film to add to the drabness of the greys and greens of army life.

As I pointed out, this film may not get a wide showing. But if it reaches your area at one of the smaller circuit cinemas, see it—in fact make it a YS outing.



reviewed by  
**Mary Healy**

wage of a Bantu miner is one-sixth of a white miner's starting pay, and they do all the heavy work in the South African gold mines.

They are recruited from the country, as town workers would expect higher wages, sleep 20 to a room, and are fed by the company on stew and maize.

Almost every white person in South Africa can employ servants, as their wages are so low.

Ernest Cole quotes from a government manual 'your Bantu servant and you' which represents the best treatment that servants are given by their employers. A servant, it advises, should be called by his own name because '... in his own mind he identifies himself with his name. ... Speak to them in a language they understand, and try to remember that they are human'.

It suggests that servants should not be expected to work more than 65 hours a week for 22 dollars a month.

**Graphic**

The education and medical care provided for black South Africans are of a very low standard. Some of the most graphic pictures in the book are of the patients in an African hospital; wards operate at 50 per cent beyond capacity, patients lie on the floor between the beds, and wait in long queues to see the doctors. Some die before they reach the end of the queue.

At the same time wards in 'white' hospitals are devoted to a single heart transplant.

Ernest Cole's photographs show how apartheid is used as a means of exploiting the working class in South Africa.

In the capitalist countries of the West coloured workers are, to a lesser extent, used as cheap labour. But the entire working class must eventually be exploited to the same extent as the South African working class if the capitalist system is to survive.

The wages of the working class must be kept down, expenditure on social services lowered, and their 'mobility' increased.

British and South African workers, therefore, take part in the same struggle, and a victory against British employers is also a victory against South African employers.

Every Young Socialist should read and look at the photographs in this book, and then go on to draw the necessary political conclusions from them.

**Post-war Britain—most lucrative business is property**

**Why the GLC rents are going up**



London tenants crowd into Downing Street during a national rents demonstration on Sunday, September 21.

**From a member of the Poplar Tenants' Association**

**IN early October Greater London Council tenants will be asked to pay a 7s. 6d. to 10s. rent increase.**

At the same time they will have to pay increased charges for central heating, parking-spaces and sheds. In the end some tenants will be paying 11s. 6d. extra, and this is only the first of five.

Originally the Greater London Council was going to implement a 15s. to £1 increase, but after the government had consulted the Prices and Incomes Board it was decided that increases could be no higher than 10s.

**Rebate**

For those tenants who cannot pay the increase the GLC has devised a rebate scheme, which is no better than the old means test.

To qualify a tenant must be earning less than £13 a week—this sum includes anything he or she receives from the rest of the family. Consequently, very few, apart from widows and old age pensioners, will actually benefit from the rebate.

Most people regard the enquiries of the scheme as so embarrassing that they refuse to return the forms.

So far, according to a GLC statement, only 15,000 out of 240,000 forms have been returned.

As well as increasing rents, the GLC is reducing the work forces who carry out repairs and for many council workers redundancy looms ahead!

Our particular tenants' association had to wait nearly eight months for notice boards to be installed on our estate, and we have been waiting ten months for lights to be put up on a nearby side-road.

Tenants are not only protesting about the rents but also against the mismanagement of the GLC maintenance administrators.

The Coventry Cross and the Kingsmead estates are two cases of sheer neglect by the GLC. Both estates have suffered from rat invasions, lack of efficient garbage disposal and filthy courtyards.

Both these estates were built before the war, but through neglect they are not suitable for modern living requirements. Yet the GLC says that the tenants should pay extra rent.

These increases have come at a time when tenants are not receiving increases in wages. Everyone is having to pay more for consumer goods, more for public transport and yet the government will not legislate against rent increases.

**Consistent**

The Ministry of Housing has said consistently that these increases are fair. Why aren't they honest and say that the money-lenders want more interest, the landowners want more money and the building companies want higher profits?

Land that last year cost the GLC £8,000,000 now costs £1,000,000 more. Between 1961 and 1965 the cost of land per dwelling rose from £450 to £650.

Meanwhile property companies owning large chunks of land in London and elsewhere continue to make enormous profits. The most lucrative business in post-war Britain has been property speculation.

The value of property shares on the Stock Exchange give some idea of the boom. In 1958 the total value of quoted companies on the Stock Exchange was £103,000,000, by 1962 the value of property shares had risen to £800,000,000.

Big construction companies make tremendous profits from building council houses. It is not surprising that the cost of building GLC houses rises £1,000 per dwelling each year.

The highest profit is made by the money-lender who takes a bigger and bigger proportion each year of the rent paid.

In 1956 and 1966 they took 13s. 8d. in every pound paid by GLC tenants. If present rents stay as they are, every pound paid by a tenant would go straight to the money-lender.

Since early January tenants from all over London have been organizing themselves for this assault by the GLC. The associations have been co-ordinated together into the GLC Action Group and marches have been organized to County Hall and parliament.

There have been many rent strikes in the past, some have succeeded and others have failed.

In 1915 in Glasgow, whilst men were fighting in Europe in the

First World War, the landlords decided to increase the rents. This brought an immediate protest from the tenants, who received the support of their husbands at the front-line and the workers in the munitions factories.

When the landlords tried to evict the tenants, workers from the factories stopped work and the soldiers in the trenches, on receiving letters from home, threatened to mutiny.

Alarmed by this determined resistance the government was forced to pass the first Rent Act and restrict rents to the pre-1914 level.

If the GLC tenants and the workers can show the same solidarity in the present fight against rent increases there is no reason why we should not win.

**A YEAR ago this month, the Young Socialists lost one of its founding members as a result of injuries sustained in a motor accident on October 18.**

Peter Archer was a leading and active member of the Young Socialists and of the Socialist Labour League in the Birmingham area right up to the time of his accident.

He died on October 25, 1967.

He fought with the Keep Left in the Labour Party Young Socialists from 1960 to 1964 and helped to defeat the right-wing leadership of Transport House.

Twenty-three years old, he was not only a devoted Trotskyist, but a skilled technician in his work as a physicist for Birmingham's Central Electricity Board.

The Keep Left Editorial Board can only repeat its tribute from November 1967:

'Peter will always be considered as having made a magnificent contribution to the building of the Young Socialists. He passionately wanted our movement to be a mass organization. We intend to do everything to fulfill this desire. 'We will continue and develop your work and pledge ourselves not to cease until a socialist Britain is founded.'



**Peter Archer**

**Keep Left's tribute to a devoted Trotskyist**

**A SERIOUS WARNING**

**THE PREMISES** of the left-wing socialist paper 'Black Dwarf' were raided by Special Branch detectives from Scotland Yard on Tuesday, September 3. The police spent an hour in the office searching files and letters.

The raid, authorised by a magistrate's warrant, takes place alongside a gigantic press scare surrounding the proposed October 27 London demonstration against the Vietnam war.

The capitalist press has been carrying lead stories about Molotov cocktails, secret meetings, violence and plans to take over strategic buildings. As with all scare stories, names of individuals or groups are carefully avoided.

We condemn this raid and call for an end to the witch-hunt and the attempts to ob-

struct the work for the October 27 demonstration.

Our political differences with the 'Black Dwarf' are well known, but there is an important principle involved in this raid. The working class must take seriously this warning.

We have now entered a period when the police will act against socialist newspapers.

The massive police mobilization for October 27 and the 'Black Dwarf' raid is a preparation by the forces of the employers' state to take action against the future engineering strike and the entire working class as they move into big struggles against the bosses and the Labour government.

The labour movement must demand: 'End the witch-hunt!'

# Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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

## 'Misleading review'

I WOULD like to correct the false impression of the educational world given in the July-August review of 'Risinghill: Death of a Comprehensive School'.

Although there are schools which believe their main duty is to train working-class children for factory life, the trend in education for the past 50 years has been towards a democratic and creative approach to teaching.

This approach is now widely accepted in educational circles and, in England, supported by several local educational authorities.

The reviewer claims that the fact that the 'tougher secondary schools are battle grounds into which the police are called from time to time' is rarely discussed in colleges of education because 'people have to be enticed into the profession'.

I do not know what experience the writer has of colleges of education, but he should consider the following points:

1. Some of the students at colleges of education come from these schools.
2. By the time students leave a college of education many of them will have taught in one of these schools.
3. All the education lecturers I have met have regarded these schools as a crime of society and were quick to discuss their shortcomings in the hope that some reformist spirit would be instilled into students. Furthermore it is unlikely that a lecturer would regard a student who had no knowledge of these schools as equipped to enter the teaching profession.

4. That some people are 'enticed' into the profession by the knowledge that these schools exist.

The closing remarks of the article, which are wild generalizations from a particular instance, are inaccurate.

Much of the British education is not under the rule of the 'mediocrities', but led by 'progressive educationalists', whether they are so-called or not is irrelevant.

Their advanced theses have helped many teachers to give children a better education. One should also remember many of these have dealt with the adverse effect of our class structure in education, leading to a determination to remedy the situation.

I am not attempting to say that the present education system in England is satisfactory; one only has to read the Newsom and Plowden reports to realize it is not.

I am merely pointing out that there has been a great change in attitude by a large section of the educational world, a change which I would have thought great enough to be apparent to anybody interested in the world around him.

The basic assumption of the article—that because one local education authority closed down a comprehensive school the whole educational system is against the working class—is not only ludicrous, but displays paranoia.

I suggest that the review should have been directed against the politicians who refuse to give educationalists the money to further the 'democratization' of the system which, despite the cynicism of the writer, will, I believe, produce creative and mature people incapable of the writer's out-dated 'block' thinking.

M. Clifford  
Sheffield.

## Victory to the NLF

Fighting soldiers from the sky these are men who go and die. One hundred may die today and it's all because of LBJ.

LBJ is a worried man to win this war he'll do all he can.  
No matter what the price or stakes it's the workers who pay for his mistakes.

The NLF are a heartening race for each new day brings one more face and these young lads will do all they can to win back their country called Vietnam.

The Americans are a worried lot for these young lads will plot and plot until all US troops are in a jam and it's forward to a socialist Vietnam.  
Marcus Hamilton  
Glasgow YS.

## Southern Region recruitment

AT the end of August the Southern Region held an area meeting to begin their campaign to build a mass socialist youth movement in the Surrey and Sussex area.

The meeting was opened by National Committee member Jeremy de Rose, who stated that the events in France had proved that all the people who said that the working class would not fight were wrong.

In Britain there was going to be a big class struggle between the employers and the workers.

Faced with an economic crisis the employers were forced to bring in productivity agreements to push up the rate of profit. The Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League were the only tendencies in the whole of the British labour movement to oppose these attacks.

The only solution to the crisis for the working class was to take power and smash the capitalist system. The capitalist class was developing germ warfare and hideous weapons, which, unless they were destroyed, would lead to the destruction of humanity.

He explained the danger of anti-revolutionary tendencies, such as state capitalism, black power, individualism, and he mentioned the fight against individualism at the Young Socialists' summer camp.

A mass recruitment campaign was being launched from which it was intended to build up

mass YS branches with functioning branch committees to organize social activities and the work of the branches.

He concluded by explaining the importance of the election campaign in Swindon and called upon everyone present to fight to build the Young Socialists.

After the discussion, which covered Biafra, taking power by peaceful means, individual freedom, internationalism, and how industry will be run under socialism, we drew up plans for the recruitment campaign.

A social programme of inter-branch debates, trips to the coast, a discotheque in Croydon, weekly dances in Crawley, inter-federation bowling, a quiz, films shows and a ramble, was worked out, and it was decided to have a recruitment team comprising of one member from each YS branch in both federations.

Before the discotheque in the evening the regional members collected over £20 towards the fund for the daily 'Newsletter'.

Southern Region  
Keep Left Reporter

## Dance

Friday, October 11  
FANSHAW HALL,  
PARBLOS AVENUE,  
DAGENHAM  
8 p.m. Admission 5s.

## Class selection

It may seem obvious that for successful capitalism, factory staff must be anti-working class. What is not so well known is the deliberate way in which they are selected.

Let us first consider student-apprentices (for degree courses), as these are classed as staff in most firms.

'A' level students are deliberately selected by most managements in preference to those who have done ONC/OND. This latter group will usually have left school at 16 and gone to a technical college.

Here they will have met a wide cross-section of working-class youth on various craft and technician apprenticeships. Most ONC/OND students are bright secondary modern or technical high school products.

In contrast most 'A' level students will have been sheltered in the 'prefect, head boy, presentation cricket bat' atmosphere of a grammar school sixth form.

Having passed this first selection the student is then called for an interview. He has to pay his fare and although it may be refunded later an expensive train journey (£5 in my case) is no joke to a working-class student.

At the interview he is put through the 'class test'—what is your father's job? etc., and generally inspected for dress, manners, accent and attitude.

If he passes this our new member of the boss class is admitted to the factory. He is required to have a bank account, as he is salaried. He is paid nearly twice as much as the other apprentices—they know it and he knows it.

He is paid monthly and so he has to live the first working month without pay, which can be difficult for one coming from a poor family, especially if digs have to be paid for as well as food.

If the firm is rich, he will get free folders, notebooks, which are handed to him in front of the other apprentices on whom he is expected to write reports during his guided tours round the works.

The student-apprentice is placed above the other lads in the training school—he is usually exempted from such

chores as fetching tea and running errands.

His work will be singled out for comment and used as an example to the other apprentices.

He does not need to clock in and so he has no clock number. The password 'staff' will open most doors.

He will be heavily indoctrinated in the policies of the boss-class. Courses on Measured-Day Work, copies of the Donovan Report on the trade unions and similar literature deliberately designed to set up the 'correct' attitude towards workers are freely supplied.

He is encouraged to consider the craft apprentice as a lower being.

The student apprentice must always keep his superior attitude, right down to the last detail—I know one lad who was seriously reprimanded for going around dressed like a tramp, and refused to shave. He was told that being on the staff meant that he must always 'set an example to others'.

This staff selection system is foolproof because if someone manages to slip through the interviewing net, he will soon get rejected by his fellow students if he has the wrong 'attitude', or, like me, refuses to join the sports car, dark suit, set and prefers motor bikes and a leather jacket.

As this system is foolproof we cannot hope for enlightened working-class orientated staff. This only serves to strengthen our claim for an end to the boss class. Workers can only control the factories by smashing the bosses and instituting workers' control.

'Student Apprentice'

## Free French Left campaign

IMMEDIATELY the news reached Britain that President de Gaulle had banned 11 left-wing organizations in France the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League began actively campaigning against this attack on the democratic rights of the French working class.

Demonstrations and public meetings were held throughout the country and the campaign was soon joined by 100 Labour 'left' MPs who sent a letter to President de Gaulle asking him to re-consider his decision.

(At a public meeting held in the Beaver Hall on Sunday, June 2 the Socialist Labour League had already launched the French Solidarity Fund, setting a target of £1,000 to help our French comrades.)

The Young Socialists took their campaign into the factories and trade union branches. Whilst many of the trade unionists did not necessarily agree with the views expressed by the 11 left-wing organizations, they saw it as a fundamental question of elementary democratic rights.

An example of this comes from the Desborough factory of Rigid Containers Ltd. in Northamptonshire, where the Young Socialists have been active.

Support for the campaign was gained from a large section of workers who are all members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

These workers passed a resolution deploring the actions of de Gaulle in making the left organizations illegal.

We see this action as a vicious attack on the democratic rights of the French working class, their political organizations and the trade union movement.

The fact that de Gaulle has not acted against the extreme right-wing fascist groups and has released and pardoned Salan is, we feel, a clear in-

## Dance

Friday, November 8  
LOWER ROAD,  
ROTHERHITHE BATHS,  
BERMONDSEY, S.E.16  
8 p.m. Admission 4s. 6d.

indication of a further move to the right.

'Fascism must never be allowed to raise its ugly head again. We demand the ban on all left-wing political groups be lifted and that all left-wing political leaders and militants who have been arrested since the ban should be released.'

'We pledge our complete political support and solidarity with the French working class and donate £2 to the French Solidarity Fund organized by the Socialist Labour League.'

It is signed by the branch members: T. Reid, S. McLean, S. McCardie, R. Hart, B. Midlane, A. Thorpe, R. Coe, R. J. Inglis, A. Lane, Mrs. Mary Feeley, B. McWilliams, A. Bindley (secretary), J. Curran, D. Quill, R. Mellon and B. Austin.

Every day thousands more trade unionists and members of the British labour movement join the campaign to free the French left.

Yet the British Communist Party leadership and its daily mouthpiece, the 'Morning Star', continue to remain silent.

Their refusal to comment shows their position; it is a political act. Does it mean that they support the ban?

However, not all members of the Communist Party have remained silent. Many of the rank and file are bitterly opposed to the ban.

These members should put pressure on the executive of the Communist Party and demand to know its position and that it should publish a full statement in the 'Morning Star'.

Meanwhile we say:

- Lift the ban on the French socialist organizations.
  - Down with de Gaulle, down with Stalinism.
  - Forward to the world socialist revolution.
- Sam McClean, D. Quill,  
B. Austin,  
Desborough Branch of the  
National Union of General  
and Municipal Workers.

## The background of racialism

THE Young Socialists, as Marxists, do not, like the naive, well-intentioned, middle-class liberals, see cases of racialism as separate incidents of people's irrationality.

We regard racialism as something to be understood in its relationship to the class struggle and especially to the current crisis of capitalism.

For us, the increasing use of and reliance on racialist and nationalist ideas by the ruling class to confuse the working class only testifies to the reality of the dangerous tendencies heading towards fascism and right-wing dictatorship that accompany the growth of monopolies.

It is now becoming more and more necessary for capitalism to hide its bankruptcy and inadequacy as a social and economic system from the working class. Both big business and the Labour government try to wriggle out of their responsibilities for the economic crisis and for their consequent attacks on the working class.

In the past few months, we have seen another blatant example of the capitalist class

giving instructions to the Labour government, via its own national press and its spokesmen.

True to form the bureaucrats and the corrupt reformists of the Labour government duly obey and react submissively to the directives of their masters, the bankers and the monopolists, who are very careful to stay well in the background and allow the Labourites to do the dirty work of providing a scapegoat and a smokescreen for capitalism.

The events of the last few months and the deepening economic crisis must prepare us for the fact that more and more frequently capitalism will try to distract and divert the attention of the working class from the real issues facing it by seeking to create an extremely violent anti-immigrant bias in society.

To prevent total disintegration the employers have realized the necessity of mounting unprecedented attacks on the working class. The service racialism performs is to create a situation where the white workers are pitted against the immigrant workers who are made into scapegoats for bad housing, unemployment and low wages.

The same people who were so worried about the intolerable strain on the social services were the ones to congratulate Callaghan when he capitulated to the bankers and took measures to destroy precisely these services.

It must be recalled that the hypocritical representatives of finance capital of the Tory party and their right-wing agents welcomed Chancellor of the Exchequer Jenkins' 'letter of intent', and patted him on the back when he carried out the first wave of attacks on the social services in order to win the confidence of the overseas bankers.

But the bankers wanted a promise for more. They began to clamour for the abolition of free school milk.

In this situation, therefore, racialism is used by the ruling class to cover up their real intentions. To illustrate the point, one only has to look at the national press, which in some cases has given support to extreme reactionary statements which have been made.

Such papers expressed the view that it was absolutely impermissible for the big businessmen's hard-earned profits to be touched by any government if it was only going to be wasted on slum schools and slum housing, especially as the parents in these areas would not appreciate it.

We in the Young Socialists must fight to expose their ulterior motives and show how it is in the interests of the capitalist class to unscrupulously distort and disfigure the position of the immigrant worker in order to isolate him from the rest of the working class.

The Young Socialists have been correct to insist that the Labour government is opening the door to the Tories. The immediate effect of the immigration laws is to play into the hands of the extreme right-wing Tories.

As Trotsky said: 'Our basic slogan remains: Workers of the world unite'. Today more than ever the meaning of this call—proletarian internationalism—urgently needs to be understood and campaigned for in the labour movement.

The Young Socialists pledge themselves to fight intransigently against racialism and all those who compromise with it. For us it is inseparable from the fight for socialism and against the barbarism of capitalism.

Shaun Murray,  
Washwood Heath,  
Birmingham.

# EDITOR'S POSTBAG

## A counter-revolutionary role

We have seen many times before that the role of the Stalinists is counter-revolutionary. The armed intervention of the Red Army, under orders from the bureaucrats in the Kremlin, is an open attack on the Czech working class and on the international working class. On August 25 we saw that out of all the demonstrations held in London on that day there was only one with an answer to the struggles in Czechoslovakia and the fight against the Soviet bureaucracy. As far as the anarchist demonstrations were concerned, shouts of fascism was the only answer they could offer.

We think that the idea of social fascism is a very dangerous one. It was this idea, expounded by the German Stalinists in 1933 about the German social democrats, that led to the splitting of the working class and the rise of Hitler. Our demonstration was extremely successful. The 2,500 Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League members and their supporters posed the real alternative: Stalinism out! Czech workers in! Soviet troops out! Workers' councils in! The demonstration was swelled by people who began as onlookers but joined the march after hearing the slogans we were shouting. This was in spite of the anti-communist ravings of the popular (read capitalist) press.

G. Morgan  
P. Parny  
P. Memeghan  
Birmingham YS.

## American draws lesson from YS camp

THE RECENT Young Socialists' summer camp was a huge success, not only from the standpoint of the development within the Young Socialists itself, but also from the international point of view. We in the United States have a huge task before us, and our work has, as yet, only just begun. We saw at the camp the process of development of a youth cadre which will lead the revolutionary struggles in Britain and will inspire youth all over the world. The struggle to build for the camp was in microcosm the struggle to build the revolutionary party. Youth from all sections of England and many countries around the world were united in one purpose despite all the attempts of the capitalist class to divide them on so many things—nationality, class and race. The tenor of the camp was urgency—the urgency to develop a mass youth movement capable of preventing a sell-out of the working class, as occurred in France. This appreciation of the depth of the crisis of capitalism was driven home to every individual at the camp. The US comrades particularly benefitted from this. We began to see that a formal discussion of the lessons of France was not enough. The understanding of the weakness of British and French capitalism really showed us the vulnerability of the American economic house of cards. France is no longer across the Atlantic for us, it is just around the corner.

United States Comrade.

*THIS SONG is written in the style of a broadside ballad. These were songs composed about current events and prominent personalities and sold in the streets. Between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries in Britain, they acted as a 'popular press' and were the only means the majority of people had of learning about the latest news. The tune of this one is the 'Lincolnshire Poacher'.*

*In France in 1968 great trouble there began.  
The students demonstrated against the Fouchet plan.  
They said our education is not to train our brains  
But so that bigger profits for the bosses we may gain.*

*They occupied their colleges and in the streets around  
They fought against the CRS and boldly stood their ground.  
Against the clubs and tear gas that the police used in the fray  
The students struggled fearlessly and almost won the day.*

*De Gaulle was in Rumania when first he heard the news.  
He said I need not hurry back—the CRS can't lose.  
But when the fighting had gone on for two or three days more  
De Gaulle came back to Paris, the order to restore.*

*The workers saw the students fight and said we can't stand by  
Our wages they are very low, our taxes are very high.  
Come comrades let us all unite to fight against de Gaulle,  
We'll go on strike together to make the tyrant fall.*

*The Stalinist union leaders when they saw the workers' plan  
Said men don't call a general strike or our unions will be banned.  
We'll call a one-hour stoppage and tell de Gaulle our case.  
But do not join the students men, the CRS to face.*

*The workers still came out on strike and marched upon the street  
When the police saw the numbers there they beat a quick retreat.  
De Gaulle, he hid away in fear, he thought his end was nigh,  
Against such force of numbers there was nothing he could try.*

*The workers sent their leaders to the government with a plan  
Stating all their grievances and listing their demands.  
The government offered pay rises, some order to restore.  
The Stalinists accepted, but the workers wanted more.*

*The workers said remove de Gaulle and finish him for good.  
The Stalinists said indeed we would if we really thought we could.  
We'll call for new elections and really make it plain  
We hope to end de Gaulle's regime so he'll not come again.*

*De Gaulle agreed to fight the battle round the ballot box.  
He knew t'would give him time to drag his party from the rocks.  
He saw the more time that he had, the better was his chance.  
The Stalinists gave him just that and so betrayed all France.*

Pat West Exeter YS.

**Coach Outing**  
SEE the lights in Southend  
Saturday, October 12  
Coaches leaving all points in S.E. and S. London  
Return Fare 5s.  
Organized by the S.E. and S. London Federations of the Young Socialists.

**Week-end conference**  
Organized by the London area of the Young Socialists  
October 19 and 20  
WINTER GARDENS, MARGATE  
Social on Saturday night  
32s. 6d. includes coach fare, hotel accommodation, admission to social and conference fees.

Details of all the events advertised on this page can be obtained from YS national secretary Sheila Torrance, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

Kirkby has its own industrial estate but there are very few jobs there. When a vacancy does occur the employers realize that they can use the youth as cheap labour.

I personally have worked on this estate. The hourly rate is very low and there is hardly any overtime.

There are bureaucrats in the Kirkby employment exchange who look down their noses at you and threaten to stop your money. There is a vicious circle created by the Labour government under the leadership of Harold Wilson.

The standard of living of the working class is attacked and there is an attempt to demoralize workers, not only in Kirkby but all over the country.

There is nothing for them to do—no cinema or big dance hall where the youth can go to enjoy themselves. That is why Kirkby has a high crime rate.

So we, therefore, take the building of a social programme for the Young Socialists very seriously in order to attract the youth of Kirkby into the YS and begin training them as Marxists.

Mike Downes  
Kirkby YS.

**Dance**  
Saturday, November 16  
FORESTER'S HALL,  
CHASE SIDE,  
ENFIELD  
8 p.m. Admission 5s.

## Unemployed youth in Kirkby

AT the end of the summer term this year 500 boys and girls in Kirkby, near Liverpool, left school to face the youth employment bureau—the Kirkby youth employment office has precisely ten jobs on its books. There are no jobs to be offered and there are a lot of people already waiting for jobs. So what chance has anybody got? This letter is based on facts taken from the 'Daily Express'. In the North West there are 9,000 jobs on the books but there are 20,000 boys and 30,000 girls who have left school waiting to fill those vacancies. Many will face permanent unemployment.

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

# Young Socialists' national recruitment campaign



London Young Socialists demonstrate through Paddington as part of the area's recruitment campaign.

NEWS is coming in about the Young Socialists' Autumn recruiting drive the length and breadth of Britain. . . .

In EDINBURGH a big increase in the numbers attending YS branch meetings is reported. GLASGOW'S outing and party on board a boat in Loch Lomond was a great success.

In the NORTH-EAST the new premises at SOUTH SHIELDS has made a big difference. Other branches in the area will have to work hard to equal the hot pace set by the South Shields' branch, but there is generally a good response to YS policies.

The new branch in SALFORD, MANCHESTER, held its first meeting in early September. In view of the importance of this region for the engineering industry this is a notable step forward.

YORKSHIRE reports a big increase in the number of YS branches in DONCASTER, SHEFFIELD and BARNSELY. In LEEDS a recruitment team has been visiting some of the large

factories in the area during the lunch hour and holding factory-gate meetings. Towards the end of the campaign 400 young people came to a highly successful dance.

SWINDON, in the Western region has continued to hold big meetings. Their social programme has been launched and a dance has been planned.

SOUTHAMPTON now has three YS branches and the YS has established good contacts with engineering workers and dockers.

In TREGARTH, CAERNARVON, North Wales a new branch is holding regular meetings.

At HEMEL HEMPSTEAD NEW TOWN, Hertfordshire, there has been a great response to the social programme and a steady increase in the number attending branch meetings.

A very successful dance was held in ST. PANCRAS and 50 attended a recent branch meeting. In EAST LONDON several discotheques are now established.

Many London branches organized coach trips to Southend to see the lights.

One coach was marooned conveniently outside a public house.

A YS member who asked the driver to stop on a quiet part of the road, stepped out and found the water was up to his waist.

In London the swimming gala proved an even bigger attraction than last year.

But there is still time for those branches who have started slowly to make a big effort to win the best branch competition. Branches are now preparing contingents for the regional demonstrations to take place in all the areas at the end of the recruitment campaign.

The recent strike decision of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions now makes the recruitment of young workers to the YS even more vital.

Big YS branches will be able to make a terrific political impact on adult workers now moving into action against the Labour government.

Young Socialist three-colour pamphlet

## The World Struggle of Youth

Price 6d.

Obtainable from: Shella Torrance, YS National Secretary, 186A Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

### LONDON AREA SWIMMING GALA RESULTS

held on Friday, September 6

Watford—26  
 Dagenham—23  
 Central Middlesex—22  
 West London—15  
 East London—13  
 Willesden—9  
 Southall—5  
 South West and South London—3

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Fill in this form and send to A. Jennings, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION

THE National Football Competition has now begun and the following fixtures will be played off between the areas in the New Year.

Scotland	)	Feb. 18	)	March 24
North-East	)			
North-West	)	Jan. 21	)	March 24
S. Yorkshire	)		Feb. 18	
W. Yorkshire	)			March 24
E. Midlands	)	Jan. 21	)	
W. Midlands	)		Feb. 18	
Western	)	Jan. 21	)	March 24
Wales	)			
Middlesex	)	Jan. 21	)	March 24
London	)		Feb. 18	
Southern	)			March 24
	)			

The finals will be played on April 21.