

A MASSIVE STEP TOWARDS

The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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by The Editor

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The Newsletter

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The Young Socialists and their enemies

THE Fifth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists, which met at Morecambe on the week-end of February 27-28 was undoubtedly the most significant event in the working class of Britain since the end of the war.

It was the culmination of four years of political struggle against the right wing of the Labour Party, led in the first instance by Gaitskell, and since early 1963 by Harold Wilson.

During those years, the Young Socialists have rapidly transformed themselves into the most advanced political leadership within the labour movement that has ever been seen in its history.

'The Times' of March 1 had this to say of the conference:

'It was not, however, the content of the discussion so much as the almost frightening discipline of the affair that made it significant to the outside observer. At first glance these delegates did not appear to be the sort of people who would sit cheerfully for eight hours in a smoky conference room.

'In fact they did sit silently through the whole eight hours, speakers were not interrupted, they voted unanimously on every resolution, ranging from a demand for the withdrawal from NATO to a call for higher apprentices' pay and a commission to investigate reported cases of police brutality.'

Of course, the gentlemen of the capitalist press would have been pleased if these young people had engaged in a futile struggle with the police who were massed in formidable numbers in the vicinity of the conference.

'The Times' and the capitalist press are always pleased when youth engage in actions with police in conditions under which they must lose.

What really, in fact, frightened 'The Times', as well as 'The Guardian', was the fact that 1,000 young people could seriously discuss their own future under capitalism and unanimously decide for socialist policies.

This great victory for the labour movement more than compensates for the severe defeats it has suffered in Leyton, Smethwick and Nuneaton as a result of right-wing policies. It is not, however, our intention to speak only of the positive features of the Morecambe Congress.

In the background were thousands of young people who are entering politics for the first time in their lives. They bring with them all the faults and conceptions of capitalist education. They also bring a powerful, decisive struggle for socialism.

It would be very wrong for the conference leadership to idealise these young people. Now that the conference is over, the central task is to educate them in the course of their activities and experiences.

The Young Socialists have still to become a mass movement. Without recruitment on a big scale and the political assimilation of thousands of youth, it will not be possible to do anything effective so far as providing the leadership of the working class in the next period is concerned.

Many of those at the Congress lack real Marxist education. They are willing to learn, but they still have to be taught. This task must be undertaken immediately.

We are confident that the future is bright as far as the working class is concerned, provided the Marxist movement, which is the Socialist Labour League, measures up to the great events of last week-end.

Bukharin book to be reprinted?

By JOHN CRAWFORD

REPORTS from Moscow indicate that re-publication is now being considered of 'The ABC of Communism' by Bukharin and Preobrazhensky.

This book was commissioned in 1919 by the Communist International. It was published in many languages and used as a basic text book to train thousands of young Communists.

After Bukharin, one of the foremost Bolshevik leaders, was deposed as President of Comintern in 1929, the book was no longer recommended reading.

'CRIMES'

Bukharin was shot in 1938 after being tried as the leader of the so-called 'Bloc of Rights and Trotskyites'.

The indictment accused this group of a variety of crimes ranging from plotting the dismemberment of the USSR, to

putting broken glass in butter. In 1962, the trial was admitted to be rigged.

Rosengoltz, one of the chief accused, was completely exonerated. Bukharin, like a number of other old Bolsheviks, was admitted to be innocent but politically not 'rehabilitated'.

The main defendants, Trotsky and his son Sedov, have still not been mentioned in this connection.

The 1938 trial was remarkable for the way in which Bukharin, Krestinsky and Rykov partially withdrew their 'confessions' in open court.

Despite a year in Stalin's jail, the 54-year-old Bukharin continually found ways of confusing his captors.

While admitting all the monstrous charges put to him by prosecutor Vyshinsky, the former White Guard, Bukharin managed to use his testimony to the court to signal his innocence to the world.



Behind the portrait of Trotsky a delegate speaks from the platform to the conference. The fact that youth could sit for eight hours in a smoke-filled conference hall and listen quietly to serious political discussion of socialist policies astounded the capitalist press.

'DRIVE OUT FASCISTS' DEMONSTRATION CALL

NEWSLETTER REPORTER

YOUNG Socialists are organising a mass demonstration against racialism and fascism in West London on March 13 in answer to the vicious attack on the labour movement there three weeks ago.

Then, 17-year-old Roy Smith was attacked and seriously wounded outside a Young Socialist dance in an attack by armed fascists on a group of West London youths.

He underwent an emergency brain operation and is now making a slow recovery.

At the Morecambe conference of the Young Socialists last week-end one of the youths involved in the ambush in Barby Road, North Kensington, Austin Rollins, a North Paddington delegate, said the attack was a political blow at the Young Socialists by fascists.

NO SOLIDARITY

The Labour Party has expressed neither sympathy nor solidarity with Roy Smith, or the London, Middlesex and Southern Region Young Socialists who met two weeks ago to plan the demonstration.

Instead, a statement, signed by John Keys, London Regional Organiser of the Labour Party, declared the Young Socialists

PIECEWORKERS AWAIT NJC

Assembly welding and machine operators at the Massey Ferguson factory, Manchester, agreed to return to work on Wednesday following a week-old strike over a local piece-work claim.

They will await a meeting of the National Joint Council on either March 15 or 22 before deciding further action.

The men, 500 engineers, boiler-makers and metal mechanics, recently received a 4d. an hour increase backdated to January under a national agreement, but are determined to win the local claim.

involved 'unofficial' (Reported in last week's Newsletter.)

He 'disassociated' the Labour Party from the affair.

But the right-wing bureaucrats cannot 'disassociate' themselves.

PENSIONERS STARVE

It is they who allow pensioners to starve by refusing to pay the pensions increase, allow prices to rocket and attempt to impose a wage freeze.

It is they who stand by and let their supporters rot in the slum empires of the Rachman-type landlords in areas like West London.

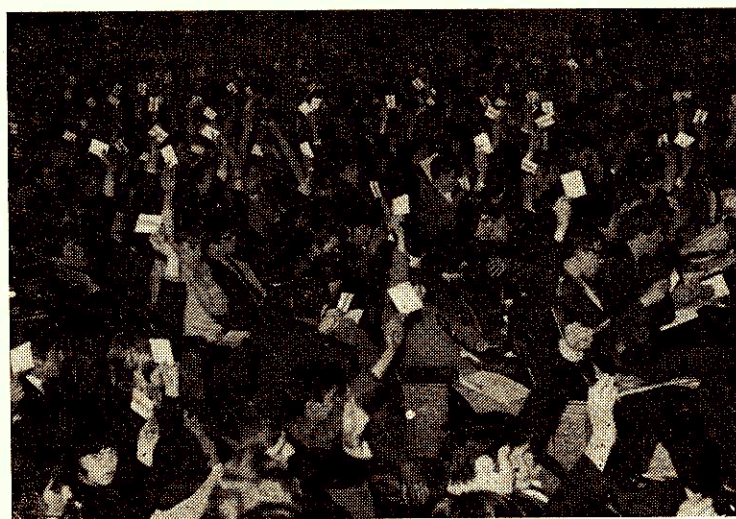
It is they who let the racialists confuse these workers by allowing them to blame coloured workers for their problems.

It is they who close down Young Socialist and Labour Party branches attempting to fight for socialist policies.

But as the Morecambe conference showed, the Young Socialists and their allies in the Labour Parties have a great amount of support in the labour movement as a whole.

The Newsletter urges hundreds of trade unionists and Labour Party members to come out on the streets with the youth next week in West London and drive out the racialists and fascists.

The Demonstration will begin at 3 p.m. at St. Stephen's Gardens, Paddington, W.2. A public meeting will be held at the Isaac Newton School at 4.30 p.m. and a dance in the same school will begin at 8 p.m.



EFFICIENCY DRIVE PROPOSED

GOVERNMENT efficiency experts have been set to work again to find ways and means of making the most profit for the employers with as small a labour force as possible.

In a five-year plan the government calls for 'an all-round improvement in industrial efficiency and productivity'.

Three points outline the plans the government wishes to put into practice.

Manpower saving

'1. More economic use of labour could result in a manpower saving of between 10 and 15 per cent.

'2. The diversion of only 1 per cent of production from the home markets to exports could increase Britain's overseas earnings by about £150 million a year.

'3. The achievement of a 25 per cent economic growth by 1970 would increase the gross national product by £80,000 million in 1964 prices.'

The aim is only too clear. What the government is advocating is an economy drive all round to cut manpower and speed up production with a smaller force with the employers reaping the profits.

FIVE hundred and ten delegates and over 500 visitors crowded the Winter Gardens at Morecambe on the week-end of February 27 and 28 at a conference which insisted upon a socialist policy for Britain. These young people came from all over the country, particularly from the most industrialised areas.

Many had only been in politics for a short period of their lives. Their leadership has just concluded a lengthy struggle against the right-wing traitors of the Labour Party.

It is, in fact, the most experienced leadership in Western Europe. It has considerable experience of struggle, not only against the right wing but against fake lefts and centrists.

peal of the Immigration Act, a review by the labour movement of the workings of the police force, and full independence for all colonial and semi-colonial peoples.

Contribute

This is a truly massive contribution to the international fight for socialism.

It is also a fitting answer to the Stalinists, who, despite all their pretensions, were in fact the avowed enemies of this congress.

The British Communist Party has constantly collaborated with the extreme right wing against the youth. They have joined hands with the most reactionary capitalist news agencies to twist and distort the real position of the Young Socialists.

Through their small organisation the Young Communist League they have constantly spread lies and distortion about the fight which the Young Socialists are waging against the right wing. The Morecambe conference was a decisive answer to these enemies of the labour movement.

Understand

Only the Newsletter and the Socialist Labour League fully understood the remarkable struggle which the Young Socialists have waged against the right wing.

Our paper has continuously fought to expose the attacks against the Young Socialists and at the same time to politically help them to understand the problems ahead.

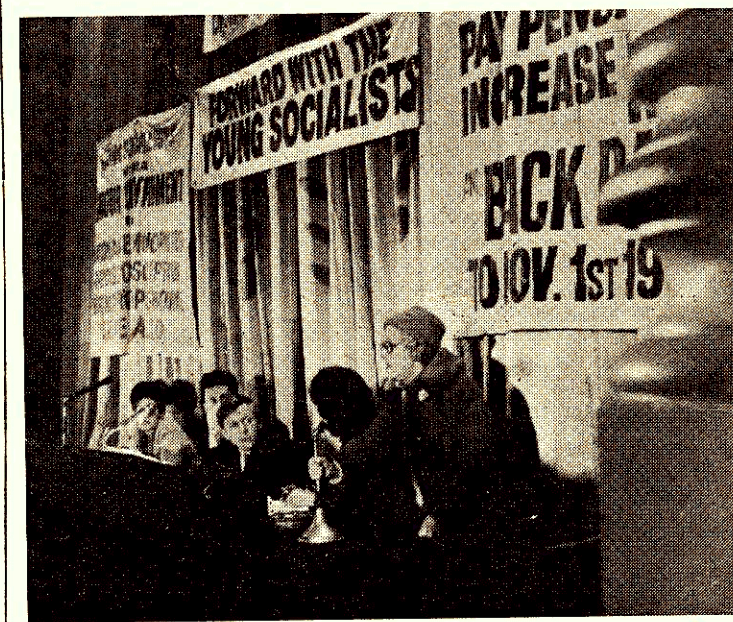
The Socialist Labour League and the Newsletter say: 'Well done' to the Young Socialists. What you have achieved at Morecambe is in fact to lay the foundations for a revolutionary party in Britain.

We are confident that in the next period your struggles will be crowned with success.

(For a full report see page 2)

Unanimously

Delegates raise their cards (above) to vote unanimously for one of the conference decisions. It is this youth which frightened 'The Times' reporter so much by its discipline.



An old age pensioner, a fraternal delegate, who received a tremendous reception when she told the conference: 'We old people will help all we can to see that you people are not destroyed. . . You youngsters fight like hell. Don't be trodden down by your gaffers. Stand up to the bosses . . . if the Labour Party goes on like it has done, and the Tories get in, there will be no trade unions, there will be open shops. The Tories don't want trade unions. Fight like hell and you'll win.'





