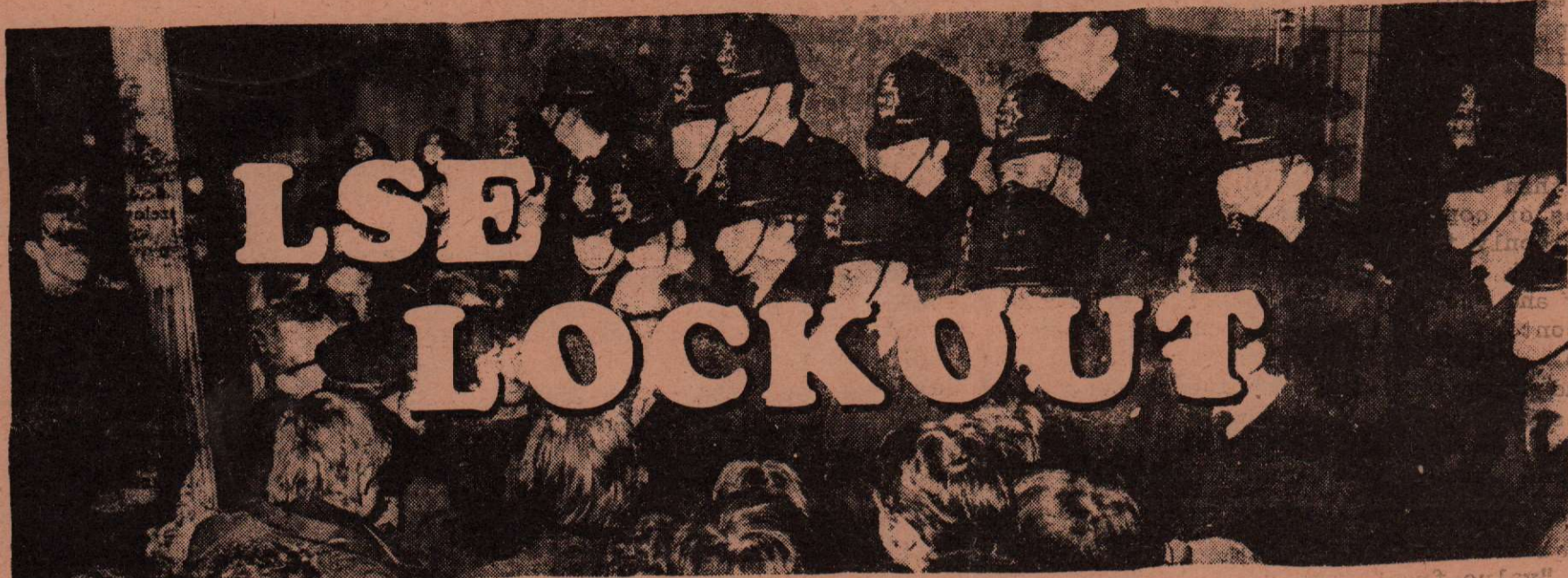


SOCIALIST WORKER 1d

for workers control and international socialism



soc.soc.

1965

APRIL: Socialist Society founded

OCTOBER: Labour Club split and floundering.

NOVEMBER: 'AGITATOR'-Socialist Society paper begins fortnightly publication

1966

JANUARY: Walter Adams announced as new Director.

OCTOBER: Socialist Soc. publishes an inquiry on Adams's political record.

NOVEMBER: President Adelstein disciplined for writing to The Times. Students boycott.

1967

JANUARY: Meeting on Adams banned. Old Theatre occupied, porter has heart attack.

FEBRUARY: Adelstein and Bloom suspended for 3 months.

APRIL: 8-day sit-in. Suspensions lifted after 10 days.

OCTOBER: Socialist Soc. militants arrested on Barbican picket line.

1968

MAY: 1 day occupation in solidarity with French workers and students.

JUNE: RSSF founding Conference held

OCTOBER: L.S.E. held for debate, aid and rest over Oct. 27 Vietnam Demonstration.

1969

JANUARY 23rd SCHOOL CLOSED DOWN

"THE SUPERSTITION THAT USED TO ASCRIBE REVOLUTIONS TO THE UGLY INTENTION OF AGITATORS IS A THING OF THE PAST. TODAY EVERYONE KNOWS THAT WHEN A REVOLUTIONARY UPHEAVAL TAKES PLACE, ITS SOURCE LIES IN SOME SOCIAL NEED THAT OUTDATED INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT MEETING. THE NEED MAY NOT BE STRONGLY FELT ENOUGH, OR SUFFICIENTLY WIDELY KNOWN TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS BUT ANY ATTEMPT AT BRUTAL REPRESSION

the gates are open...

The iron grilles of the L.S.E. are down. The police hold the campus. The School is closed. Dozens have been arrested and many face probable expulsion. What for?

The Press claim that a student 'minority' provoked the closure. But the press knows that the provocation came from the ruling minority at the L.S.E. - the Board of Governors who put the gates up in the first place. This minority charge the students with 'intolerance'. Steel grilles belong in a prison, not a school, so who wouldn't be intolerant towards them? They charge the L.S.E. Socialist Society with 'intimidation' of students. In reality they know that every L.S.E. student wanted those gates down.

Lord Robbins, Chairman of the Governors, (the Board ideologue of Higher Education policy) has stated that the L.S.E. will re-open when HE decides, and when 'law and order' is assured. But there can be no order while students face jail and expulsion, and while some staff act as common police informers. They know we will not accept this, so they cannot open L.S.E.

L.S.E. is locked out because students have begun to ask awkward questions about what they are taught and who runs their college. L.S.E. students demand control over their own lives and are fighting for this. L.S.E. was the first college where students sat-in. Now it is the first to get the chop. This threatens every student in Britain who is questioning the way his college and society is run.

At L.S.E. the liberal university mask is off. The administration wanted the professors to act as mental policemen; to identify anyone who dared query their sad lies about the world; to pick off those who broke the rules of intellectual etiquette. The liberal and left-wing staff expressed their reservations, distaste and sorrow, but L.S.E.'s pyramid of power ignored their scruples and moved in the police. But this need for 'social discipline' is not confined to the universities. In the factories Barbara Castles White Paper indicates that the gloves are off. The T.U.C. leadership's bleating will be disregarded too when the Labour Government gets around to the business of smashing Shop Floor organisation. The L.S.E. student's Action Committee states specifically that:

"The lock out and victimisation at L.S.E. is part of a general crack down on militant workers and students throughout the country during the present crisis of British capitalism. In this light the repression in the schools is part and parcel of the repressive anti-union legislation currently being engineered by Barbara Castle and the Wilson Government." L.S.E. students, as they prepare to fight the lock out need the support of workers. Students are isolated and opposed by workers who accept the distorting and hostile propagnanda of the Tory press: the same press that daily lies about the struggles of the working class. Students will not accept any so-called 'efficient' university system whose main purpose is to make us more efficient managers and apologists for the exploitation of the British working class.

But right now L.S.E. students need solidarity from other students. On Monday and Tuesday it must be concretely expressed in leaflets, meetings, demonstrations and above all - OCCUPATIONS - in every college in Britain. The demands are simple:

we demand:

1. RE-OPEN THE L.S.E. - NO GATES, NO POLICE.
2. NO VICTIMISATION - DROPPING OF ALL CHARGES AGAINST STUDENTS.

why the gates

The first sign that the authorities were intending to use physical controls against students came during the events before last October's Vietnam demonstration. Locks were reinforced, doors fortified; then sets of steel gates were fitted finally - dividing floor from floor & building from building. Students were shocked, treated them first of all in a joking fashion. Notices of "achtung" appeared on some of the gates. But taken with other evidence of the increasingly authoritarian attitude of the administration, the students began to see them clearly as direct instruments of oppression & not merely a measure to protect property - which the administration's original justification.

The LSE authorities have become increasingly nervous over the last year as numerical support for the Soc.Soc. has grown & discussion within the student body has focused more & more around issues of concern to socialists. This discussion has challenged not only the union hierarchy but the whole power structure of both the LSE & British capitalism as LSE's links with industry and the state via both its Governors & the ideological content of courses have become clear to more & more students. The union bureaucracy which had previously contained student opposition at an ineffective level has become progressively isolated from the students. Their legitimacy was constantly eroded by general assemblies with as large an attendance as union meetings.

Concurrently questions, started being asked in classes & lectures, the "value-free" research, the "scientific truths" which these counterfeiters of the mind peddle were called into question.

The LSE establishment in the last few weeks has been challenged on the question of its involvement through investments in South Africa and Rhodesia. The Governors with directorships in such companies were told to choose: either resign from the Board of the LSE or from that of the companies.

All this proved too much for this "liberal institution of learning" and the "aloof" and detached academics hurriedly accepted a report that made them in effect the policemen of the LSE. The report also declared illegal any interruption of lectures with prolonged questioning. Students guilty of such actions would risk being thrown out of the school. Similar threats against progressive staff were implied.

It is thus in a climate of general repression in the school that the gates became the focus of a power struggle. For the militants there was no doubt: the gates must go

gates, bar and opera

"We were enraged by these attempts to run L.S.E. on the level of Regents Park Zoo... and exhausted by the repeated delays for negotiations and consultations, (What Dr. Sandys called "the scourge of the militants) but we didn't jump the fences, we waited as disgust grew for our new academics in uniform. Finally the vote went-282 to 231-to take direct action. We went straight to the nearest gate, in the basement, and, aided by a sympathetic building worker, pulled it off. The Staff who had allocated themselves responsibility for guarding these gates were relegated to traffic wardens. The other senior police-professors who stood more determinedly were moved fairly gently; in one case a thrust by chosen girls caused them to jump aside when they came in direct contact with the female anatomy. Some professors were taking photographs.

At this point we noticed Professor Watkins had applied his Platonic authoritarianism to the task of guiding a single file of policemen up Houghton Street. But they appeared to retreat and, believing that revolution is nothing if not a carnival, we proceeded to the bar.

At about 10.00pm the jubilation in the bar was interrupted by the news that the police were outside, had sealed the exits and were interviewing all the students leaving. (most of whom had nothing to do with the removing of the gates.) Dr. Terence Morris, leading criminology lecturer, lead a plain clothed officer and uniformed police into the bar. "You will be allowed..." his words were drowned in a barrage of abuse towards this dispassionate investigator of the truth turned vulgar police informer. Criminology was exposed as being little more than an excuse to stop all forms of opposition. Attempts to rush the line in threes failed and most of the students passed one by one under the scrutiny of a team of academics. They seemed, surprisingly more vicious than the police who were only prepared to snatch those actively involved in the removal of the gates. The academics, however, wanted none of this cold, legal logic. They seemed to consider themselves able to demand the arrest of anyone whom they disliked.

Our general feeling, faced with a barrage of police and professors, was a quite immense disgust with the sheer hypocrisy of the so-called values of the liberal university. Attempts to release the victimised comrades followed, and ended in a melee between Covent Garden Opera House and Bow Street Police Station. The evening ended, after the arrest of about 18 more comrades, rather symbolically, among the embarrassed bow ties and long dresses of the chauffeur driven opera lovers. We sang the Internationale to both the bourgeoisie at play and the agents of the bourgeoisie on the job."

Two L.S.E. students present throughout.

the factories too?

For years most factory workers have thought of students in terms of the Henries of the General Strike, those wing-collared mothers boys who broke the picket lines. Nowadays maybe, the stereotype is of long haired weirdos stopping the London Sunday traffic and causing trouble for our wonderful policemen. And its surely true that college life does free you a little from the alarm-clock and the exhaustion (even though some colleges are run on factory lines these days). But over the last few years workers have seen a new breed of revolutionary students outside their factory gates with leaflets and socialist newspapers.

So the decision to clamp down on left-wing militants at L.S.E. has to be seen as part of a more general movement to undermine, demoralise and, where possible, destroy socialist militants at their place of work. The fact is that the battle for socialist ideas in the colleges has developed very fast. The controllers of these educational factories are now quite literally unable to answer the questions socialists are raising. They cannot explain away their deep-rooted connections with the British ruling class or their personal investments in the Southern African slave mines. They realise that students are not satisfied with trivial reforms about the colour of the common rooms or a couple of student "leaders" on some distant committee. They understand very well that the abolition of the class university requires the overturning of the whole capitalist state. As one shocked

Above all, they are terrified in case this new stage in the L.S.E. struggle should trigger off the kind of industrial revolt that the young car workers started in Paris last May. The long frozen slopes of British politics are starting to melt, one action might set off an avalanche. But the factory struggle is on a different time scale, is more concrete and has more stamina. Despite the dramatic threats of the Labour Government, the ruling classes offensive in the factories has had to use more subtle acids. Instead of the threatened big stick, with stewards behind bars and massive unemployment, has come the productivity deal, the scientific work study methods and "cash now, pay later" bonus schemes. But if it has been stalemate in the factories with the insurrectionary outbreaks (at the Barbican and around the Roberts-Arundel lockout) the lonley exceptions, many very young workers have thought differently. Young workers have increasingly joined in and organised the mass solidarity demonstrations, the socialist grouplets and the left-wing meetings. When L.S.E. was opened up before, it was these young workers, told all their lives that they were educational second-rate, who came in their hundreds. L.S.E. students, especially those in I.S., go regularly to the London factory belts in Tottenham, Acton, Kilburn and Enfield. Ford stewards, London dockers and engineers have frequently put their points of view at the L.S.E. Soc. Soc. meetings. And at other university

We want SOCIALISM.
Without the support of the working class, we cannot stop our Red Base being turned into the Police's Blue one. But students and workers alongside can build a force which will rip the gates off the college and the factory.

SOLIDARITY
mon:11.00.u.u.

where a mass meeting of LSE students will decide their tactics. LSE Action Committee and RSSF NC has appealed for OCCUPATIONS in support of LSE. Also boycotts, mass meetings and telegrams of support (...to ULU building)

thursday

a national demonstration outside LSE if student demands have not yet been met. All colleges support requested to recover LSE.

for details...
RSSF FLE 5735