

ORGAN OF THE WEMBLEY NORTH AND WEST HENDON LABOUR YOUTH SECTIONS

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PLANNING FOR LABOUR YOUTH

All members of the League of Youth will remember the 1955 Labour Party Conference when the N.E.C. told delegates of their wonderful new plans to encourage young people into the Party - four months later in the February issue of "Socialist Advance" we can at last see in print what the wonderful plans are! As far as I can see they consist of two "great" reforms. The first is to deprive Youth Sections of the right to collect Party dues. (This will make no difference to 99% of the Branches which do not operate the system anyway.) The second is a counter balance to the first, but with greater repercussions - meeting places are, in future, to be provided and paid for by the Local Labour Party. This will be of great financial assistance to the Branches if it works. However, I am a little sceptical - whereas in the past a Party has condescended to a League of Youth, the same Party, faced with the cost of a room each week may decide to do without a Youth Section. There are two other decisions. Local Parties are asked to appoint a Youth Organiser. A good idea (again, if it is carried out), but this alone will not encourage youth into a Party, which offers no policy! I have known Parties to have Youth Organisers for three or four years, but still have no League of Youth.

The main decision is that of having a membership campaign in the Autumn. Here is something more concrete, despite the fact that it is nothing new - there were similar campaigns in 1952, 1953 and 1954. However 1956 will be very different - the economic situation will have deteriorated considerably, and this will definitely forge a fighting spirit in the working class youth all over the country, who are going to be involved in the struggle against the attempts to reduce the living standards. The present members of the League of Youth must be ready at that time to guide and lead the Youth Movement, which is going to be a strong one. The N.E.C. will be faced with a peculiar situation. They tell us they want a strong Youth Section, but we know that at the present time youth will not come into the Labour Party because its policies do not give the necessary political urgency - however in the near future they are going to have a youth movement demanding a Socialist policy. They may have realised this, and therefore have tried to wear down the left youth to drive them out of politics or into the Young Communist League.

There are some resemblances between the position today and that of thirty years ago. In 1925, a Tory Government was elected by fraud, with the able assistance of the Macdonald-Snowden leadership of the Labour Party. Although miners' wages were the key issue, the government did not start an all out attack at once. Instead it played for time, giving concessions. As Mr. Churchill put it: "We decided to postpone the crisis in the hope of coping effectually with it when the time comes." At the same time, the government built up coal stocks, perfected its official strike-breaking organization and increased unemployment by going back on the gold standard. While the Labour leaders did nothing, the Tories got ready to provoke and smash the general strike in May 1926.

The Tories Can Be Stopped

Then, as now, the capitalist offensive was by no means irresistible. The rank and file was willing to defend itself when attacked. But it was led by men like Thomas and Macdonald, who made no secret of the fact that they did not want to fight back, and who were just as concerned with maintaining the status quo as their parliamentary sparring partners. That was why Labour was defeated in 1926.

Given a leadership which is prepared to hit back at Big Business, the Tory advance of 1955 can be halted. For example, if the Unions, the Labour Party and the Coops, really went to town on the Tory rents policy, then the proposal to amend the Rent Restriction Act would never reach fruition. Even the attempt to abolish housing subsidies could be de-railed if the tenants went into battle with the complete support of the Labour Movement.

Leaders and Policies.

The Tories and their pet journalists, broadcasters, professors and other tame experts, all tell us the same tale: "Our" economy cannot survive unless "costs" (i.e. wages) are cut. In one sense they are dead right. British capitalism hammered by German, Japanese and United States competition, can only keep going if it cuts the living standards of those who produce its profits. To stay alive capitalism has to cripple the Labour Movement.

This means that those who strive to defend that movement, who try to protect its hard-won gains, can only succeed if they are prepared to break the power of Big Business. But Big Business is not only a British, but a world-wide, system. And so, to hold back the Tory attack, we require a leadership which understands the need for world socialism.

Because we have not got such a leadership, Mr. Butler is getting away with murder; when Labour unites behind a socialist policy, no Tory Chancellor will stand a chance.

CYRIL SMITH  
Tokynston Ward.

In other words the great re-organization for which the League of Youth was disbanded, and its organization smashed last October has now boiled down to financial reforms, which together can hardly be said to strengthen the youth organization in the Labour Party. We can now see, very clearly, that the real reason behind this "re-organization" was to discourage the hard core of socialist youth, who, given a chance at a 1955 League of Youth Conference, would have proclaimed themselves well to the left of the leadership on such questions as Conscription, German Re-armament, the Colonies etc., They have failed to remove us Comrades, and we must show them that we are still ready and able to build up a Labour Youth Movement, and fight the Tories. We are not frightened of the right wing attacks, and we are not taken in by the Y.C.L. The N.E.C. can be sure of our co-operation in running a campaign in the Autumn, but we feel they may be worried about the results:

The right thinks we are a tiresome left-wing force, and their efforts to brush us off is just another facet in the struggle, which led to the banning of "Socialist Outlook", the filching of "Forward", and the attacks on "Tribune", the expulsion of left members of the C.L.Ps. and the attempts to expel Bevan. All these were steps aimed at destroying the left-wing in the Labour Party. But the power of the left-wing is the power of its ideas; although the youth organization and left-wing papers have been attacked, the ideas are not defeated. They are the only guarantee of the defeat of the Tories, the overthrow of capitalism and progress towards socialism.

PETER C. GIBSON  
Streatham Youth Section

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### HOUSING - THE PROBLEM AND THE ANSWER (Part II)

In other words, the housing shortage cannot be overcome while the land is in private hands, while the money-lenders maintain their strangle-hold on future building, and while the profiteers decide how much building is going to cost. With these facts before the Parties, how could they set about tackling the problem? The Tories at least are honest. They don't want to change society, and they don't pretend to want to. The do-gooders perhaps would like to see decent homes for the people, but the very contradictions of their system of society cannot permit this. Even the much publicised 300,000 houses per year is coming to an end, now the election is over.

### THE IDEAS OF SOME LABOUR LEADERS

The Labour Party, despite the guidance from its Research Department, could tackle the problem, but its leaders lack the will to do so. During the week in which Mr. Morrison was leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, a conference was held in London under the auspices of the London Labour Party. Everyone present agreed that the Tories were a dirty lot etc. etc. A Westminster delegate asked Herbert Morrison if the N.E.C. could assure us that when Labour was returned to office, they would at least restore the cuts in the housing subsidies made by the Tories? The answer - Well you don't know how things will stand in five years time - we can't say - it all depends ..... The problem has not been solved over the last, say five thousand years, and it is likely to get worse in the next five. Meanwhile, the Labour leadership waits to see how capitalism will turn out. After all, we would not like to upset it.

(continued on page 7)

## A BRICKLAYER SPEAKS OUT

One of the major problems today is finding somewhere to live. When the Tories were returned to power in 1951, they promised to build 300,000 houses a year, which they have succeeded in doing. But in doing so what do we find? That the actual building work is rushed. After a year doors won't fit, buildings settle, with the result that walls crack, and windows won't shut. Many of the new houses suffer from damp penetration, causing paper and paint to fall off walls.

Now why does this happen? Why is the work rushed?

It is because the smaller building firms set time limits on each house to be built, and pay their workers fantastic wages to work as fast as possible, by a means of high piecework rates. In consequence the work is bad, for who can blame the workers for earning all that they can?

No as usual the fault lies with the employers, who in their mad scramble for profits, actually encourage bad workmanship. These new council estates look very nice now, but in a few years time they will need an enormous amount of public moneys spent on them in maintenance. Surely it would be more economical to construct good quality houses that will last for many years, and be a credit to the building industry.

The Tory Government should put a stop to the present state of affairs, but I suppose this is too much to hope.

It has been suggested that a new town should be built in the City of London, in the Aldersgate and Barbican area, about 40 acres in size. Now this is a good plan far better than building out into the country. But a certain socialite has condemned this redevelopment scheme, saying that it was hideous, and that the British people would not stand for it. This person is the President of the Royal Academy, who then said that nobody would want to paint it. What a damned cheek, who cares if anybody paints it? What about the thousands of people living in two rooms, or even worse in the slums.

Our respected President most likely is in the position to own maybe two or three large houses, but let him remember that all of us are not so fortunate. He is one of the people who would like to see large office blocks, a bank, or maybe a church on the site. I sincerely hope that this scheme goes through, and large blocks of flats are built there.

Until schemes like this are completed all over England whether the privileged classes like it or not, there will be little chance of young couples getting their own homes, the homes they are entitled to.

RON ANDREWS.

WEST HENDON YOUTH SECTION.

WE ARE VERY NEAR TO THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

Truly amazing revelations in the 'Manchester Guardian' of Saturday 6 January 1 quoting an official United States Government report, make our hitherto formed estimates of the effects of Hydrogen Bombs and Hydrogen Inter-Continental missiles, appear dwarfish and wildly optimistic. These facts and estimates (mind you, 'official' are so hair-raising in its totality, that I make no apology whatsoever in quoting from the report.

Its conclusions are:

A World War of to-day would be fought between huge bombers each capable of striking blows of the equivalent of from 20-50 million tons of T.N.T. (The Hiroshima A-bomb had a T.N.T. equivalent of only 20 thousand tons, and the Binkini H-bomb of 1954 was estimated at 15 million tons of T.N.T. equivalent, but was not capable of being transported by aircraft.)

A war starting in 6-10 years time or possibly "much sooner" would involve the use of great rocket missiles travelling over the seas or poles much faster than sound and capable of totally destroying a city of 1 million inhabitants, without any advance sound of its approach.

The report adds:

"The time is close at hand, when the United States and its potential enemy (meaning of course, the U.S.S.R.) will have these weapons of 50 million ton bombs in quantity and also greatly increased carrier capabilities in terms of speed and load as to pose the threat of annihilation."

Furthermore, these weapons are estimated to be detonated much nearer ground level and therefore, nuclear warfare would bring about "a manifold increase of radioactive dust in the atmosphere resulting in potentially lethal fall-out over thousand of square miles". (That cigar gets bigger and bigger, it will soon circle the earth

And about the Inter-Continental ballistic missile, these words are written without later qualifying their meaning:

"There appears to be no sound scientific or practical reason for assuming that these missiles will not be ready in 6-10 years time or possibly much sooner."

About the radar warning time applicable only to America separated from its potential enemy by thousands of miles of sea, the report is "pleased" that the new Inter-Continental Defense system will afford it now a warning time of from 1-2 hours. In the case of the Ballistic Missile, which of course has no sound warning, the radar warning time is only 10-20 minutes.

If you translate these figures from America, which is "protected" by thousands of miles of sea, the North Pole and its own vast land mass, to this little island very much nearer to the potential enemy, we can readily see that any useful warning time in our case is not possible.

Just stating those grim facts, official estimates and figures, must convince any sane man in these islands that these weapons spell annihilation for all mankind and if some should survive, they are certainly not to be found in England. We

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cannot possibly compete in manpower, in resources with the two great Collosi and therefore it is lunacy to try to manufacture our own H-bombs, quite apart from the moral point and the ethics involved. It cannot possibly act as a deterrent, because in comparison with the huge stockpile quantities of the United States and the U.S.S.R., our little stockpile we might be able to amass, pales into insignificance, even if we are alive enough at the time to make use of it.

As Socialists and as the youth of this country, we must be in the forefront to preach a way back to moral sanity. This lead of Atomic and Nuclear Pacifism will echo and re-echo round the world and will be a far more potent weapon and deterrent, than all the H-bombs thought up in Whitehall.

A. OTTEN  
Wembley North Labour Party



WHITHER SOCIALISM?

During the past few years, since the electoral fortunes of the Labour Party began to decline, various opinions have been expressed regarding the reasons for this decline and the methods which could be used to get the people out to vote Labour.

In their moments of frustration, quite a number of our members, party officers as well as rank and file, give voice to such remarks as - "People are too well off" or "What we need is a few thousands on the Dole" - their opinion being that a partial return to 'the bad old days' would result in the sweeping return of a Labour Government.

While I would not deny that such a return to a state of depression would cause the working class to take action at the polling booths to improve matters, the idea that such a state of affairs might exist before our voters will rally to the polls, is to my mind nothing more than the Policy of Despair; an attempt to cure the ills of society by poisoning, physically and mentally, a percentage of its members, thus teaching the remainder to behave themselves in the future. I would not like to guess how many such recessions would have to take place or how severe they would have to be before we achieved a stable and continuous Labour Government.

Failing the acceptance of the "progress by stepping backwards" method of achieving our objective, what policies should be propagated among the people in order to persuade them to vote Labour and to continue doing so at subsequent elections?

In my opinion not enough publicity is given to the objects of our Party as laid down in the Constitution; properly interpreted these objects would bring about the change in the system of society of which one hears so little these days, and which it is so vital should be brought about as an alternative to modern capitalism as perpetrated by the Conservative Party and to some lesser extent, the Labour Party.

Secondly, the people should be offered a programme of progressive Socialism based on the present stage of development of society, instead of being expected to struggle continuously in the face of financial juggling, to maintain their living standards. In short, we need a clearly defined alternative policy to Toryism based

on Socialist ideas applied to present day conditions.

Members who still cling to ideas such as those illustrated in my opening paragraphs would, in my opinion, do better service to the movement by doing their bit towards shaping such an alternative policy, instead of shadow-boxing with the Tories and sighing for the day on which their representatives can march back to Westminster armed with high unemployment statistics and mortality rates.

R. A. HARTLEY

Wembley North No. 4 A.E.U.

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### MOSCOW SHAKES UP KING STREET

For more than twenty years, the Communist Party of Great Britain taught its members that the policy of the Russian Government was beyond criticism. At any rate, they never criticised it. One of the main reasons for this infallible correctness, we used to be told, was the all-seeing genius, father of the people, inspirer of the masses, etc., etc., - Joseph Stalin.

Last week the "Daily Worker" decided that all this was a mistake. The 'cult of the individual' must be replaced by collective leadership. This amazing discovery happens to follow the speeches on this subject made at the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

These speeches by Krushchev, Mikoyan and others, raise many questions which the Communist Parties of the world have got to answer. It is no use the leaders just admitting "mistakes" and then going on as if nothing had happened. Self-criticism is no substitute for discussion.

In particular, Mikoyan's assertion that Russian leaders who were purged in 1936-1938 were falsely accused, will force a re-examination of all the frame-up trials which took place in Moscow at that time. We look forward to hearing these matters discussed at the forthcoming conference of the British Communist party.

**TORY FREEDOM BEGINS TO WORK:** As we go to press, the recession in the car industry spreads to the factories making car components and accessories. Unemployment and short time working in furniture, radio and television and other light industries is growing. These are the first fruits of MacMillan's Chancellorship. They result from the Tories' efforts to reduce home demand by cutting H.P., etc. just when things begin to get tougher in the export markets.

In the debate on Gaitskell's motion of censure, both he and Harold Wilson implied that the government was walking into unemployment with its eyes shut. Nothing could be more mistaken. The Tory fight against 'inflation' is a deliberate attempt to create a pool of unemployment. This is in response to the demands of Big Business, clearly expressed in the statement of the Bank chairman. The big employers (the small ones have a slightly different attitude) want to put an end to the full employment which, since the war, has prevented them from solving their economic problems by cutting down the living standards of their employees.

....(Cont'd on P.7)

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THE SOLUTION

To solve the problem of housing it is no use filling in with stop-gap measures for a year or two. To a socialist the solution is quite straight forward; The public ownership of the land, of building and of the building materials industry. This would make it possible to modernise the methods of house building and standarise building components (e.g. by the use of modular co-ordination). It would also mean that building workers instead of being forced by bonus schemes to produce shoddy work, would know that they were building houses for the people, not making profits for the bosses.

These measures would reduce the cost of houses tremendously. But building would still mean borrowing money and in order to bring housing from the shackles of interest, the nationalization of the banks and finance corporations would have to follow. In other words, to get enough houses for people to live in, we must get rid of the capitalist system. There is no other way, and it is the job of the Labour Party to begin putting forward a socialist policy for housing.

UNA MOUNTSTEPHEN  
Cities of London & Westminster C.L.P.

TORY FREEDOM (Cont'd from P.6)

In agreeing to the latest round of wage increases, the employers recognize that they are not yet strong enough to meet the Trade Unions head-on. They intend to wait for a while until the unemployment figures reach a "reasonable" level.

The Tory attack can be stopped, but the Labour Party right-wing leaders have no policy for doing this. As their speeches in the House of Commons implied, the Tories have nothing but contempt for motions of censure and other Parliamentary tricks. Only by mobilising the forces of the entire Labour movement behind a campaign to bring down the Conservative government can the employers' offensive be halted.

But to do this, a Socialist policy, which alone can deal with the problems facing us, is required. It is the task of the left wing of the movement to provide the basis for such a policy.

DAY SCHOOL: A day school is to be organised by Streatham Youth Section on SUNDAY 18th of MARCH at 3.00p.m. The school will be held at the LABOUR HALL, EASTWOOD STREET, STREATHAM, which is reached by 57 and 95 buses from Streatham Hill S.R. Station.

First Session: THE COLONIAL REVOLUTION  
Speaker: Mike Vanderpoorten

Second Session: LABOUR'S POLICY TODAY  
Speaker: Cyril Smith

ALL LABOUR PARTY YOUTH SECTIONS ARE WELCOME



THE BANK RATE AND THE WAGE CLAIMS

How is the increase in the Bank Rate going to affect the wage claims now being negotiated between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the employers? Will it force the employers to a hardening of their attitude towards these claims? The statement made by the British Employers Confederation which attacked the nationalized industries for conceding wage increase "far greater than private industry could dare to pay", would seem to indicate that the employers have a go-ahead to launch a wage freeze. But this is one side of the picture. It may be that the employers will be unable at this stage to resist these claims without a substantial measure of unemployment having first been created.

What is the relation between the increase in the Bank Rate and the wage struggle? The 5% reflects the seriousness of the economic crisis, for this measure means an increase in the cost of production to manufacturers, and will have therefore the effect of cutting the amount of goods made for the home market. But does not this increase inflation? It does, and so the problem is really one of reducing demand. But how to reduce demand? - By the traditional Tory method of reducing the general level of earnings. The same solution is being attempted in the effort to compete for foreign markets: costs must be cost - that is wages and earnings must be cut.

This is what separates the present wages struggle from any other since the end of the war. The honeymoon period between employers and employed is over. There is an awareness among industrial workers that the wage demand is not just a fight against the employers for more pay, but against Tory policy of which rent increases etc., are but a foretast of what is to come.

For the older workers perhaps, boom periods and slump conditions, were part of the order of things - not so for the young workers in industry, who will not take kindly to a worsening of his living standards, or a place in the queue at the Labour Exchange. For the youth of the country, the coming period may give them their first real taste of a fight to maintain a decent standard of living.

LLOYD OLSON  
Member of A.E.U.

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All articles are the personal opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board.

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