

Keep Left

The Paper For Socialist Youth

Vol. 7 No. 7

July 1958

H-BOMB: IT IS TIME FOR ACTION

Young Trade Unionists Must Help



JUNE 22: Not above politics

Picture by Courtesy of NEWS CHRONICLE

CONSCRIPTION

In Whose Interests?

GO away! You should know it's not very nice distributing leaflets about conscription. And with that the officials chased the Hendon North Youth Section off the premises and called the police. But the young people signing on at the Employment Exchange on June 14th who were handed the "Keep Left" leaflet calling for an immediate end to National Service didn't share the official's views.

In High Wycombe, 80 per cent of those interviewed were against conscription. At Brixton Exchange, only two of the people interviewed were in favour, including one boy who ostentatiously tore the leaflet up and scattered it over the road in front of the distributor.

Y.C.L. Bashful

It was in Brixton, too, that there was a pause for light entertainment when members of the local Young Communist League bashfully distributed a letter saying "Cut the Call-up Now!"

And so it went on, from the boy who didn't want to leave his girl friend, and who favoured strikes in the army to others who didn't like the idea of having to manage on a few bob a week and still others who didn't want to go to Cyprus.

A 15-year-old railway apprentice reckoned conscription was a waste of time "I've got a few years to go yet and I might be lucky enough to dodge it. Let them who want to do it go in, and leave those who don't alone!"

Youth pay the Price

"In whose interests?" asked the "Keep Left" leaflet. And it's clear that young people don't think it is in their interests to spend two years in the forces.

All over the world the colonial powers are fighting to hold on to their empires. All over the world it is the young conscripts of many countries who are doing the fighting and getting killed.

In Malaya, in Indo-China, in Cyprus and in Algeria, it is the youth who are used to suppress the colonial people. And yet it is the youth in these colonies who are fighting for their freedom.

End Conscription Now!

That's why the slogans on the "Keep Left" leaflet were: **End Conscription Now! Throw Out the Tories and Bring Labour to Power!**

Pages & Pennies

WE regret that owing to shortage of space several articles have been held over until our next issue.

The solution to the problem is an extra page. We want to include more news of apprentices, of Labour youth and students. We'd like to print more articles on questions that affect young people, spotlight incidents in the history of the Labour movement, and review topical books more frequently. More space is needed for your letters.

It's up to you. To get a six page "Keep Left" we need more money. Please settle your account every month instead of quarterly. Increase your sales by half-a-dozen by taking a few to work with you or to the G.M.C. Take a collection amongst members of your Youth Section for our Funds.

We ask all Youth Section secretaries and treasurers to settle any money owing by August 1st and let us know any criticisms or suggestions made by readers of the paper.

Mr. Frank Allam (Soc. M.P. Salford E.) asked Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Defence, if, "in view of the worsening situation in Cyprus", he would immediately stop sending National Servicemen there.

Mr. Sandys: "I don't see why!"

Mr. Allam: "Is it fair to send young conscripts and to use them not to defend our country, but to clear up the dirty mess the Government has created. And if it is intended to use the thousands of National Servicemen in Cyprus

to intervene in Lebanon, isn't that even more shameful and worrying to their parents?"

Mr. Sandys: "National Servicemen are an integral part of the British Army. Having seen something myself of the spirit of these men as they went off to Cyprus the other day, I am sure if they had been left out they would have been not only disappointed but many of them would have felt positively insulted." (Government cheers).

Hansard, 25th June 1958

THIS business of petitions and meetings is all very well, but something more is needed. I believe in industrial action against the manufacture of nuclear weapons." These words were spoken by a young electrician from Irchester, marching from Camden Town to Trafalgar Square in a demonstration organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and summed up the views of many of the young people who support this movement.

Twelve thousand people gathered in Trafalgar Square on June 22nd, many of them having marched through pouring rain from points in the suburbs which would be affected by one H-bomb dropped on central London. It was obvious that this campaign for the unilateral renunciation of nuclear weapons by Britain was not growing and the many marchers I talked to indicated the reason.

Friends of a 21-year-old boy from Clapham nodded in agreement as he said "It's a good thing to have meetings but they should be more militant. We need more noise and action".

"I WANT TO LIVE"

Keith Thompson, aged 18, from a Sutton youth club, stressed that we should aim at getting many more people to take action. His friend, two years younger, said simply "I want to live".

Ted Carter, aged 24, had very decided opinions. "I think all members of unions should refuse to work on rocket sites and I think the T.U.C. should organize demonstrations such as we have had today."

This desire to cease just walking and talking and show the Tories that power lay behind this movement came out again and again.

Evelyn Corrin of Hendon favoured civil disobedience: "Nothing violent like the suffragettes, but like refusing to pay taxes". An Oxford apprentice wanted to appeal to people in other countries to force their governments to give up nuclear weapons.

STOP WORK ON ROCKET SITES

April Carter, Secretary of the Direct Action Committee which organized the vigil in Whitehall, was emphatic that work on rocket sites must be stopped and support gained from Labour's rank and file.

The busman from Harrow Weald said a Labour government was needed which would be more likely to give way to mass pressure. He also welcomed the cessation of tests by the U.S.S.R. Two 17-year-old art teachers, a building apprentice, a Dulwich railwayman and a Lewisham schoolboy all told me "We must go further".

I think they are right. This issue is not "above politics" as those Stewards who prevented Labour Youth Sections

from carrying banners in the demonstration seemed to think.

Nuclear weapons are being manufactured by this Tory Government. The financiers, the big businessmen and the generals will not give up their weapons as a result of "friendly persuasion" or quiet demonstrations with "no unpleasantness".

The fact that this government holds down the colonial peoples by force and was only prevented from going to war over Suez by the power of the Labour movement shows their contempt for mere protests.

The only language the Tories understand is strength. "Negotiation from strength" are their actual words. Let's bring the whole strength of the working class into this fight for the right to live by calling on all trade unions to stop work on rocket bases and urging the Labour Party to pledge the next Labour government not to test, manufacture or use the H-bomb.

JANET SUTTON
Streatham Youth Section

CONFEDERATION LEADERS CRITICIZED

THE result of our claim will surely depend more on a better leadership in the unions and not so much on organization by the lads themselves." This was the view of one young trade unionist at the meeting called by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at the T.U.C. headquarters in Bloomsbury on July 1st, as a demonstration in the campaign for higher percentage wage rates for engineering apprentices.

He went on to point out that the only action the lads could take to back up the claim was strike action. The rest was up to the union leaders. The platform, which consisted of union leaders, was disconcerted by this statement and the applause which followed.

Nearly 300 apprentices attended this meeting which made three main demands: Higher percentage wage rates; 100 per cent trade union organization; an apprentice committee in every factory.

Bro. Foster of the A.E.U. and Bro. Baker of the Boilermakers' Union were the main speakers. Bro. Foster outlined the history of the struggle of apprentices for better wages and conditions since the 1920s. He pointed out that it was 13 years since the apprentice's percentage of the craftsman's rate had been increased.

A resolution, which was carried unanimously, thanked the Confederation for convening the meeting and hoped that further meetings would be held in the near future. It also urged lads in their branches and factories to make every attempt to arouse support for their just claim.

Keeping Left

WHY THEY MURDER

The murder of Nagy and his comrades demonstrates once more that the Hungarian Government and their Soviet masters dare not allow any focal point of resistance to their rule to remain uncrushed. Nagy represented the Hungarian people's wish, not to return to capitalism, but to build a genuine workers' state. He could not be broken and brought into court to "confess" to faked charges—so he and his friends were murdered in secret. The whole Labour movement must protest against this crime.

That alone is not enough. Just as in 1948 the frame-up of Rajk took place as part of a campaign of vilification against the Yugoslav regime; so today the Soviet bureaucrats are accusing Yugoslavs of being agents of imperialism. Though we have many criticisms of Tito we must be ready to defend the Yugoslav workers' state.

CYPRUS AND LABOUR

Since the announcement of the executions there has been the usual howl of protest from those who, while protesting against Soviet crimes, support the imperialist forces in their excesses against the colonial peoples. On the very evening that Mr. Gaitskell spoke at a protest meeting against the Nagy executions, the Parliamentary Labour Party was accepting the Tories' plan for denying self-determination to the Cypriot people!

The Labour movement must stand by its policy of self-determination for Cyprus as adopted at last year's Party Conference. There are 30,000 British troops in Cyprus to suppress the peoples' demand for self-determination. If necessary, they will be used to protect imperialist interests in the Lebanon. We must make it clear to the Tory Government that as at the time of Suez, we are ready to come out on to the streets to stop the use of British troops in the Lebanon.

PREPARE FOR NEXT ROUND

Now that the London buses are back on the streets it is time, not only to congratulate the busmen on their fight, but to draw the lessons of the strike.

It was obvious from the beginning that if the Tube men were brought out the strike was won. The fact that the N.U.R. leadership betrayed the busmen, and that the T.U.C. did nothing beyond collecting money, should be a warning to all sections of the trade union movement.

The Tory Government's attempts to smash a section of the organized workers has failed, but they will try again. We must ensure that next time the busmen, the dockers, the railwaymen, the miners, or the engineers do not fight alone.

WE MEAN BUSINESS

Start Carin' Carron!

Youth in Industry (No. 7)

I DON'T think I'm receiving adequate training in my department. Do you think I could be transferred?" This is a question that apprentices within the industry ask every day to their respective training supervisors and too often the answer is "No".

What sort of people are these "apprentice and training supervisors"? From my experience, both from meeting them and hearing about them from my friends, they seem to be throw-outs—bosses' favourites who have wangled their way into these sort of jobs—at a good salary as well. As a rule they appear to be too lazy to worry about the training of the apprentice.

This is just one of the many struggles in which the youth of today is involved.

Our biggest struggle is for increased wages. The present rates range from 22½ per cent at the age of 15 to 62 per cent at 20 years. We are demanding that this be raised to 52½ per cent and 90 per cent respectively, with similar adjustments to the rate for 16, 17, 18 and 19

—by—
Dave Simmons
Chairman, North London Junior Workers' Committee of the A.E.U. and member of Hampstead Youth Section

years of age. This would mean an average increase of £2 5s. 6d. per week.

UNION LEADERS APATHETIC

To win this increase we have to wage a fight not only against the employers, but also against the officials of the Amalgamated Engineering Union. It seems that these officials are apathetic towards our demand. They put forward no proposals as to what action is to be taken everytime it is refused by the employers.

We apprentices don't care what action the Executive Council of the A.E.U.

A CRYING SCANDAL

THE place . . . a wire works in South West London. The kind of workshop that Dickens might have written about—no heating, no lighting and dirt everywhere.

The time . . . three o'clock on a Friday afternoon. About a dozen lads, between sixteen and twenty-four years old, are sitting and chatting having a cup of tea. Two older chaps who work with them, doing bending, come across and say "Cheerio". What do you mean?" asks the 16-year-old. "We asked the old man for a rise and he gave us the sack," was the reply.

At clocking off time ten out of the thirteen lads ask for their cards. They tell the boss that while the other two men are out they'll do no work for him. "Go on, get out!" he shouts.

Monday morning arrives. The youngsters collect their cards and go off to look for another job.

One of them, however, is Chairman of a Labour Youth Section, and is not so dumb. He phones

the local office of the appropriate trade union and starts to explain what has happened.

"Are any of you members of the union," the voice at the other end cuts in. "If not, I'm afraid we cannot help you. We cannot give you any information or assistance unless you are a member," says the spokesman for the union at the other end.

So the trade union movement lost ten young militants. And those youngsters learned more about trade union officials in one minute than they could have learned by listening to a hundred of their speeches at Conferences.

The lesson of this true story is that all young workers should join their union and help to kick out such lazy "leaders".

P.S.
A week later the boss contacted the two benders and gave them their jobs back—with the wage increase which they had demanded. The lads had lost their jobs but had won their demand.

COVENTRY

MANY years ago the local inhabitants of Coventry were told by their overlord, Earl Leofric, to look the other way while Lady Godiva rode the streets. Today there stands in our city a statue of Godiva and an effigy of Peeping Tom.

Not far from these reminders of the past, is a reminder of the fact that we are celebrating twenty-one years of socialist rule in Coventry. Our main shopping centre was built as a pedestrian thoroughfare for the benefit and safety of the shoppers.

Coventry's industries include motor vehicles, aircraft, machine tools and textiles. When the backwash of the American recession reaches us and the Tories finish cutting the aircraft industry to pieces, the workers of Coventry will regret that they voted Tory at the elections.

There is a feeling in Coventry Youth Section that we should prepare for that time and help to put over to the youth of Coventry the philosophy of socialism.

MANY OCCUPATIONS

The Youth Section in Coventry is about twenty-five strong and its members come from all types of work. We have a librarian, a builder, an aero-engineer, a city councillor and one of our members recently entered the ranks of Labour Party officialdom by accepting an agent's position in Lincolnshire.

Up to the moment we have endeavoured to present a balanced programme which has seemed to make our membership a little apathetic when it comes to supporting and organizing events other than those in the programme.

However, we helped in the campaign against the Suez war and more recently we supported a meeting protesting against the H-bomb. We initiated a

series of inter-section visits in the West Midlands and were consequently "rewarded" by being asked to organize a gay school on Youth Section organization.

AROUSED INTEREST IN STRIKE

The backroom boys of the Tory Party are at it again. Why did the Government refuse to negotiate a settlement in the London bus dispute? Because they regarded the situation as "How to Beat the Unions—Lesson 1". This is why some of our members in Coventry took a great interest in the situation.

We helped to create interest in the strike in our C.L.P. and in some of the trade union branches, such as the T.G.W.U., A.E.U. and E.T.U.

Finally, to all comrades and friends of "Keep Left" we send greetings and best wishes for the growth of a true socialist youth movement in their town or city.

decide upon—so long as it is action. We want action now and we are out to get it.

Apprentices on the Clydeside have taken the initiative under the most admirable leadership of Bro. O'Neil by holding mass meetings of the lads. We in London are following slowly behind. Slowly, due to the fact that our forces are so widely distributed—but we are there.

In 1947 the union won the right to negotiate on behalf of apprentices. It also won us a wage rise. We haven't had one since. Imagine, engineering apprentices have not had a wage rise for 11 years! This situation is more than disgusting. It is so bad that I cannot think of a word for it, but it is up to us, the apprentices, to start fighting, to wake everybody up and make ourselves heard.

A CHALLENGE

Last April a delegation of apprentices lobbied the National Committee of the A.E.U. on our wage claim and we met our President who showed such apathy towards our claim that it would have done for a hundred men. But, and this is a very important "but", we are not in the least perturbed. In fact we accept this situation as a challenge.

On the present rates an apprentice receives wages ranging from £2 6s. 10½d. at 15 to £6 5s. 11½d. at 20, jumping to £9 4s. 0d. at 21 years of age.

Out of this paltry wage he has to pay for fares, school-books, meals, etc., apart from buying clothes and of course we mustn't forget dear old Mum—she's got to have a cut as well.

After paying out all this what can he do? Well, I should imagine he has to stay indoors as he has no money left for entertainment.

HIGHER RATES FOR ALL

I'm already getting the higher rates for which we are campaigning. These were obtained in my factory by a strong trade union organisation—I tip my hat to them.

It seems a case of some can get it—some cannot. It's up to the Executive Council to change this situation so that

ALL CAN GET IT!

I think we should all shout to the Executive Council: "Start Carin' Carron!"

SCHOOL

THE Bomb . . . or what? Will it be the red 'sixties? Or 1984? Can the workers run the factories?

These are some of the questions which will be discussed at a summer camp organized by the National Association of Labour Student Organizations near Lowestoft, from 12th-19th September.

"Beyond the Welfare State" is the theme of the camp and the speakers will include poets, backbenchers and industrial workers. Also amongst those billed to speak are Richard Crossman, Denis Healey, Isaac Deutscher, Lindsay Anderson and Doris Lessing.

Films, swimming, dancing and jazz will be provided.

The camp is sponsored by such papers as "Tribune", "Universities and Left Review", and "Clarion", and is a wonderful opportunity for all sections of the Labour youth movement—students, Trade Unionists and Labour Party members—to meet and discuss jazz, the slump, the film industry, the next Labour Government, in fact all those questions which are hotly debated by every Youth Section. We urge our readers to support this camp.

The cost is £5 for the week. A deposit of £1 together with a stamped addressed envelope should be sent to Ken Coates, 9 Waldeck Road, Carrington, Nottingham.

The Story of Minnijean Brown



LITTLE ROCK: A Challenge to Negro Leadership

Judy Madge
Our U.S. Correspondent

FOR an entire school year nine Negro teenagers in Little Rock, Arkansas, have stood up courageously under continuous verbal and physical torment by the group of extreme racists among their fellow students in Little Rock's Central High School.

They have had scalding water turned on them, have been hurled down stairs and were condemned to loneliness, as the group of white students who at first showed friendliness to them have been intimidated into silence. Only the presence of troops permitted them to attend school at all.

SILENCE OR EXPULSION

Through all this abuse they have been forbidden to fight or even talk back. The only one of their number who refused to keep silent was expelled. Yet this girl, Minnijean Brown, typifies the spirit of these young people. Although she was given a full scholarship to a private integrated school in New York City she has stated her desire to rejoin her school-mates in Little Rock.

Why do they wish to return to Central High School next fall? It is because in seeking to break through the colour bar in the Little Rock schools they have been consciously fighting for all other Southern Negro children who must attend sub-standard schools under segregated conditions.

EISENHOWER CAPITULATES

The nine have not bowed—but the Eisenhower administration has.

A federal judge, appointed by Eisenhower, has ordered a two-and-a-half-year "postponement" of integration in Little Rock. In the interests of "preventing racial tension" the Negro students are not to be permitted back into Central High School next fall, unless the Supreme Court overrules the district judge.

The Government has bowed before the racists of the White Citizens' Councils who have opened an offensive against Southern Negroes daring to rise out of their "place". Nearly every day there are reports of racial violence. Militant fighters for integration find it harder and harder to get jobs or bank loans.

In the guise of lessening racial tension, this latest Court decision can only have the effect of encouraging further violence by those die-hard elements who now learn that defiance of the Supreme Court decision can pay off.

NEGROES ON THE MARCH

But this defeat should be a lesson also to the Negro leadership which has tried to achieve a "gradual" integration through reliance on the Courts and the Democratic and Republican politicians.

In Montgomery, Alabama and elsewhere in the South thousands of Negro men, women and children have shown their ability to carry out a mass struggle against racial oppression. The Negro people are determined to win their fight.

With the people of Cyprus, Lebanon, Algeria and all other exploited peoples of the world, they are willing to fight until the Eisenhowers and Nixons and all they stand for are put in their place.

But until the Negro people produce leaders who are willing to utilise this determination the fight for equality will remain at an impasse.

Sack Races and Speeches

KENT seems to have the monopoly of sportsmen and women in the Youth Sections for at the National Youth Rally and Sports Day on June 28th at Abbey Wood. Both the trophies were won by Kent Youth Sections, Gillingham and Sittingbourne.

This is the first Sports Day held by the N.E.C. and a "Keep Left" reporter spent some time getting the opinions of the people there:

Pat Halfpenny, Eastleigh Y.S.: "A lot of fun, I hope the experiment is repeated."

Terry Sibthorpe, Abbey Wood Y.S.: "Very good idea to have just a friendly get-together."

Anne Fuggle and Rosemary Julier, Gillingham Y.S. were enjoying themselves and hoped it would be held again.

Colin Davis, Sittingbourne Y.S. "I don't think much of it. There are not enough people and not enough things to do."

Dave Carey, Eastleigh Y.S., thought there was a lack of imagination in the organisation because young people were not being encouraged to mix. "An Annual Dance might be more useful."

The views of the other Youth Section members interviewed varied from the boy from Islington who was reminded of a Sunday School outing, to another who thought it advertised the fact that the Labour Youth Movement did exist.

We also asked the people responsible for organising the Rally for their views—both George Brinham, Chairman of the National Executive Committee, Youth Sub-Committee and Alan Williams, the National Youth Officer thought that the success of this first attempt would lead to favourable consideration of future events.

Mr. Gaitskell, too, thought it an excellent idea for young people.

WHAT "KEEP LEFT" THINKS:

It is a pity that the Sports Day was not better supported by the Youth Sections. Although we may have various ideas about the usefulness of this particular event, when activities are specially arranged for us we should give them the maximum support.

We do think, however, that the Sports Day should be held in addition to a National Youth Rally, on a political basis, and not as a substitute.

WE MUST CONTROL

THE purpose of production is consumption. The reason for growing food and mining coal is to sustain life, and therefore it is not surprising that the majority of people in any society have as their main activity the task of producing goods and commodities for the consumption of all.

In present society men receive money not only for work in the production of goods; but also simply by virtue of the fact that they own certain things necessary in production.

For instance, they are paid an income if they own land on which food is grown or own a factory in which cars are made.

The money received by these owners—generally termed rent, interest, and profit—is created by the people who go to work in their factories or on their land.

Nowadays it is possible for the man or woman working in the factory etc. to produce goods each week worth much more than his or her wages. This surplus wealth goes to the owners.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The system is inefficient, in that it does not produce to meet need. It is only able to produce goods which are profitable and not those which do not yield a satisfactory return.

But even worse, at times this system is unable to allow many people to produce anything at all, causing unnecessary hardship, poverty and strife.

NATIONALISATION

Nationalisation, in its many forms, remedies the defects of private ownership in society, simply because production can be controlled, planned and extended in the interests of the community, instead of in the interests of private owners.

Not only does it guarantee that enterprise shall be carried on for public advantage, but it removes the former class conflicts between the owners and the working class. The abolition of rent, profit and interest, is complementary to the abolition of classes.

That nationalised industry is far superior economically for the production of goods cannot be disputed, even though it is somewhat retarded at present by the factor of compensation. Many countries have brought their basic industries under government control and planning, even though their political ideologies vary enormously.

In fact nationalisation is the only

by
David Potterton

Hounslow Youth Section

method of maintaining a stable economy, free from inflation or slump.

There is a further desirability for a society where production is planned and controlled by representatives of the people on the "floor" of the workshops; that is the new concept of democracy.

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

The principle to which Socialists are dedicated as distinct from all other ideologies, is that control of industry by the community, leads to a wider and more full meaning of the concept of democracy.

At present we have only one form of democracy expressed through the characteristic political institutions. What we can achieve, is a democracy in which industry is governed directly by the most interested partners—worker and consumer—through Parliament and through the industry itself.

SHAREHOLDERS OR WORKERS?

While the manager remains an autocrat, the worker is not going to be a creative personality. Thus every worker should have the right to participate in management. He should have a say in the means of production he uses. This gives a new incentive, as well as revolutionising the shareholders' boards as constituted at present.

There is room for consumers' councils, which are already well organised within the Co-operative Movement, to play an important part. Local authorities also have a principal role to play.

However, to be effective 'democracy' in the economic or industrial sphere, as distinct from politics, means full and proper nationalisation in order to set up the institutions necessary to it.

Share buying, as proposed in "Industry and Society", the Labour Party policy statement, is rather like the poor man stealing money out of the rich man's pocket. It only delays the time when men become individuals with the right of determining their economic future.

READERS' MEETING

Do you disagree with our policy on the H-bomb? Have you any suggestions for future articles in "Keep Left"? Do you think we should have more news of young people in industry? Whatever your views on "Keep Left", we invite our London readers to a meeting on Saturday, 12th July at 3.30 p.m. to discuss the contents and role of the paper.

JAZZ SOCIAL

Following the meeting we'll be holding another Jazz Social from 7.30-11 p.m. Admission is 2s. 6d. Please order your tickets from Ken Scarr, 43 Ranelagh Drive, Edgware, Middx.

Both the Readers' Meeting and Jazz Social will be held at the "Rising Sun", Tottenham Court Road (between Goodge Street and Tottenham Court Road tube stations.)

Where's the Money Coming from?

MALTA

YOUTH MAN BARRICADES WIDESPREAD ARRESTS

Joe Sammut

General Secretary, Malta Labour League of Youth

TODAY, over Malta, reigns the terror of colonial rule. Demonstrations, however silent or peaceful they may be, are banned in all parts of the island. Public meetings cannot be held. This, perhaps, is the most serious blow to western democracy, of which the British Tories boast to their allies but do not practice with members of the Commonwealth.

The Governor of Malta, Sir Robert Laycock, is now sole ruler of Malta. This is the result of Labour ex-premier Dom Mintoff insisting on a grant of one million pounds from Britain and for effective action to be taken promptly to meet the threat of unemployment among dockyard workers.

Because Labour youths barricaded streets during the one day strike and Maltese workers showed solidarity in their strong protests against Britain's "Might is Right" policy, about 100 men, mostly young Labour supporters, were arrested and more are still being arrested by the Laycock regime. Two Labour ex-Ministers were charged with intimidating workers and jailed for one month, despite conflicting stories of witnesses brought by the police.

The Commando Unit is always on the alert armed with tear gas while civil police are equipped with steel helmets and carry batons, and are being trained by military personnel.

A Conservative newspaper, owned by a capitalist, whose ideas and principles have always been of imperialist likes and dislikes, is at present monopolising "the free press of Malta". Its leading articles, which in no way reflect the Maltese public's general opinion, are next day's legislation in Malta! This same press, most probably, sends out overseas news bulletins suitable to the policies of a colonial regime.

British pressmen seem to have abandoned Malta's plight and seem to be satisfied with reports made of half truths and inaccuracies.

Despite all this, I am confident that with a united Labour front, consolidated by an ever active Labour youth movement, both the domestic and constitutional reform issues will be solved in accordance with the wishes of the Maltese community through its legitimate leaders in the Malta Labour Party.

- Twice the number of opportunities for people to study for technical qualifications;
- The number of university places to be increased from 95,000 at present, to 124,000 by the middle of the 1960's;
- All students' grants to be adequate for their needs.

THESE are three proposals from the Labour Party's new policy document "Learning to Live", published in June and to be debated at this year's Labour Party Conference.

This document makes proposals for urgently needed reforms in every phase of the state educational system, and a large amount of money is required to carry them out.

MILLIONS ON DEATH WEAPONS

The money can be found. At present we spend only 3 per cent of our national income on education; yet we squander many thousands of millions of pounds on nuclear weapons which can only kill and maim, and cripple generations yet unborn. The policy statement does not mention this wastage.

There lies its weakness. It merely echoes the words of a previous policy statement. "We must see that the money is found, even if it means going without other things."

Neither does it take a firm enough stand in regard to the public schools. The capitalist press is quite relieved that nothing very definite has been said. Public schools are the training ground of a privileged class.

If Labour intends to fight for socialism and the end of privileged classes in society, it should be prepared to abolish the institutions on which privilege is built.

Let Labour abolish them, and use their buildings for special schools!

SMALLER CLASSES

Priorities to be completed in the first five years of a Labour Government are listed as:

1. No more than 30 in a class;
2. Replace old, condemned slum schools;
3. Get rid of the all-age schools;
4. Provide more schools for spastic and physically handicapped children;
5. All children to complete four years in the secondary school.

Subsequently, Labour will urge authorities to go ahead with Secondary Comprehensive Schools and abolish the 11-plus examination. It will raise the school leaving age to 16.

DISCUSS THIS STATEMENT

Get this pamphlet in your Youth Section. Discuss it, and ask "Where is the money coming from?" "How much is needed?" and "Why is our money squandered on 'Defence'?"

In answering these questions, we bring the proposals down to reality. It's our job to make them reality.

JOE DAVIS

Coventry Labour Party

it more profitable for them to cease production.

I will say, however, that from what I know of today's youth, and I have been in constant contact with them for over four years—there will be no return to the 30's. If their standard of living is attacked much further that is the rock on which the Tories will perish. They will rise and associate themselves with the youth of Cyprus, Hungary, etc., and fight against the bureaucratic machinery at the head of the country. Teddy-boy suits and blue suede shoes will be discarded on that day.

I speak for Glasgow's young workers when I say "Get out, Harold, and take your gang with you".

JOE O'NEIL

Glasgow J.W.C. of the A.E.U.

CINEMA War Story is a Flop

"Camp on Blood Island" with Carl Mohnr, Andre Morell, Edward Underdown and Walter Fitzgerald.

THE makers of "Camp on Blood Island" are quite right when they say "This is not just a story". This "exposure" flops into sensationalism and a shoddy imitation of "Bridge on the River Kwai".

After six executions, a couple of "murders", a whipping, the burning of the prisoners' mail and the threat of the Japanese Commandant (Yagamitzu) that all the prisoners will be shot if Japan loses the war, one is left with the impression that the Japanese were brutal sadists.

ARTIFICIAL

The ex-British Commissioner dressed and acting like a beachcomber, the Australian Officer who uses Australian slang incorrectly, "Dutchie" the ex-plantation owner—now radio saboteur, plus the innumerable over played sentiments ("remember we're British") combine to make everything rather artificial.

The plot has an added twist when the prisoners learn that the war is over. The Japanese are unaware of this as their communications with the H.Q. have been sabotaged. From here the old western theme develops—"Indians surround the fort—so someone must break out and get help."

NOTHING NEW

To sum up, the film tells us nothing new about the atrocities of the Yagamitzu and too many technical blunders make it farcical.

I was not moved by the film, having read enough about Hiroshima and the saturation bombing of the working class areas of Germany, to see that it is not the individual Yagamitzu that are criminal but the economic system that creates war that is criminal.

CAMPS AND CAMPS

If we are to remember the crimes of the Japanese and the Nazis let us also be honest with ourselves. Britain organized the first concentration camps during the Boer Wars (1901) and today has similar camps in Kenya for the Kikuyu. America had its own "Blood Island" at Andersonville during the Civil War where thousands of Federal troops died of starvation and disease. The French ruling class today terrorises the population of Algeria by the same methods as the Nazis.

Maybe Napoleon was right in saying that "history is but a fable agreed upon"?

G.K.

★ Readers Forum ★

In Sixty Years Time

IN REPLY to Ivy Read's letter in the May issue, I am not as interested in what the Independent Labour Party may or may not have done in the past, as in its possibilities for the future. The tide of events is turning and the I.L.P. is increasing its membership among young people.

Although we may still be a small force in the working class movement, we are a socialist force which is now growing bigger. In reference to the I.L.P. being on the outside, in East Ham, Kelvingrove, and North Islington, we keep knocking but we cannot get in. So we go back and try again.

Socialists in the Labour Party support the official Transport House candidate at elections who support only the reforming of capitalism and not the abolishing of it and replacing it by socialism as the I.L.P. does.

The Labour Party today is the political expression of the working class. The Liberal Party was that 60/70 years ago, the I.L.P. could be that in 60/70 years time, if not sooner.

GRAHAM E. CHILDS,
Bilston I.L.P.

Thank-you Liverpool

ARRIVING in Liverpool to carry out a series of meetings to gain support and publicity for the London bus strikers, I was met by my host at Lime Street Station. He introduced me to the organizers of my meetings.

I was surprised to find that they were young men and women who promptly took charge of my 2,000 Strike Bulletins

and organized their sale.

Throughout the week I was taken around the Labour Clubs and Trade Unions by these young people. At night we sat in their headquarters going over the programme. Sleep was the last thought in their minds, and their only interest was where to organize meetings in order to give the maximum publicity to the bus dispute.

I visited Walton Labour Club and met young members of this Section who promptly asked me to return and give them the facts, which I did and they were a most enthusiastic audience.

A meeting of 2,000 dockers listened to myself and a representative of the unofficial committee of Tooley Street docks.

This visit will stay in my thoughts for a long time, and the Labour Party are lucky to have such enthusiastic members who are giving their whole time to the movement. To them I can only express my deep gratitude. I hope that one day I shall meet them again. Thank you, Liverpool!

GEORGE FARENDEN,
Hendon Garage

Get out Harold!

EVERYTHING is very quiet here in relation to the wages campaign. This is due to the approaching holiday period and also the apprentices are beginning to think more about the shortage of work than about higher wages.

It is easy to see why the boss class can be confident of resisting wage demands under this Tory system. They know that if they can keep them under control for long enough, the inevitable result of the non-planned, free-for-all economy, makes

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