

# Keep Left

The Paper For Socialist Youth

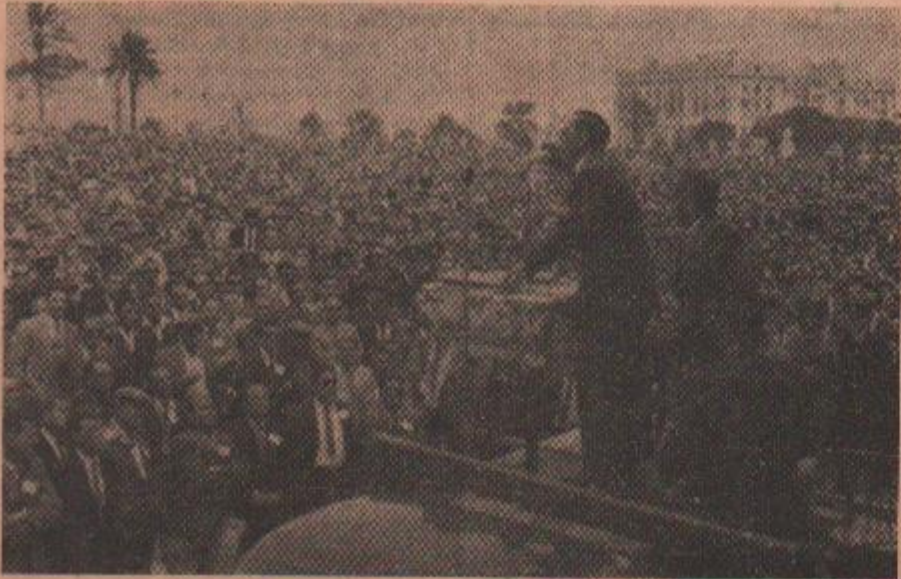
Vol. 7 No. 5

May 1958

## RENOUNCE THE BOMB

### Youth Say: Future is at Stake

#### Maltese Labour Fights Tories



Dom Mintoff Addresses April 1st Rally  
(See Article on Back Page)

## Clydeside Apprentices Launch Campaign

JOE O'NEIL, Secretary, Glasgow Junior Workers' Committee, A.E.U.

**T**HE fight for wages has started. All over the Clydeside apprentices are becoming organised. Factory gate meetings are being held and an expression of full support is being voiced. The apprentices are angry at the recent rejection of their justified wage increase after more than three years of negotiation.

This wage claim for apprentices asked for increases ranging from £2 1s. 9d. at 15 to £1 7s. 4d. at 20, making the total wage £4 9s. 7d. to £7 5s. 0d.

The Clydeside Campaign Committee are working for three nights every week and propagating their case in any spare time. They are arranging a contingent for the May Day demonstration.

A conference has been organised for 18th May and a circular has gone out from the Glasgow Junior Workers Committee to committees all over the country inviting them to send delegates.

"All apprentices welcome this claim, as nothing makes them more angry than the scandalous wages they receive from their employers.

"Profits and dividends continue to

increase, but our wages stand still. We serve as cheap labour to swell the bosses' profits."

This is an extract from a leaflet of which 5,000 copies are being distributed.

I must remark on the esteem in which "Keep Left" is held. More and more young apprentices are reading it and I have been receiving congratulations on its behalf from the lads themselves.

They are pleased with the way it is giving much needed space to our struggles.

I say to all young workers "Keep fighting and remember that the might of Clydeside is behind you".

**W**HY are youth in the forefront of the fight against the H-bomb? Why did great contingents of young people march to Aldermaston? The answer is simple. It is our future that the British statesmen are gambling with. What chance have we of knowing what peace and Socialist prosperity may bring us and our children, when we have already been warned that, because of hydrogen weapon tests in the world today, our future is hanging in the balance?

### APPRENTICES QUIZ CARRON

**W**ILLIAM CARRON, President of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was among the delegates of the Annual Conference of the National Committee of that union lobbied by apprentice engineers on 30th April.

Mr. Carron answered questions put to him by fifteen delegates from Junior Workers' Committees (including Barrow-in-Furness) on their wages claim which has been rejected by the employers.

He was asked for his views on the present level of wages for apprentices. The apprentice delegates felt that he was apathetic as he stated that he personally could not do anything about them.

He could only do what his committee told him. The impression was gained by the apprentices that he would not put himself out on their behalf.

The President also stated that he could not assure apprentices of an increase in wages until the Union had both the apprentices and adult workers in the industry fully organised.

One of the apprentices asked "How come then that the Union brought out its members on strike recently when workers in the industry were not fully organised?" The answer was "No comment".

At this point Carron terminated the interview stating he was hungry. However, he gave apprentices the assurance that he would give the matter as much attention as was within his power.

#### A STRICT WATCH

Engineering apprentices must watch over the next few months just how much attention he pays to their wages.

Copies of a leaflet were distributed to other delegates to the Conference, all of whom indicated that the wages of apprentices were disgusting and it was about time something was done.

Two resolutions of interest to young engineering workers were discussed at the Conference.

Firstly, a resolution was passed which asked the E.C. to press the employers to pay for apprentices' school books and instruments which were needed for lessons.

Secondly, a motion, which was not voted on, was discussed relating to the limitation of the number of apprentices employed by firms in proportion to the number of adult workers.

There were mixed feelings amongst National Committee members on this subject, some feeling that a national rule should be established while others favoured leaving it to local agreement.

Most of the delegates from the Junior Workers' Committees who were present at this session as visitors, supported the latter course.

The rising feeling in the rank and file of the Labour Party, especially amongst the youth, for the complete refusal of the next Labour Government to make, test or use the H-bomb, is becoming more widespread, as members realise the absolute folly of the defence plans of the Tories, aided by Eisenhower and Dulles of course.

What advantage do we gain by retaining the bomb? I, myself, cannot think of one valid one. Is it a deterrent? What chance do we stand in a Hydrogen War whether we in Britain have the bomb or not?

We cannot hope for peace in the world when we ourselves are making weapons to destroy it. The cold war, the tension, the deadlock, the accusations continue. The tests continue, and more and more people die in the world each year of leukaemia due to the strontium in the atmosphere.

Already France is talking of testing hydrogen weapons in the Sahara; Germany is to be armed with atomic weapons; Britain continues her manufacture of nuclear weapons; America is holding a new series of tests in the summer; Russia has just held a series in Siberia. The situation is explosive.

What can we do?

#### CEASE MANUFACTURE

The Labour Party and the Trade Union Congress declaration of 6 March, 1958, does not go far enough. No far-reaching decision can be agreed upon at Summit Talks until Britain shows the way by ceasing the manufacture and testing of hydrogen weapons.

Therefore, the mere suggestion of the temporary suspension of nuclear tests as the declaration states is not enough. It says "no physical steps should be taken to set up Rocket Bases before a fresh attempt has been made to negotiate with the Soviet Government".

Why build Rocket Bases at all? America wants them here. They are expensive. What use will they be to us? They will only be a liability and a danger.

Surely this declaration is not in line with the feelings of majority of Labour Party members. These feelings should be advertised.

#### PROPAGATE OUR VIEWS

On every available opportunity we should put forward the case for the complete cessation of the manufacture and testing of the H-bomb. Speak at your work, in your Youth Section, Union Branch, Ward and Constituency. Speak to your relations, friends, neighbours, workmates and fellow Labour Party members. Hold meetings and demonstrations. Get the people talking.

You can help, thus, to prevent Britain rushing headlong into a third World War which will certainly be the end of Britain and the whole world.

CAROLINE MacKENZIE,  
Pentlands Youth Section.

#### In This Issue

Malta Fights Unemployment

Support the Busmen!

May Day Greetings

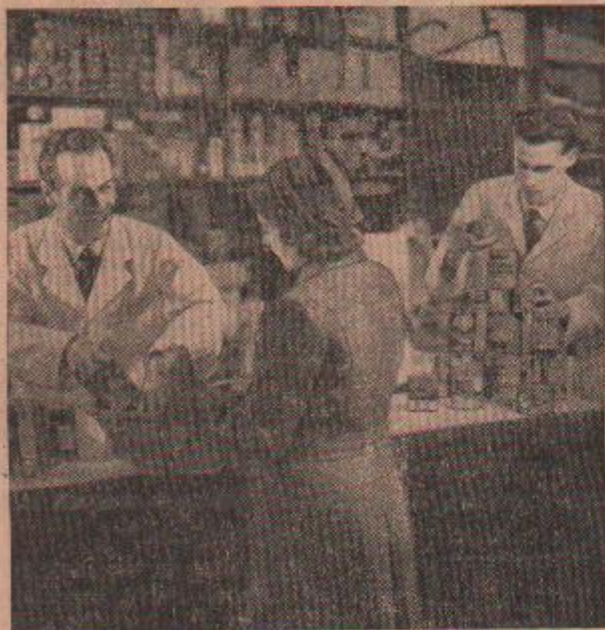
Clydeside Campaign

Behind the Counter

Union Youth Need Organization



# BEHIND THE COUNTER



The Co-ops close their food shops at 1 o'clock every Saturday.

## Youth in Industry (No. 5)

**C**LOCK on, put your coat away, rush to the cash office for the float, then down to the counter—so starts another long day for a shop-assistant in a big store. In busy periods run off their feet until they are fit to drop, and when the sales are on and the weeks before Christmas and Easter wondering how they are going to get through the day. Then in slack periods, standing around for hours, and having to look busy when the G.M. or D.M.'s are around.

When a customer enters a store their eyes gaze only on the gay display and rarely do they see the assistants, so, let us look at the girls and lads behind the bright lights and well stocked counters.

Liverpool store, an assistant was actually sacked for refusing to stop wearing a coloured pullover.

So much for shop work. What are the wages like for this tedious and thankless job? On an average of 22 years, £5 18s. for females and £8 4s. for males. Some stores pay commission, but, the wages are slightly lower when they do.

So far as very young people are concerned, a boy of 15 years averages about £3 10s., a girl £2 10s. All these figures being outside the London area, this being 5/- to 10/- higher.

—by—  
**Maureen Connor**  
Youth Section  
Member of Liverpool Exchange

As like as not, you will find a bored, footsore assistant only living for the warning light, bell or buzzer to go, so that they can rush off home.

After working behind a counter for any length of time, one can appreciate and feel sorry when an assistant serving you gets exasperated, because one finds it so easy to resent the customers one is serving all day long, and really dislike the awkward ones, and feel thankful to the easy ones, who in some cases are being put off with anything.

### FEEL SUFFOCATED

In the big stores there is rarely a happy medium as far as heating and ventilation are concerned. The heat and dust is either pressing down on the assistant to such an extent that they feel they will suffocate, or, they are placed by a constantly opening door and in winter, a lucky not to freeze to death.

Girls in the big stores are expected to look smart and buy their own black dress, only in exceptional cases are overalls supplied. Males are expected to wear dark suits, and in one case in a

### CO-OPS PAY MORE

The Co-operative Societies pay between 10/- to £1 more than privately owned shops and stores. It is significant that the Co-op's are 100 per cent. trade union membership, consequently, having the highest wages, good conditions and as far as the food shops are concerned a 5-day week.

The demand for a 5-day week is predominant in the minds of all shop workers, although at the moment it is taking second place to a very much needed wage increase. One further reason why the employers find it difficult to get and keep shop assistants, apart from the low wages, is the fact that they have to work all day Saturday.

### HEMMED IN

Naturally, when other workers are off, shop workers want to be off too. When football matches are being played, husband and sweethearts are off, the unfortunate shop assistant is hemmed in behind a counter.

There have been lots of arguments from the employers as to why a 5-day week would not work, but, every shop worker knows that it can work, and in fact it does work as far as the Co-op's are concerned, they close their food shops at 1 o'clock every Saturday. Apart from this, the extra half day could be staggered, the beginning of the week being a quieter time, particularly in big stores.

### BUMPER PROFITS

The hours worked in most shops are around 46 hours per week, 44 hours in Co-ops. In most cases assistants work some daily overtime without pay.

The pay increases which are being negotiated at the moment are being held up by the employers, using the usual delaying tactics, and this avoids paying until the last moment. Here again the Co-ops have already given their staffs a rise.

The trading profits of 205 retail companies were 6.4 per cent. greater in 1956/57 than in 1955/56. This information was uncovered by the research department of U.S.D.A.W and published with many more revealing figures by the union's fortnightly journal, "New Dawn".

### 100 PER CENT UNION

Looking at the facts there appears to be not much of a future in shop work, unless the shop assistants take an active part in their trade union U.S.D.A.W. The demands for wage increases and a 5-day week can only be won by the people involved, the assistants, by making sure that their store or shop is 100 per cent. trade union membership, taking the example from the Co-ops, and quickly catching up and out-stripping their gains.

## Books

### From Slave Songs . . .

Jazz, by Rex Harris (Pelican Books)

FOR a long time there has been a need for a comprehensive History of Jazz, and in this book Rex Harris has attempted to fulfil this need.

Certainly the most successful part of the book is the section which deals with the early origins of Jazz and its development from slave and work songs. The sociological basis for the music is given its full significance and the background is painted by many vivid quotations from early work songs and blues.

However, as the book progresses there is a growing tendency to disregard the social factors which have played such a great part in the formation of different "Schools" of Jazz.

### CHICAGO MUSIC

This is particularly noticeable in the section on Chicago music of the late twenties and early thirties. As the World situation worsened during this period, all the popular trends in music played more and more their role of frenzied diversions, and this had a profound effect on the Jazz of the day.

The author errs in as much as he attributes these changes too much to individuals and not enough to the times which produced them.

### EARLY WHITE JAZZ

For example, in the chapter on early white Jazz he makes this rather remarkable statement, "Jazz did not arise from the gutter as so many of its opponents have insisted; it was forced into the gutter by its non-acceptance in polite society."

This statement belies the earlier sociological approach of the book and gives some clue to the motives of the author in writing it. It would seem that he is trying his best to claim Jazz as the rightful property of "polite society" which it never was and indeed, by its very nature, never could be.

### TOKEN ATTEMPT

Harris only makes a token attempt to evaluate the "modern" trends in Jazz at the end of the book, and in so doing leaves himself wide open to the most biting criticism.

His complete inability to appreciate anything more "modern" than Lester Young is yet another indication of his purely "cultural" approach to Jazz, and he finds himself quite unable to bring into line the introspective turn taken by Jazz during and after the second world war.

He makes the mistake of lumping to-

gether the popular music of the day with the music of Charlie Parker and his followers, which was anything but popular.

Jazz had scarcely been less commercial since the days of the New Orleans marching bands and it was rather the "Traditional Revival" of the post war era, praised so much by the author which bore the marks of tin-pan-alley.

Notwithstanding these criticisms which I feel compelled to make, I consider this to be the most authentic and exhaustive work on the subject of Jazz yet written and I recommend anyone who is remotely interested in the subject to read it.

## Support the Busmen

G. FARENDEN, Driver, Hendon Garage

**T**HE London bus dispute has been in negotiation since last August and throughout this time there have been rises in the cost of living and the Tory Rent Act has resulted in ridiculous rises in rents under the threat of "Pay up or get out" by Tory landlords.

In order to get out of their failure to recruit sufficient staff to man London's buses (and to hold the existing staff), the L.T.E. saw fit to introduce their bus cuts under the cover of "economy cuts" so putting the extra work on the present staff with no reward for labour.

The tribunal award was not one of impartiality but under the influence of the present Government was trying to split one section of busmen against the other. It did not come off, as the busmen say we want a justified wage for all for the extra burden now placed upon us.

### A PROPOSITION

The present bus cuts due to operate on the 30th are by no means a service to the public and will result in reduced earnings for busmen. We are not prepared to accept this on any condition.

Salary increases have been given to the L.T.E. directors. This money has been found and so the thousands of pounds that will be saved by the economy cuts could be used in paying the London busmen a decent wage to prevent him leaving his job. Many men come on the buses, stay a couple of months, and then resign, saying they want real pay for such work.

The Tories are out to attack the living standards of the working class and this

dispute is not only the fight of the busmen but the fight of all trade unionists to put a stop to the Tories' aim of going back to the 1920's.

We are prepared to fight and win and are prepared to give our best for a justified wage, but until then we withdraw our labour.

I ask Labour Youth Sections to give us their support by putting motions through their General Management Committees calling on the Party leadership to express support publicly for the busmen, and asking the local Party to offer its rooms as strike committee rooms to the local busmen.

### LONDON SCHOOLS' LEFT CLUB

A political club for left wing students has opened in London. It is called the London Schools' Left Club and stands at 7, Carlisle St., Soho Square, W.1.

All young socialists are invited to join the club (membership 5s. a year—non members 9d. a meeting). It plans to run a series of discussion meetings on politics and the arts. On May 9th, Michael Foot will speak on "What is Socialism" and Lindsay Anderson talks on "Can the Cinema Survive" on 16th May.



# SOCIALIST GREETINGS

## To Young People Everywhere

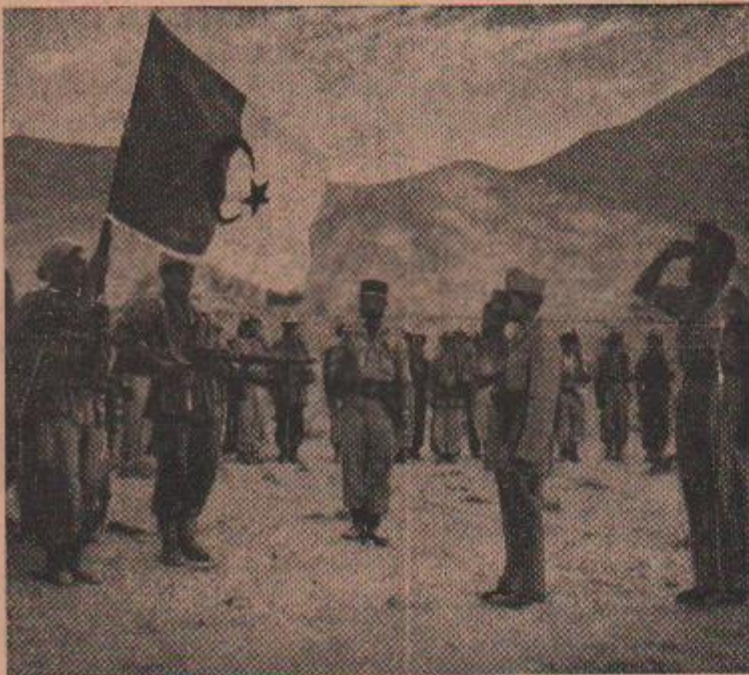
**M**AY DAY has been chosen by the international Labour movement as a day of internationalism and struggle. This May Day 1958, "Keep Left" stands with the colonial peoples and sends fraternal greetings to all young people fighting for national self-determination.

All the old colonial empires are crumbling. Throughout the world the most exploited and poverty stricken section of the population refuses to continue to fill the coffers of British and French Big Business.

Since the end of the second world war, the peasants of India and China, the landless African, the Arabs, Cypriots, Malayans and Algerians, have demonstrated their strength. The colonial people have said "Enough!" and thousands of British and French troops are unable to defeat them.

In expressing our support for the colonial people we recognise that the main task of the British working class is the defeat of the Tories and the class they represent. Our job is to get rid of the Tory Government and introduce a socialist economy in this country. This is the

### ALGERIA



*"... complete independence"*

greatest contribution we can make to the colonial peoples. A socialist Britain can end the present bloodshed by granting unconditional self-determination to all present British colonies.



**GREETINGS** to the people of Algeria who have waged their fight for independence for four years and to the young French conscripts who refused to take up arms against the rebels.

### CYPRUS

*we wish Cypriot youth success*



### KENYA



*release all prisoners!*

We express our solidarity with the M.N.A., the National Algerian Movement, and to its veteran leader Messali Hadj. Our hand of friendship goes out to the Algerian workers in France who demand the withdrawal of troops and complete independence for their country.



**GREETINGS** to the people of Malaya. We give our support to the recent declaration of the Malayan Labour Party which stated that the presence of foreign troops on Malayan soil was incompatible with independence and demanded their withdrawal.

The Tory Government fears that the Malayans may take over the rubber and tin industries and so keeps its troops around on the pretext of fighting "terrorists".



**GREETINGS** to the people of Cyprus, and particularly to the young students and schoolchildren who are in the forefront of their struggle for self determination. "Keep Left" wish the Cypriot youth success and pledge them our support in 1958.

Greeks and Turks have lived peacefully side by side for years on this island. The enmity between these two nationalities has been engineered to suit the Tory policy of "divide and rule". Partition is no solution. The withdrawal of troops, and complete independence with equality between nationalities is the only solution for the Cypriot people.



**GREETINGS** to the people of Kenya. The population of this country is made up of six million Africans and only a quarter of a million Europeans and Asians. Today, the Africans campaign for half the elected representatives in their Parliament to be African.

We send fraternal greetings to Tom Mboya and the other seven African leaders who are to be tried at the end of May on charges of incitement in relation to this campaign.



The next Labour Government must withdraw all troops from Kenya, let the African people draw up their own constitution and restore all land to the Africans.



The interests of the Labour and Trade Union youth of Britain are the same as those of the students of Cyprus, the young fighters of the Algerian Liberation Army and the Arab peoples still struggling to liberate themselves from the yoke of Imperialism and its feudal satraps, and the landless African. Their enemies are our enemies. Their struggle is our struggle. We are both opposed to the British Tories and Big Business.



Our May Day Greeting must include a tribute to the youth of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Far East in their opposition to bureaucracy in those countries.

We send socialist greetings to the young students of Poznan, to the workers of Poland and Yugoslavia, and the many thousands of young

**ALGERIANS IN FRANCE**



*solidarity with the MNA*

**KENYA**



*restore the land!*

Hungarian workers who revolted for real socialist democracy not long ago.

The youth of these countries have not demonstrated in favour of a return to capitalism, but for an end to bureaucracy. The lesson of the Hungarian and Poznan uprising is the need for the creation of a new workers' party to overthrow this bureaucratic clique. Events to date indicate that young people will be in the vanguard of such a party.



We send May Day Greetings to all our readers and ask Labour Youth Sections and Trade Union branches to pass motions at their meetings this month calling for:

- 1 THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL BRITISH TROOPS AND
- 2 SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE COLONIAL PEOPLE.



**MALAYA**

*Foreign troops on Malayan soil are incompatible with independence*

**Workers of the World Unite!**



# Union Youth Need Organization

## WHY MAY DAY?

IT was in 1889 that the first Congress of the Second International, meeting in Paris, decided that one day in the year should be set aside for universal working class demonstrations in support of specific demands.

At that time, major battles were being waged throughout the international labour movement for the eight hour day and it was decided to organise demonstrations in support of this day.

The day chosen was May 1st and although this has been a day of traditional celebrations of the passing of winter since primitive times, the choice was made upon more immediate grounds.

Three years earlier, on May 1st, 1886, Chicago workers had come out on strike for the eight hour day. Several of the prominent leaders of the strike were anarchists who pointed out to the workers the evils of capitalism and when police made baton charges on the picket lines and attacked peaceful demonstrators, emphasised the role of the state machine in relation to the workers' struggles.

At one demonstration, as armed police arrived to disperse the crowd, a bomb was thrown resulting in the death of seven policemen; the culprit was never discovered but it was almost certainly the work of an employers' agent.

### REIGN OF TERROR

At once a reign of terror was unleashed against the labour movement, mass arrests were made, labour papers were suppressed or censored. Eight anarchists were arrested and charged with first degree murder.

The trial was a farce, no evidence whatsoever being offered against the accused, instead, their radical opinions were paraded before the court as "proof" of their guilt.

As a result of a press campaign and hand picking of the jury, they were found guilty and sentenced to death.

After world wide protests and pressure, four of the men had their sentences commuted to fifteen years imprisonment, but the remaining three (one had died in gaol) were executed in November 1887.

Seven years later, Governor Altgeld of Illinois went over the records, declared the trial unfair, the evidence insufficient, and freed the imprisoned men. He was "rewarded" by being driven from office by big business at the next election.

### LONDON DEMONSTRATION

The first May Day demonstrations in Europe were a tremendous success, widespread strikes and demonstrations took place in spite of the fact that demonstrations and processions had been banned.

The main demonstration was held in London on Sunday, May 4th, 1890, when about 100,000 people joined the procession and 250,000 people gathered in Hyde Park.

Prominent in the gathering were the dockers, whose battle for the now legendary "dockers' tanner" the previous year had inspired the whole movement.

The movers of the resolution at the Congress in 1889 intended that the workers should force the observance of May Day by direct action if necessary and indeed many sanguinary battles with the police have taken place on the continent to further this aim.

When we celebrate May Day 1958, let us remember the struggles of those early pioneers and inject the same sense of internationalism and struggle into our opposition to the Tory Government and the class it represents.

LEN BISHOP

TODAY there is a rapid political development of youth towards the Labour Party. Unemployment, and changing conditions within British industry are drawing young men and women into political activity and the work of the Party Youth Sections has been given tremendous punch by the emergence of "Keep Left" as a monthly newspaper, owned and controlled by young Socialists.

However, the considerable advances made in the building of the Labour Youth Sections has to a very large degree left the young industrial worker on the outside.

In all but a few trade unions, such as the Scottish Miners and the A.E.U., young trade unionists are given no special facilities to discuss the type of problems which affect them.

Apprenticeship; day release; overtime and night work; national service; recreation, etc., are all special problems upon which most young workers have strong views.

Some method is needed whereby the views of young trade unionists can be adequately ventilated and acted upon, thus ensuring that a union's policy with regard to youth can be framed in full awareness of the views of those concerned.

### LEADERSHIP RELUCTANT TO ACT

The T.U.C. and the Scottish T.U.C. when confronted with this question proclaim that "it is not our job to interfere in the affairs of individual unions unless specifically invited to do so".

It is true that some of the very small unions could not finance any really effective youth work, but most of these unions are affiliated to federations or amalgamations who could.

It is also true that in larger general unions difficulties in organising young people do arise, but one of the major reasons for this is precisely because no steps are taken to win them on a basis

of catering for the special needs of young workers.

The responsibility does not lie with the young worker, but with the leaders who refuse to stimulate interest among young people in trade union affairs. The "pay your bob and you're in" practice may justify some officials' salaries but it is no foundation upon which to build any kind of workers' movement.

We can see the necessity for allocat-

by

**James Kerr**

Scots TUC Youth Advisory Council

ing to youth its rightful place in British trade unionism by ensuring that at all levels

- young members are encouraged to be represented;
- every effort be made to organise youth committees with full rights to discuss and decide upon the questions which they themselves choose to discuss.

Similarly, of course, with the Trades Councils, which are composed of local delegates representing union branches from all sections of industry. A Trades Council youth committee would bring into contact with each other, workers of widely differing jobs possessing different approaches and a greater opportunity would arise for more

general discussion.

As recently as last December, the Scottish T.U.C. Youth Conference decided by a considerable majority to declare themselves in strong support of such committees and this will go before the general Council.

### YOUTH ORGANISATIONS NECESSARY

Many Trades Councils are sympathetic towards the idea of developing youth committees and, as has been witnessed with "Keep Left", a number of go ahead young militants are capable of gaining the support and respect of large sections of the movement.

The lack of industrial organisation amongst youth remains a tragic weakness in the whole structure of the working class movement. If the leadership refuses to do the job for us and provide the facilities we require, then we must press the demands home ourselves.

Youth organisations are not luxuries but very real necessities. It is not enough to organise a week-end school or an odd meeting or two when what is required is a permanent youth movement with powers and responsibilities.

We are being neither complacent nor smug when we say that it is we who are the really important people in future struggles of the working class. We are fully justified in demanding our rightful place in our movement and demanding it now.

**A Youth Movement in every Union;**

**A Youth Section for every Trades Council.**

In this way will the political and industrial experiences of Britain's young workers be brought together. The movement will benefit by being stronger, more confident, and a hell of a lot more active.

Larry Phillips'

## Notes and Quotes

OVER ten thousand people gathered in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, April 13th, for the meeting called by the Labour Party and T.U.C. launching their campaign for the halting of Britain's nuclear tests. The main speakers were Gaitskell and Bevan.

In their speeches both of the Labour Party leaders called for the cessation of H-bomb tests and summit talks. However, the crowd as a whole was disappointed by the lack of any real lead from the speakers.

After the meeting a contingent of about 400 formed up and in spite of police objections marched through the West End to Hyde Park Corner shouting slogans and carrying banners calling for the trade unions to act against the bomb. Most striking was the fact that the marchers consisted almost entirely of young people. I counted three Youth Section banners, those of Norwood, Hendon and Shoreditch and Finsbury.

### BLUE BUDGET

Mr. Amory, with his budget, has demonstrated his loyalty to true blue politics. The offensive against wages is to continue. This is the outstanding feature of last month's budget.

Unemployment is almost double that of last year as a result of the restrictions on investment. All the signs of a declining economy are here. What do the Tories offer?

"If wage increases go beyond the national increase in productivity, this is bound to damage the national interest."

Fight inflation by keeping wages down, they say. Of course the shot in the arm that profits would receive from

a decrease in real wages is purely incidental. The nation's interests must come first! Labour must show the Tories that the "nation" is not entirely composed of shareholders, landowners and stockbrokers.

### BRASSHATS AND BOSSES

Nineteen female army recruiters, all slicked up in special Hartnell designed uniforms, have just completed a three day course in selling the army by high powered sales methods. Tutored by the sales boss of a Leicester firm and a Cambridge graduate, the well tailored sergeants were given the latest gimmicks on how to lure 'teenage girls into the army.

The recruiters were told "Some industrial firms are offering first-class careers. But too many girls are not employed by that sort of boss." They can say that again!

"There may be civilian employers who have lots to offer, canteens, a sports ground and a social centre. But for every one of these, there are ten thousand who want the girls to work for scrappy little firms, in scruffy little back streets, in scruffy little towns."

"They are the girls who want adventure and more in their pockets than they ever had."

Amongst the points put forward for recruiting was "Close the deal smartly". (They might have added—"Before the mug gets away.")

We find that the Tories and their mates at the War Office give a truthful picture of industry when it suits their purpose. When they want to build an army they are prepared to admit that our bosses are not the generous fellows that they would usually have us believe.

£. s. d.

This is a six page issue to celebrate May Day. Let us know your views on it!

We would like to have an extra page every month, but this depends on you! If Youth Sections paid bills promptly, we could increase the size of our paper immediately.

Has your Section settled up for the March and April issues? We ask Youth Section members to make sure their Secretary or Treasurer sends in the money regularly.

Glasgow Junior Workers' Committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union sends fraternal greetings to all young workers everywhere and we sincerely hope that MAY DAY 1958 will be the beginning of a new era of militancy in the history of the working youth movement.

Willie McLean, Chairman  
Joe O'Neil, Secretary

### READERS' MEETING

As promised at our last meeting in October, we will be holding another Readers' Meeting during June to discuss the contents of the paper.

We ask Youth Sections, particularly those unable to attend, to send their comments on the contents and role of the paper to the Editor for discussion at the meeting. We hope to meet many of our readers at this meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a Skiffle Social. Full details will be circulated later.



# Malta Fights Unemployment

ONCE again the people of Malta are fighting a battle in a vital bid for survival. This time their foe is totally different from that of 1565 and 1941. Those two great sieges left the George Cross Island with a name that will long be remembered by all nations.

Now for the third time, it seems, this thickly populated Island must again fight for her freedom, with the difference that the people must fight the country that for 150 years has ruled their 125 square miles.

What causes this turmoil and crisis? It is quite simple to understand. Due to the cuts in defence expenditure—to have more money available for H-bombs and rockets—Malta is being forced to suffer and her economy made to feel the Sandys axe.

The Maltese have been told that there is going to be a lot of unemployment on the island; 30 per cent of the dockyard workers are to be thrown to the dogs by 1960.

The Prime Minister of Malta, the dynamic Dom Mintoff, has asked "for the implementation of long term economic proposals" to ensure the livelihood of his people.

He asks for measures to be taken now "to make good the damage inflicted

through reductions in defence expenditure".

Dom Mintoff wants safeguards to prevent hardship and suffering. On the other hand, the Colonial Secretary wants to postpone these and insists on withholding any action whatsoever until the situation becomes hopeless, until the level of unemployment has continued to worsen for more than six months.

He wants Mintoff to make the people pay more taxes, raise public loans and use investments backing the Note Security Fund. If the British Government cannot pay the Maltese people, then we Maltese will try our fortunes elsewhere.

This struggle is going to cost the British people—who are as innocent as the Maltese—much money. We do not see why ordinary people on both sides must suffer because of the stupidity of the Tories.

LUCY AGIUS

## Spotlight

### Bradford City Youth Section

MAY we introduce you to Bradford, a city with a long Socialist history and the home of the I.L.P. It has produced many famous personalities including J. B. Priestley and Delius, the composer.

Bradford is the centre of the woollen industry for which it is renowned. It is situated in a valley and because there are many factories in the centre of town it is a dirty, grey city. But the Labour Council is among the most progressive in the country as regards "smokeless zones".

#### SLUMS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Many new housing estates are springing up in all parts of the city. Consequently many slum areas are being demolished. There is also Odsal Stadium—known as "the Wembley of the North".

At the moment there is increasing unemployment and short time working in textiles and it is against this background that seven members of the Labour Party meet every Sunday.

The Section has been functioning since last June and our programme ranges over all kinds of political and social events.

#### TRAMP SUPPER

Among our most successful activities have been a Tramp Supper when we ate hot dogs by candlelight—and left a strong odour of onions in the building; Christmas and Valentine parties to which members from other Sections in the neighbourhood were invited, and last September, a dance. We have also planned play reading evenings and have already read Shaw's "Pygmalion".

On 13th April we are holding an "Any Questions" evening, the panel being the two Labour M.P.s and the two parliamentary candidates for Bradford. The Questionmaster, one of our own members, was chosen to represent Yorkshire

in the semi-finals of the National Youth Speaking Contest.

Last month we organised a debate with another section on "Should people of 18 be allowed to vote" and their arguments against this motion were so good that it was defeated.

On the political side we have had speakers on "Housing" and "What is Socialism", and one member led a discussion on "Education" and three others have volunteered to talk on other policy documents, whilst in November we are holding a week-end school.

#### ELECTRONIC POLICE

Later in the year we are going to visit the new electronic police headquarters. A hike has been planned for the end of May—we shall have had plenty of training for that because we are now canvassing for the forthcoming elections.

The Secretary of the Section works in the regional office of the Party in Leeds; the Chairman had his photograph in the local press a few weeks ago because "he is one of the youngest Chairmen in the country"; and the Treasurer was the speaker in our team for the Speaking Contest.

So, even though we say it ourselves, we are a lively lot!

#### CONSCRIPTS REGISTER

18-year-old lads will be registering for their national service on SATURDAY, JUNE 14th.

Keep Left has published a special leaflet for distribution at Labour Exchanges on that day, setting out our case for the abolition of conscription and urging the reader to join the Labour Party.

Copies of this leaflet are 1/- per hundred. Please order from the Editor together with copies of Keep Left on sale or return basis.

## 'Strike? Our Chaps are Solid'

A young power signal lineman, working in the signal depot at Earls Court, stated that the application for a wage increase is entirely separate from the issue of efficiency of the railways.

In his opinion these were two separate issues. He felt that increased wages to meet rises in the cost of living should be met by a Government subsidy.

"If after that the London Transport wanted to raise the question of efficiency and sacking some railway workers then the answer to this was shorter working hours for all."

The N.U.R. had applied for a 40 hour week and this would cut down costs.

This lineman actually worked an average of 52 hours a week all the year round. He pointed out, however, that this was peculiar to his job.

The official hours are 44 but many railway staff work far longer hours due to understaffing.

He pointed out that £36 million a year compensation is paid out to former shareholders before the railways can make 1d. profit, and suggested that this money would be far better spent in other ways.

I asked about the attitude of his mates to strike action. He said that if no wage increase was offered the Union would call for strike action and the chaps in his depot would come out immediately.

He felt it likely that there would even be an unofficial strike but

thought it difficult to assess whether this would succeed. S.J.

"I hope there will not be any need for a strike, but if there is I am sure all the younger members of the National Union of Railwaymen and the other two unions will join with me in backing our Unions."

These comments of a 19-year-old porter and member of the N.U.R. sum up quite conclusively the feelings of five young men at railway stations in the Portsmouth area of south Hampshire.

They were unanimous in their admiration and confidence of the action of the three unions concerned in approaching the Prime Minister.

They supported also the minority report of Mr. Edwin Hall in the Railway Staff National Tribunal report that wages and salaries should be immediately restored to the level of purchasing power in March 1957.

It was obvious, in their opinion, that the cost of living had increased since March 1957 and a direct refusal to grant proportionate pay increases to meet the rise in the cost of living could only cause a serious situation.

Only one person interviewed blamed the grave economic status of the railways on to the socialist principle of nationalisation.

However, even he did not argue about the theory of nationalisation—only the way it was carried out! G.H.

## Readers Forum

THE first four editions of your paper have added enthusiasm to the (as yet) sole member of the Wycombe Constituency Labour Party Youth Section.

There are many young people in Wycombe and elsewhere, who as yet, associate themselves with neither of the major political parties. I believe that Keep Left's vigorous and independent approach will be an excellent stimulant in attracting and interesting young people in Labour's Youth Sections.

You have requested ideas for the improvement of the journal. The only one possible, as you suggest, is an increased circulation in order to increase the size of the paper.

I hope that when the increase in size does occur "Keep Left" won't degenerate into the same category as "Challenge". On purchasing my first copy of "Challenge" it horrified me. All it turned out to be was a propaganda sheet

without the polish of "Hi's" design and attractiveness.

JOHN S. TURNER

AS a member of the Independent Labour Party I would like to answer Eugene Cairns's letter in the April issue of your paper.

I say that all young socialists in Glasgow should have been helping the Socialist candidate, namely William Park, I.L.P. I also say that all young socialists (no matter what party they belong to) in London should help the socialist candidate, Jim McKie, standing as a member of the I.L.P.

I would like comments on this letter from readers of Keep Left and if they would like to know something about the I.L.P. I will reply through this Readers' Forum.

GRAHAM CHILDS, Bilston I.L.P.

## Keep Left

#### RATES:

If ordering only 1 copy per month the rate will be: 3/- for a 6 months' subscription or 6/- for an annual subscription.

If ordering 6 copies or more per month the rate will be 4d. per copy, payable in advance, for first month.

NAME .....

ORGANISATION .....

ADDRESS .....

NUMBER REQUIRED MONTHLY .....

ENCLOSED: FIND CHEQUE/POSTAL

ORDER TO VALUE OF .....

Return to 43, Ranelagh Drive, Edgware, Middlesex.

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL YOUNG SOCIALISTS FROM TRIBUNE THE PAPER THAT LEADS THE ANTI H-BOMB CAMPAIGN