

# KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER  
OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS



SATURDAY DECEMBER 23, 1972  
VOL 21 No 31 ● PRICE 3p

**NEXT WEEK**  
New series  
'Heroes of the  
Russian  
Revolution'

# Tories plan a showdown!

THE trade union movement is facing its biggest crisis since the 1926 General Strike. Young workers, school leavers and older workers are all involved.

Heath and the Tories have decided to declare war on ordinary people. Prices are deliberately allowed to rise and wage increases are banned.

Now Heath has decreed that all wage negotiations must stop immediately. This means one thing—your standard of living is being forced down by order of this government of monopolists and speculators.

While wages are frozen by law, prices are allowed to go up every single day. This amounts to nothing less than a direct cut in wages of millions of workers. And the hardest hit are the low-paid, apprentices and young factory workers. An even more grim situation faces thousands of youth on the dole.

The Tories are now clearly preparing for a confrontation with the working class. Their

arrogant and blatant attitude towards the fine on the engineers' union only confirms this.

The Tories are strengthened now by a number of factors.

- Thanks to the collaboration of the trade union leaders they have now a law making all trade union rights illegal.

- They have imposed state control of wages — again with the help of trade union leaders. The Heath government has already revealed that the so-called anti-inflation measures are to stay for a further 60 days.

- In just over a week's time the Tories will enter the Common Market and join hands with the most vicious, anti-working class monopolies in the world.

In 1926 trade union leaders were faced with a similar situation when the Tory government at the time decided to starve miners by cutting their wages by 13 per cent.

Now the Tories have done it again—with the added severity

of the world economic crisis.

The Tory newspaper 'The Daily Telegraph' has said that Heath's methods of government compare with those carried out by Adolf Hitler. Hitler passed an enabling Act so that his every wish became immediate law. But in Britain 1972 statements by ministers — like Heath's decree over wage negotiations — have the power of law.

This means there is little time to lose. The government are planning a show-down with the working class and the youth who decide to stand up for their rights. The law and order brigade will join enthusiastically in the campaign, so will the police and the army.

Youth must fight back. They must be the vanguard to construct a revolutionary leadership that can put paid to Toryism for ever.

Councils of Action must be built in all parts of the country to mobilize the working class against this government. These

Councils must be the rallying point for trade unionists, youth, housewives, tenants and workers under attack.

The only possible solution for the working class is to re-elect a Labour government committed to socialist policies and prepare to deal with those Labour leaders who fail to challenge the class enemy.

The next Labour government should nationalize all the major industries under workers' control. It should be forced to scrap all plans for entry into the Common Market, withdraw all troops from foreign countries and implement a socialist programme to control prices.

This is a task which has now acquired the utmost urgency for the whole working class. It cannot be delayed any longer. The only alternative is a complete dictatorship in Britain.

- Build the Councils of Action!
- Join the Young Socialists!
- Force the Tories out!

## Annual General Meeting

And National Speaking Contest

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## A NEW YEAR CHALLENGE

**UNEMPLOYMENT, rising prices and direct attacks against wages have made it the worst Christmas for thousands of youth in the country.**

The devastating effect of Tory rule over the past year will be seen in the homes of all working class families during the 'festive season.'

And the new year will undoubtedly present a new challenge. The government has decided that it cannot postpone the confrontation with the working class any longer.

With the added strength of Common Market employers behind them they intend to go on the offensive as early as they can in 1973. This is the meaning of Heath's arrogant and blunt rebuff to trade union leaders. In November at 10 Downing Street he made it clear to the TUC that the Tories did not want their collaboration.

Heath immediately proceeded to introduce direct government control over wages and has now said that no one should even talk about wage increases without special 'guidelines' from the government.

Also in the past few weeks the Tories have taken a hard stand against the engineers' strike over the £50,000 fine imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court.

All these 'events' are symptoms of an acute crisis which has disrupted everything. It is the huge economic crisis which is forcing the Tories to implement—what the Tory 'Sunday Telegraph' called last weekend—'state control with a vengeance, couched in language both peremptory and unapologetic... Clearly this government means business.'

The 'Daily Telegraph' went on, two days later, to compare Heath's methods with those of Adolf Hitler. The fact that this government needs to implement laws against the trade unions is itself a sure sign of the weakness of the employers and bankers who stand behind it in the background.

While pursuing a consistent policy of legal attacks against the trade unions and all sections of the working class like the tenants and the unemployed, the government has also shown its teeth in another form—in Ireland both north and south.

Direct rule and military repression in the north—with the indiscriminate killing of civilians—has now been matched by similar actions in the south.

In Britain the law courts and the law-and-order brigade have been busy bringing political opponents of the capitalist system to 'justice'. A series of political trials throughout the year have climaxed with the incredibly lengthy sentence of ten years' imprisonment for four youth in the so-called 'Angry Brigade' trial.

These are the actions of a government which has allowed unemployment to stay steady over the million mark and prices to rise by about 22 per cent in one year. They are the actions of a government which in the new year will stake everything it has in the fight against trade unions and the working class.

The Tories and the capitalist class form part of a system which is now being shattered from all sides by its own contradictions.

The capitalist class now has an international cut-throat trade war on one hand and an absolutely unstable currency on the other.

In the midst of all this is the strength of the working class, undefeated in spite of all the measures taken by the government over the past year.

This strength expressed itself last week in the nation-wide engineers' strikes when large numbers of trade unionists called for an ALL-OUT battle against the government and the Industrial Relations Act.

The formidable task which lies before the working class in 1973 is the construction of an alternative leadership which will stop at nothing short of power.

Young Socialist branches should start a big recruitment drive in the new year. The draft main resolution for our annual conference next year should be discussed by all members and supporters as part of this preparation.

*We wish our readers and supporters  
the season's greetings.*

## Build Keep Left!

Can we top our  
weekly £30 fund?

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## Two YS marches against rising prices:

# Great reception from London shoppers

By Keep Left Reporters

## Lambeth

**TRADE UNIONISTS, housewives and youth took part in a demonstration against price rises organized by the Lambeth Council of Action last weekend.**

The demonstration through south London received a great reception from shoppers who lined the streets. They cheered and clapped and at times joined in with shouts of 'Tories Out' and 'No to the Common Market'.

The march was headed by the banners of the Council of Action, Lambeth Trades Council and



Clapham Young Socialists.

Delegates from south east London shop workers' union, APEX the clerical workers' union, the shop stewards' committee at Decca, and Lambeth council building workers were also on the march.

The demonstration finished with a meeting at Clapham Manor Baths. Speakers included Tim O'Sullivan, convenor at P.B. Cow's factory in Streatham, and Sylvester Smart from the Young Socialists.

Vivian Mendelson, secretary of the Council of Action, emphasized the fact that it was be-

coming impossible for housewives to keep their heads above water when shopping.

'We all know that the Tory price control law is a fraud. Food prices are going up literally every week,' she said.

'All food products are exempt from price control. Everything important for working-class families is exempt from price control.'

'The Tories do not represent the interests of a majority of people in Britain. We have a right and a duty to force them to resign. This fight is at the centre of the work of the Council of Action.'

## North London

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON shoppers gave a tremendous boost to the North London Council of Action demonstration through the busy Wood Green High Street last weekend.**

The demonstration against price and rent increases called on the working class to defeat the Tory government.

Taking part in the demonstra-

tion were engineers from Gestetters, M&K Electrics and other factories. Tenants, housewives, members and supporters of the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League.

Members of the Labour Party and 'International Socialists' who at a previous meeting of the Council were sceptical of the response to the demonstration did not turn up.

At a rally afterwards Norman Dinning, retiring president of the

Enfield District Committee of the engineers' union explained the engineers' strike against the Industrial Relations Act.

Joan Courtney, from the Young Socialists, said that it was essential to build a mass youth movement to fight back against the attacks of the Tory government.

Other speakers were Richard Goldstein, secretary of the shop stewards committee at Gestetters and chairman John Robinson, an engineering union shop steward.



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# Cut-backs affect print apprentices

Special survey for Keep Left by SIMON PIRANI

APPRENTICES in the printing trade face a future of low wages, insecure jobs or long-term unemployment.

More and more printing firms are finding it harder to keep up with competition and some are not taking on new apprentices to replace those who have graduated to journeymen.

This is the conclusion reached by Mr. Granville Eastwood, General Secretary of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, writing in the December issue of the journal of the print union—the National Graphical Association.

Figures just released show that at the London College of Printing, London's biggest centre for training apprentices, there have been enormous cutbacks in the numbers of students.

Ten years ago over 1,000 apprentices from different trades went to the college. This year only 165 attended.

There was a drop of 89 per cent in the number of Letterpress-machine apprentices over the decade. In all other trades there have been similar big cuts at the college.

Apprentices agree that the figures show the true state of affairs in the industry.

'I think in London the prospects of getting a job when you've finished your time are very low,' said David Fry (18), a print finishing apprentice.

'The firm you do your apprenticeship for should offer you a job at the end of your time,' he said. 'I doubt if my firm will offer me a job—the last two apprentices were not offered jobs. I shall have to rely on the union—SOGAT—to get me a job.'

David also thought that employers would try to use the shortage of jobs to pay workers less. 'With the Industrial Relations Act apprenticeships are even more pointless,' he told us. 'By changing union rules they could change your job around and pay lower rates, even though you are trained to work on a certain machine.'

Kieran O'Dwyer (19), a headline casting apprentice, had prospects that were just as bad.

'They won't offer me a job at my firm,' he said, 'I'll just have to move around the trade and try to get a job.'

'A lot of small firms close down and the management couldn't care less what happens to the workers there. Some of the bosses will just sell the firm to make a profit and put people out of work, like at Briants'. (Briant Colour Print is a South London firm which was occupied by the workers when it was threatened with closure.)

'The only way it will be changed,' said Kieran, 'is to have complete workers' control of all firms. But we won't get that under this government.'

## No trimmings this Christmas

FOWL like turkey and chicken will be popular this Christmas—because housewives can't afford anything else.

In the six weeks since the beginning of November to December 15, the price of beef went up 10p a pound.

This period covers the entire life span of the Tory government's so-called 'prices freeze'.

Housewives who normally buy topside or sirloin beef to go with the Christmas turkey may go without this year. Welsh butchers are buying less beef in case they're left with it on their hands during the holiday period.

For the normal price of sirloin beef is now about 65p a lb. while topside ranges from 70p to 75p a lb. Turkey prices are a little up on last year and sell for an average of 25p to 35p a lb. for fresh birds and 20p to 28p a lb. for the frozen variety.

Forecasts for the post-Christmas period present just as gloomy a picture. New Year beef prices will continue to rise, we are told.

Fish prices are also soaring—mainly due to three weeks of high gales at sea.

Prices paid in South Wales ports reached an all-time high last week and at one stage merchants were buying eight stone of sole for £100—nearly 90p a lb.

This is almost twice the price it was being sold at three months ago—between £50 and £60 an eight-stone box.

# Two Young Socialists rallies

## Western Region YS march through Bristol

By a Keep Left reporter

BRISTOL'S busy and crowded city centre was the scene last weekend of a right-to-work demonstration organized by the Young Socialists.

The demonstration was attended by youth and adult trade unionists from Southampton, Portsmouth, Reading, Oxford, Swindon and Bristol.

It started from the city centre and ended with a rally and discotheque in the evening. Speaking at the meeting Judy Magee, YS National Committee member for the Western Region, said the demonstration was part of a campaign on all major issues facing the working class.

The Young Socialists, she said, was the only movement which had organized a national campaign for the right to work. 'Now we intend to build the YS by fighting against all the attacks that affect young people—low

wages, no jobs, price increases and housing.'

'The attacks on the working class by this Tory government have been met with great resistance. Workers in trade unions have defied their employers and held a series of strikes over the past year.

'And we know that young people—many of whom are low paid and work in hopeless conditions—will not stand by while prices go up every day.

'The so-called 90-day freeze is a farce. Prices are going up every single day while the government says that employers should not even talk about pay increases.'

Brian Prangle, from Southampton Young Socialists Student Society said the Tories were trying to destroy the rights and living standards of all sections of the working class.

Students, he said, were now one of the poorest sections of the working class. Students' grants had been fixed and they

faced even harder problems as the cost of living continued to increase.

Gary Gurmeet, Keep Left Editor, told the meeting that a decisive period of class struggle was ahead.

The engineers' strike all over Britain was a political confrontation which could not be avoided because of the very nature of the Tory attacks.

'Many workers are now beginning to see the fight against the Industrial Relations Act as a fight to force the Tories to resign.

'In three weeks' time the Tories will take the country into the Common Market where they hope to join with the European monopolies in a vicious attack against trade unions in this country and throughout Europe.'

The situation, he said, left no choice for the working class but to build a new leadership and defeat the Tory government in order to go forward to socialism.



## Plenty of enthusiasm in Manchester

Local YS report

THE new Right-to-Work film was shown last weekend at a rally in Manchester. It was received enthusiastically by an audience of Young Socialist members and supporters who came from Preston, Manchester, Blackpool and Wigan.

The film, which shows the progress of the five national marches held by the YS earlier this year, was described as a 'clear record of the biggest campaign against the Tory government.'

Alan Peers, YS national committee member from the north west, said the unemployed youth on the march did not only fight for themselves but for the whole working class.

The present economic crisis of the capitalist system, he said, meant that no reforms were possible and full employment could not be achieved as long as the Tories remained in power.

The 40-minute, full-colour film, he said, showed one of the great achievements of the Young Socialists.

The YS was given full support by thousands of workers throughout the campaign. Alan Peers appealed to all youth to join the Young Socialists and expand the organization throughout the North West.

Editor of Keep Left, Gary Gurmeet, told the meeting that complacency about the actions of the Tory government was extremely dangerous.

'The Tories want nothing less—a dictatorship of the employers where workers would have no say in their wages and working conditions.'

'They set the ball rolling in this direction when they first took power.'

'Now we have on the statute books a whole series of laws aimed against trade union and political rights of millions of people. The Tories have con-

temptuously ignored every demand of the working class in than dictatorship in this country their fast entry into the Common Market.'

'But in spite of all the measures of the Tory government the working class was still undefeated.'

Given the leadership—which would not come from the official leaders of the labour movement—the working class could defeat the Tories and their laws.

The meeting, which was followed by a discotheque, provoked a lot of discussion on YS policies.

## PETER ARCHER

KEEP LEFT wishes to commemorate Comrade Peter Archer, a founder member of the Young Socialists who died on October 25, 1967.

Peter died at the age of 23 after a motor accident. His dedicated and determined fight for Keep Left laid the basis for the present production of the weekly. As a member of the Socialist Labour League, Peter fought inside the Labour Party from 1960 to 1964 against right wing reformism.



His work in the movement is continued today in the success of 'Workers Press' and the weekly Keep Left.

Have you joined the Young Socialists yet?

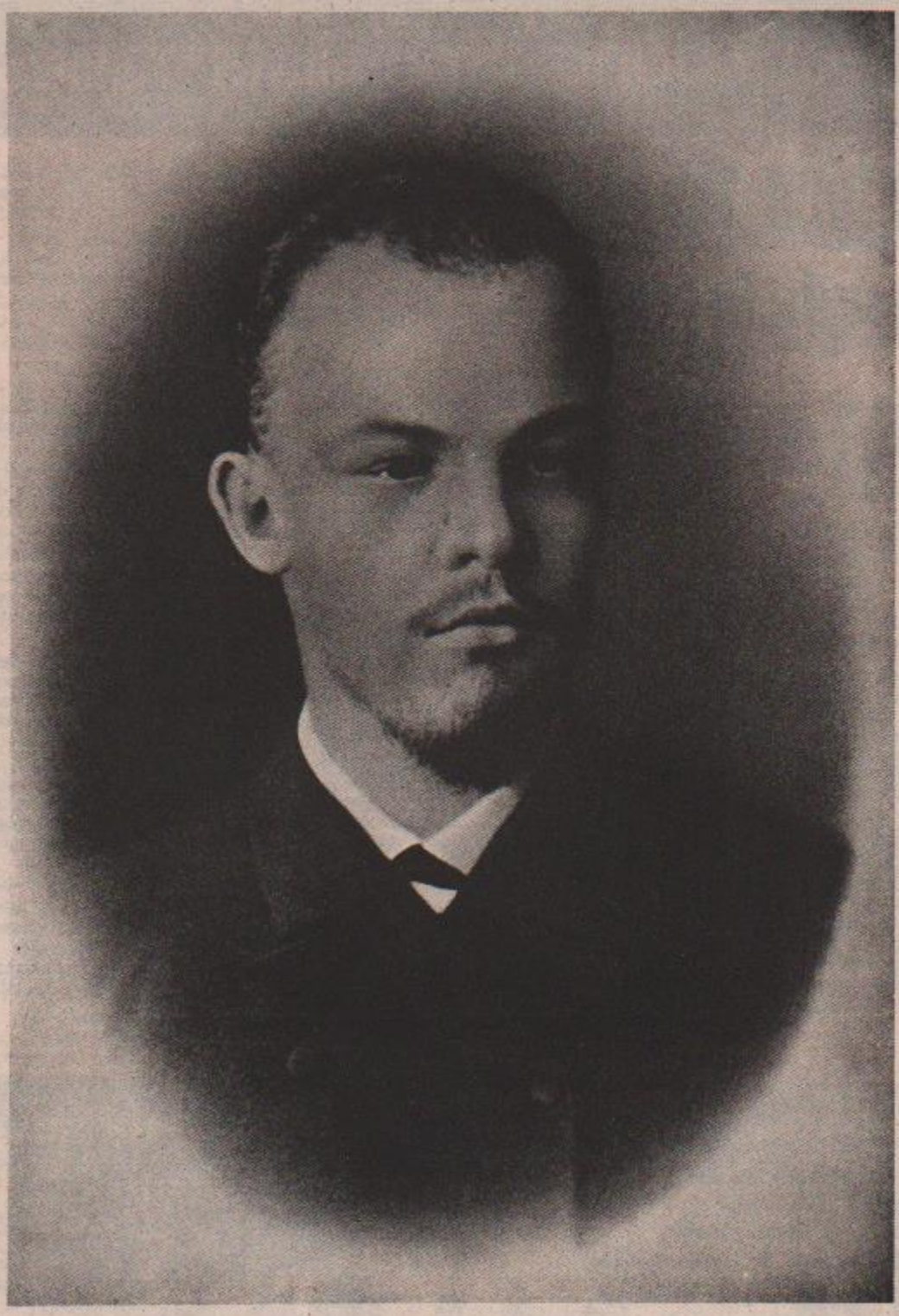


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# The Yo LENIN

By Leon Trotsky.  
Translated by Max Eastman  
Published by :  
David and Charles, £2.95.

THIS book was first published in the 1930s. Eastman had been suspected of being a spy when the book disappeared from his library 20 years after it was published. The work was completed by the Director of the R.I. Institute at Indiana U.

**THE Russian Revolution of 1917 was the greatest event in the history of man. It was that action which proved for the first time that the working class could smash the power of the ruling class and build its own state.**

in cities like Moscow and St Petersburg, hundreds of thousands of workers were thrown together in large factories.

It was these workers, supported by the peasant masses, who carried through the revolution in the crisis created by World War I.

### FACTOR

But one other factor was necessary for this. Suffering and crisis alone do not bring revolutions. These conditions existed elsewhere without the same result—as in Germany, Austria and Italy immediately after the war, for instance.

The one decisive ingredient of the Russian Revolution—absent everywhere else—was the Bolshevik Party, led by Lenin and Trotsky.

### CORRUPT

Resting on all this was the corrupt Tsarist monarchy, wallowing in wealth and waste.

The Russian capitalist class, because it developed so late, was incapable of overthrowing Tsarism—that is, of carrying through a bourgeois revolution as had been done in England in the 17th century and in France in the 18th.

But, although the Russian capitalist class was weak, the Russian working class was not.

Russia was a predominantly peasant country, but when capitalism did arrive, it arrived on a large scale so that

Without the strength, determination and leadership of this party, the Russian revolution would undoubtedly have been defeated.

But this party did not just arrive. It was 'a party of a new type' and it had to be constructed over many years of bitter struggle. This was not only a practical but a theoretical struggle, not least against those who (like the International Socialist group today) sought to limit workers' consciousness to their own immediate economic struggles.

The man who built the



# Young Lenin

translated by Max Eastman  
original manuscript in the  
completed some 15 chapters  
appeared without trace. Stalin  
ed and the book's publication  
reappeared in a university  
r. Eastman died in 1969 and  
leted by Maurice Friedberg,  
ussian and East European  
niversity.



Bolshevik Party and who led the first successful workers' revolution was Vladimir Ilyich Lenin.

This book by Leon Trotsky deals with Lenin's early life.

Although leader of a workers' revolution, he was not himself a worker. He was a member of the 'intelligentsia'. His father was a school inspector, and he was brought up in a comfortable middle-class home.

But, as he explained later in 'What is to be Done?', the working class does not arrive at revolutionary consciousness by itself. This has to be brought in from outside by those among the intelligentsia who commit themselves entirely to the cause of proletarian revolution.

This Lenin did.

## HANGED

His elder brother, Alexander, was hanged in 1887 for his part in a plot to kill the Tsar. Alexander had been a supporter of a terrorist group called 'People's Will'.

This group had developed out of the self-sacrificing effort of numbers of young, mainly middle-class people, who had sought to convince the peasant masses of the need for social change by going out to live among them.

When this proved impos-

sible the group turned to terrorism, seeking to destroy the evils of Tsarist society by killing off its leading representatives. Of course, this proved useless also. One Tsar was simply replaced by another and society went on as before.

Nevertheless these people were devoted and heroic and Lenin always remained impressed by these qualities in them.

## NEW FORCE

But society could not be changed by acts of individualism, no matter how courageous. A new force had to arise that would be capable of bringing about this change.

The significant stage of Lenin's early political activity coincided with important developments of the Russian working class and of socialist ideas.

He was first arrested at the age of 17 for taking part in student disorders and was expelled from the university, never to be allowed to return. He qualified as a lawyer by working on his own, but practised this profession for only one year.

While studying Marxism, he was also studying Marxism. He came into conflict with the Marxist émigré group—known as The Emancipation of Labour Group. This was led by Plekhanov.

By this time—middle and late 1880s—the Tsarist crushing of the terrorist groups had demoralized the middle-class political movement. But as the intelligentsia fell back, the workers came forward.

More and more strikes took place in the big cities and workers clashed with the police ever more frequently. Above all, workers involved in these struggles began to take an interest in socialism. Trotsky tells, revealingly, how the workers frequently got Marxist books from dealers to whom the disillusioned intellectuals had sold them!

However, this resurgence of the working class in turn inspired the younger generation of intellectuals to which Lenin belonged.

The key question of dispute among them was: could capitalism develop in Russia? This was a decisive dispute, because

if there was to be no development of capitalism then the most important social force would be the peasantry, as the 'Populists' had argued in the early days.

## GAVE UP

If, on the other hand, there was to be a development of capitalism, then the industrial working class became the most important force.

Lenin threw himself into the intellectual battle. In 1893 he joined an underground group of social democrats. He gave up his legal career and spent the rest of his life as a professional revolutionary.

He handled the question of Russian economic and political development with the thoroughness and determination that marked his whole life. After long and deep study, he published his first major work: 'The Development of Capitalism in Russia' in 1899.

Lenin was convinced that a powerful working class was emerging and that this class would smash Tsarism.

It was a belief from which he never wavered.



Left top: The young Lenin in 1891. Left bottom: The Ulyanov Family in 1879—Lenin's mother, father, brother and sisters. Right top: Lenin (centre) with members of the struggle for emancipation of the working class in 1897. Right centre: Lenin's brother Alexander Ulyanov in 1887. Right bottom: Lenin at the time of his arrest for his association with league of Struggle for Emancipation of the Working Class (1895). Left: Lenin with his sister Olga (1874).

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ЛЕНИН

Иван Ильич Ленин

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1) Владимир Ильич Ленин	Владимир Ильич Ленин	Густав	Дмитрий
2) Мария и дети Ильича	Мария Ильична	Густав	Особ.
3) Иван Ильич Ленин	Иван Ильич Ленин	Варшавские	Особ.
4) Ольга Ильична Ленин	Ольга Ильична Ленин	Формы	Особ.
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# POST BAG

## A new year challenge

THERE ARE only a few days left before Britain joins the Common Market. Heath has made it clear that he has no intention of ending the state control of wages which has affected the wage packets of millions of workers this Christmas.

In addition rising prices are making this the most expensive Christmas ever.

Many youth may think that rising prices and the Tory laws do not directly affect them and that things will get better sometime.

But entry into the Common Market means that great dangers face youth and trade unionists in Britain.

The employers and bankers are looking for allies to join in their battle against the working class.

In the last few weeks of 1972 we have seen the pattern of the future. In the trial of the 'Angry Brigade' four young people, declared innocent, had been held in prison for 14 months before facing their £1m trial.

Thousands of workers have been on strike against the vicious fines imposed by the Tories on the engineers' union. Behind these trade unionists are millions of other workers.

The Young Socialists must set themselves the goal of giving leadership to this mass movement.

The working class needs a leadership which will not cringe and crawl like the TUC and the Labour Party leaders, but one that will lead the working class to take the power from the ruling class in Britain.

That is the challenge before millions of people as we enter a new year of inevitable crisis.

West London reader

## The fight to free MacStiofain

AT Poulton-Le-Fylde college, Lancashire, we have held a well-attended public meeting against the jailing of Sean MacStiofain, the IRA provisional leader in southern Ireland.

The main speaker, Sue Crawshaw discussed the elitist roles of the Official and Provisional IRA. She said the IRA did not start from the crisis of capitalism as the cause of social problems in Ireland but with the fact that uniting Ireland could somehow solve the crisis.

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association was also discussed. This organization had thousands of workers out on the streets in protest demonstrations for their rights.

But leaders of the NICRA believed that spontaneous demonstrations could force the government to meet the demands of workers.

In the discussion which followed it was clear that only a new leadership could solve the problems of living standards and unemployment.

Such leadership would have to learn the lessons of the Provisionals and the civil rights movement that the bomb, the bullet and spontaneity would never solve these problems.

The call to free MacStiofain

was made on the basis that in the coming period the Tories and the Irish government will be imprisoning working class leaders who fight against them.

MacStiofain can only be freed from jail by working-class action.

Many students in a number of universities have voted against the call to free MacStiofain. We must fight against the idealism of students who vote against such motions on the basis of abstract morality.

The Tories and the capitalist class continuously use violence against the working class.

YSSS  
Poulton-Le-Fylde

## The time to hit back

NOW THAT the term is ending, students will have an opportunity to reflect on what faces them next year, especially as the rush to fill vacation jobs is now on.

A major government crisis is now on over the decision to fine the engineers' union £55,000. The Tory government's right to implement their laws is at stake.

To defend their unions the working class have to take on the Tory government and defeat it. And the working class is warming up to that task.

The more the working class resists the Tory onslaught the deeper is the wedge driven into the camp of the employers.

The capitalist class is deeply divided over the question of when to take on the working class. Now is the time to hit back, while the enemy is weakened by this division.

A battle between the classes is imminent in the New Year.

Prices continue to rise and students will return to colleges in the midst of a barrage of price rises immediately after Common Market entry.

To fight for the right to a decent standard of living students must prepare for a political battle alongside the working class.

The campaign for supplementary grants must be prepared and launched for the next term. Marxist literature should be studied to theoretically prepare for these battles.

Brian Prangle  
Southampton YSSS

## A grim season for the unemployed

I THINK Christmas will be very grim this year for thousands of young people who earn poor wages. It will be even worse for the unemployed.

This is the season when many of the shops put up their prices to take advantage of the extra shopping for presents and food.

Of course the Tory pay law has been introduced in order to destroy trade unions together with the help of the Industrial Relations Act.

On New Years day Britain will become a member of the Common Market. The Tories have forced this step on workers and it is about time something was done about it.

It was a good thing for the engineering union leaders to call on their members to support the one-day strikes against the government's £55,000 fine. But one-day stoppages are not good enough. There should be a national effort with the support of all other unions.

We must force this government out. The Tories survive at the expense of the working class.

C.S.  
Apprentice Engineer

## Uneasy at the top

Review by  
Liz Tailor

IN 1970, two weeks after his appearance at the Isle of Wight Pop Festival, Jimi Hendrix, king of blues-rock music, died.

His fans mourned and critics asked—'Why?'—'why did Hendrix still in his twenties and a star, have to end his life that way?'

After his death his latest record 'Cry of Love' was released and a new Hendrix cult was born. A book, 'Hendrix', a biography, has been written by Chris Welch and in the past few weeks, articles on Hendrix have splashed all the newspapers and magazines.

Hendrix's dress, manner, unique style and virtuoso guitar playing had been praised by all those who followed his early career, but towards the end, there were those who said that his act was a terrifying experience of guitar smashing and fire explosions on stage—'way out'.

His manager, Chas Chandler, explains in the book how Hendrix reached the peak of his career at a time when there was enormous competition on the market, with such stars as Cat Stevens, The Walker Brothers and Englebert Humperdink.

Further, Chandler explains: 'We worked out this big flamboyant sex act. We were trying to think of something new, when the idea came up to set fire to the guitar as Jimi was doing a number called "Fire".'

But to stay at the top wasn't easy for Hendrix and he was obsessed and frustrated with the idea that he could no longer develop his musical skill and talents.

He had become a sex-symbol and with that image, he had to remain—there seemed no way out for him.

Often suffering from acute loneliness and depression, he turned to drugs; his act faltered and his reputation to some, became that of a tearaway, smashing up cars and picking arguments with people.

His confused manager says, 'I had no way of saying anything; he was tearing himself apart for no apparent reason'.

But we should not be confused.

# The tragedy of JIMI HENDRIX



For in our struggle to understand the class nature of the capitalist system in all its complexities, we also begin to understand that Jimi Hendrix was not alone and that his death could not really be a mystery.

And like many artists, Hendrix's talents were exploited in order that huge profits could be made by those who worked for him and employed him. In order to compete with all the other stars in demand his image had to be different, individual and exciting.

Hence, his talent to write, create and develop art was the last thing to be considered. The greatest problem was that once he had made it to the top, he had to remain there, with the same image; otherwise he would join the ranks of thousands of unemployed artists, whose salary, if they did work, barely reached the minimum level.

It is understandable that many artists, unable to face the reality of this system, turn to drugs in

order to cut themselves off from the world.

But we also understand why, on the other hand, many artists are coming towards revolutionary politics for the first time in their lives and joining the revolutionary party.

They see that their plight is the same as the plight of the working class and that the only way forward for mankind, is to put an end to the capitalist system, once and for all.

Unemployment in the entertainments industry now stands at 90 per cent and will increase with entry into the Common Market next year.

Alongside this, all artists, including journalists, will be banned from expressing anything contrary to the system, as we have already seen in the victimization and imprisonment of O'Kelly in Ireland.

It is indeed a tragedy that this system can destroy people like Jimi Hendrix so easily.

# Art with a different kind of relationship

Two exhibitions in London

'People Weave a house'

David Medalla and  
John Dugger

Institute of Contemporary  
Art

Llewellyn Xavier

Prints of the Soledad  
Brothers

and Race and Sex series  
Whitechapel Art Gallery

MANY rebellions of different kinds have been constantly shaking the surface of the scene in artistic production over the past years. It is not so easy to find artists who in

some way do not attempt to challenge what they consider to be the limitations of art.

These two exhibitions illustrate recent attempts by artists to make a kind of art which has a different relationship to people.

The artists are determined not to make works which appeal only to a wealthy and small number of people. In this sense the artists are political, and they freely admit this.

Llewellyn Xavier's work, he states, is not to be considered on its artistic merits. His main purpose in this collection of prints is to be part of the movement that fought for the freeing of George Jackson, and the Soledad Brothers.

Xavier uses photographs of the Soledad Brothers, which are by now well known by many youth. On the prints, which are like

posters, he writes his own comments. He uses techniques which have been developed by artists before him, to make a statement through words, photographs, and images which the viewer has to fit together in order to get the message.

Medalla and Dugger chose a different method to put across their ideas. Both men are inspired by the thoughts of Chairman Mao, and what they have seen of art in present-day China.

They believe that the artist's function is 'to raise the artistic and political consciousness of those who participate, based on Mao's tenet: Weed the old to bring forth the new'.

After these high-sounding words, the show itself is something of a let-down. When I was there no one appeared to be 'participating' in the project. But even if they had been, the idea seems bankrupt.

Many artists have recently produced works which are supposed to draw the audience into making the work of art themselves. But the problem is, that there is a complete lack of ideas of what is to be expressed by either the artist or those participating.

The artist may be sincere in his attempt to turn outwards to the working class, but the means to do this cannot be simply to play with a few different kinds of materials.

Review by  
Cissie Lodge



# Christmas time may go unnoticed this year!

Gary Gurmeet looks at the so-called festive season

CHRISTMAS is a time when there is something to be happy about—perhaps. Thousands in Britain will be trying desperately to make it as good as they can.

But unemployment, and the biggest prices spiral for years has made it the toughest Christmas ever.

Throughout the capitalist world the story is the same. Millions of people will spend Christmas in the midst of a world economic crisis which has brought poverty, starvation, and death.

Christmas time may even go quite unnoticed in some countries

where imperialist destruction has left nothing but ruins and dead bodies.

Last week the Vietnamese heard the news that American imperialism's war in Indo-China is to go on. Indiscriminate bombing of houses, hospitals and agricultural plantations is to go on.

Nixon called for a halt to the Paris peace talks and accused the North Vietnamese of turning the talks into a 'charade'.

B-52 planes immediately went into action and were reported to have dropped 30-ton bombloads on Communist troops around Pleiku and Quang Tri. In the past few months American planes have pounded the cities of North

Vietnam killing thousands of civilians.

The Cambodian Red Cross, two weeks ago, launched an international appeal for food, clothing and medical supplies for more than 200,000 war refugees.

Meanwhile another guerrilla war in another part of the world—Africa—was in its crucial stages.

Last week PAIGC, the guerrilla movement in the Portuguese colony of Guinea, accused the colonialists of using napalm in bombing raids on villages in the southern part of the country. Some villages were destroyed and 25 people—including women and children—killed.

After almost ten years of fighting the guerrilla movement—in spite of monstrous atrocities by the Portuguese—has succeeded in driving government troops out of two thirds of the country.

In Southern Africa, Rhodesian security forces killed and captured a number of armed guerrillas during clashes along the border.

Within Rhodesia, Ian Smith issued warnings about security. His government has passed a series of laws giving the country a virtual apartheid constitution. Africans without special permits, will not be able to drink at bars in town this Christmas. They have to confine themselves to special settlements.

In the Middle East thousands of refugees and freedom fighters will spend Christmas haunted by fear of a large-scale Israeli offensive.

The Palestinian commando movement said last week: 'Israeli troop concentrations have increased in the past few hours, indicating that the enemy is contemplating big operations.'

A statement said that the expected attack would 'go beyond any previous Israeli raid in terms of targets and scope.' In Damascus, students, peasants and workers have formed militia groups to be ready to fight the Israelis.

The aim is to train able citizens in civil defence and the use of arms in 'preparation for the crucial battle' against Zionist oppression.

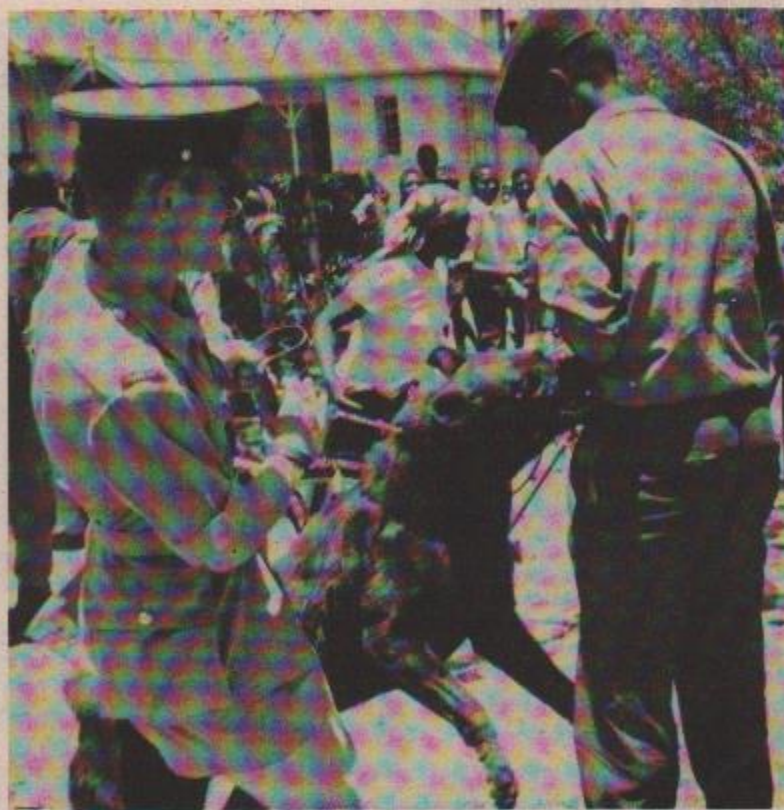
All around the world at Christmas this year there are thousands of young political prisoners who have been put away for opposing capitalism in one form or another. For some imprisonment means brutal torture at the hands of police-state governments and military juntas in countries like Greece and Turkey.

A Turkish martial court last weekend sentenced 16 people accused of communist activities to eight years' jail. The Turkish dictators are planning a mass trial of alleged members of the outlawed Dev Genç (Revolutionary Youth) movement.

The accused face a variety of charges including forming a clandestine Communist Party, spreading communist ideas and calling for a workers' state.

Also last weekend Amnesty International produced concrete proof of ugly torture of political prisoners in Turkey. According to quoted evidence from one woman, a medical student, prisoners often have the soles of their feet beaten till their bones show.

In the United States, Vietnam was veterans and political opponents of the two-party capitalist system have now come under the hammer blows of Nixon's new-style rule.



● Above: Rhodesia, towards an apartheid constitution. Below: Juan Farinas, Christmas in jail.



Hundreds of black militants and members of the Black Panther Party are held on frame-up charges.

And Juan Farinas, the anti-war Trotskyist will spend the Christmas in jail. He is serving a two-year sentence for opposing the Vietnam war.

In Sri Lanka (Ceylon) the coalition government headed by Mrs Bandaranaike has begun a new wave of arrests among the country's youth.

Over 150 young people have been arrested over the past few weeks. 5,000 others are already held in detention camps.

Their fate, like that of all other political prisoners all over the world lies in the hands of the working class.

Harsh realities of world capitalism give this Christmas a sombre wrapping. But the season is also marked by the determined emergence of the working class in both colonial and metropolitan countries. This mass rings the death bell for capitalism.

## ULSTER

A MILITARY crackdown both in North and South Ireland gives this Christmas a dangerous and deadly meaning.

In the north the army continues its arrests of so-called terrorists. In the south hundreds of republicans will spend their time in fear of being picked up by the police under the country's new anti-IRA measures.

Early next year people will commemorate 'Bloody Sunday' and the killing of 13 innocent protesters. Meanwhile an unknown number of internees will spend the season in prisons and camps such as Long Kesh.

# Huge success for London rally and pop concert

OVER 800 youth came to the second pop concert and rally organized by London Young Socialists last weekend.

Coachloads of YS members from all branches in London arrived at Acton Town Hall, West London, first to listen to Young Socialist speakers and then to five groups of performers who appeared at the concert.

Speaking at the rally, organized around the campaign to stop rising prices and force the Tories to resign, were Maureen Bambrick, YS national committee member and Paul Cullinane from West London YS.

Second on the programme was singer Ram John Holder and his band.

They played several numbers and were well received by the audience. Next came a short but hilarious contribution from Spike Milligan. He was followed by a lively performance from Paul Jones, backed by a group of friends on the piano, saxophone, drums and bass guitar.

After a brief performance by the progressive group 'Henry Cow', the star band of the evening, 'Fumble', appeared.

The four artistes dressed in white, played authentic 1950s-style rock 'n roll.



Above: Spike Milligan. Below: Henry Cow. Right top: Platform for the rally, l to r Sylvestre Smart, Maureen Bambrick, Paul Cullinane. Right (i) Fumble. Right (ii) Paul Jones. Right (iii) Ram John Holder (guitar) and Paul Rowen (harmonica). Bottom (iv) The audience.



## WHAT'S ON WHERE

**LONDON YOUNG SOCIALISTS**  
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY,  
SPEAKERS' CONTEST  
Sunday December 31  
St Martin's Church Hall  
Vicars Road  
Kentish Town  
8.00 p.m.-12 midnight

**PRESTON YS**  
Christmas Dance  
Wednesday December 27  
Leyland Public Hall  
Leyland  
Dance to 'Hard Cash' and  
discotheque  
7.30 p.m. Adm: 50p

**LIVERPOOL YS**  
New Year's Dance  
Saturday December 30  
Dame Wood Hall  
Speke  
'Hard Cash' group  
7.30 p.m. Adm: 50p

**SANDFORD YS (Leeds)**  
Christmas Party  
Saturday December 23  
Bramley Parish Centre  
Waterloo Lane  
7.30 p.m.-11.30 p.m.

**CROYDON YS**  
Christmas Party  
Saturday December 23  
St Alban's Church Hall  
Thornton High Street  
8.00 p.m.

**Kent Right to Work committee**  
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
and 'Right to Work' film  
Sunday December 31  
St Peter's Church Hall  
Trafalgar Street  
Gillingham

**REGIONAL SPEAKERS  
CONTEST**  
starts: 6.00 p.m. Adm: 10p

**Middlesex Young Socialists**  
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
and 'Right to Work' film  
Sunday December 31  
St Mathew's Church Hall  
Rosebury Road  
Fulham SW6  
starts: 7.00 p.m. Adm: 10p

**Southern Region YS**  
NEW YEAR'S PARTY  
and 'Right to Work' film  
Thursday January 4  
St Adam's Church Hall  
Boston Road  
(nr Canterbury Road)  
West Croydon  
starts: 2 p.m. Adm: 10p

