

5th Annual Conference of Young Socialists

Full report on pages 4, 5, 6 & 8

Keep

LEFT

Official paper of the Young Socialists

Vol. 14, No. 3 4d.

By Dave Ashby

(Chairman, Young Socialists National Committee)

ONE of the most important events in the history of the British working-class movement—that is the verdict on the Fifth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists held at Morecambe on February 27 and 28.

On behalf of the National Committee I wish to thank all those Young Socialists, trade unionists and old age pensioners who attended as delegates and visitors and who helped to make the conference such a great success.

I would particularly like to thank you for your tremendous sense of responsibility and discipline.

Serious

'The Times' stated that the discipline was almost 'frightening'. What really 'frightens' 'The Times' is that we showed at the conference that we intend to campaign in a serious, responsible and organised way, to win the support of millions of workers in Britain for our socialist policies.

During Sunday morning's session fraternal delegates from the trade unions, Old Age Pensioners' Associations and socialist youth movements in other countries stated that they were looking to the Young Socialists in Britain to spearhead the struggle for a new leadership in the international workers' movement—a movement that would fight for socialism in opposition to the present leaders, who deceive, betray and demoralise the working class.

This must be for us the great challenge of the Morecambe Conference. The policies of the conference must be immediately carried into action in

LET'S GO

FOR SOCIALISM!



every area.

We must fight for the back-dating of the pensions increase and the calling of an emergency conference of the Labour Party throughout the labour movement.

Now that we have unanimously adopted Keep Left as the official organ of the Young Socialists we must see to it that we carry out our responsibilities to the paper.

I appeal to all branches to increase their orders of the paper and to seek at all times to strengthen its financial reserves so that it can expand its size.

Finally, I would like to announce that the National Committee elected at the conference will be meeting very soon to elect its own officers and work out plans for carrying out the policies of the conference.

Protest Demonstration & Rally

Stop the attacks on civil liberties in India

SUNDAY, MARCH 28th assemble 12.30 p.m. Embankment (Waterloo Bridge) and March to Public Meeting 3.15 p.m.

HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL

At the Young Socialists Fifth Annual Conference it was unanimously agreed to support the demonstration of Indian Workers' Association. Keep Left urges all members of the labour movement to join in the protest against the imprisonment of 1,000 Communists in India under the Preventive Detention Act.

Organised by the Indian Workers Association, Great Britain

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YOUNG Socialists in the Cranhill branch, Glasgow, got busy with leaflets and copies of Keep Left last month in a drive to take as many young workers as possible from the area to the Morecambe conference.

With National Committee Member for Scotland, Bob Hamilton, they visited local factories, talked to young people and explained the policies of the Young Socialists.

Estate

The young workers in the pictures on this page and many of the members of the YS branch live on the Cranhill estate, which is one of many that have sprung up around Glasgow during the past 20 years.

These young people may not have known the slums of Glasgow as their mothers and fathers did, but they face a dull and dreary life on an estate which has very few facilities.

There is no shopping centre even now, 20 years after the first building was erected. Rising bus fares and rising rents make the situation worse.

It is against this background of frustration and boredom amongst the youth that the Glasgow Young Socialists first started a campaign on the estate before the anti-Tory rally on September 27 last year, and began a branch of 50 members.

Busy time

After agreeing to form the branch, a busload of young people from Cranhill travelled to London to take part in the rally.

From then, right up to the Morecambe conference, branch members have had a busy time campaigning, recruiting and organising.

Cranhill youth joined up for Morecambe

By JOHN ROBERTSON

During the election campaign Cranhill members went out canvassing to explain Young Socialist policies to the many workers living on the estate suffering from high rents.

They told the tenants that the YS was for the nationalization of the building industry so that no immense profits were made from rents which workers had to pay each week.

Their activities received some hostility from the local right-wing officials of the Labour Party.

A lot of trouble blew up over the use of a meeting room after the YS held a successful dance. Petty complaints were made about the hands on a clock being moved.

Worried

What really worried the Labour Party officials was that a large number of the Cranhill YS members paid a visit to another branch which was considered 'respectable' by the local party.

This six-strong branch demanded that one of the Cranhill members leave the meeting. He refused, insisting that there should be a discussion on the Morecambe conference and the backdating of the pensions increase.

But the so-called 'respectables' did not stay for discussion. Instead they left the meeting.

Cranhill Young Socialists, which has members from a

wide section — factory girls, shop assistants, apprentices, young dockers and unemployed youth—have supported all the activities of the Young Socialists in the past few months.

Some of them attended the annual meeting of Keep Left and took part in the demonstration in Brighton outside the Labour Party conference for the increasing of the pensions before Christmas.

Lobby

At the lobby on February 4 to demand the backdating of the pensions increase, Cranhill members met their MP who glibly told them: 'Why come to London to see me? I can see you in Glasgow any time.'

Plans have been made for a joint meeting with the Ward Labour Party where he will speak and the Young Socialists aim to raise the question of the backdating of the pensions increase.

Following the lobby Cranhill started its campaign to get young people to the Morecambe conference, and organised a dance after the annual general meeting of the Glasgow Federation of Young Socialists.

There are a number of factories in the area where



Two factory girls read Keep Left with great interest.

young girls and boys are used as cheap labour.

The Young Socialists held meetings outside these factories to explain how the employers made large profits out of young people, to whom they paid low wages for long hours.

Young girls told YS members that they receive about £3 10s. at 15. After six months they get a rise to just over £4 and a further 10s. increase at 16.

An answer

At one factory young married women are reported to take home £7 a week. Girls work a 40-hour week with a 45-minute mid-day break and 10 minutes in the morning.

These young workers are

looking for an answer to the problems which face them daily at work and after work on a bleak housing estate.

Many of them have joined the Young Socialists because they realise that the only way to fight for better conditions in the Cranhills of this world is to organise in a socialist movement.

Cranhill YS sent a large group of delegates and visitors to the Morecambe conference, where these young workers took part in voting for the policies of the Young Socialists.

When they return to Cranhill there is little doubt that these eager members of the Young Socialists will continue to expand their branch to young workers throughout their area.

Revealing book on police frame-up methods

The Challenor Case

A Penguin Special 3s. 6d.

By Mary Grigg

THE story of Detective-Sergeant Challenor and the West End Central police station is revealed in this very useful book.

Challenor had a very 'respected' career in the police force. He was thought of very highly by his superior officers and probably, if Donald Rooum, a cartoonist arrested over the Queen Frederika demonstrations, had not proved he was framed by Challenor, the detective-sergeant would have probably risen to a very high rank in the police force.

The book deals with a brief history of all the cases that

Challenor was involved in and have since proved to have been frame-ups.

The methods that Challenor used are gone into in some detail. Perhaps the best example was the 'planting' of half bricks, which proved to be his undoing.

Four people were arrested during the visit of the Greek Queen. On the demonstration, Challenor was shouting to other policemen, 'Have you got yourself a prisoner yet?'

Challenor arrested four people, took them to the West End Central police station, then planted pieces of brick from his desk on the prisoners.

Through chemical tests each person proved his innocence.

The police authorities had to accept that Challenor had overstepped the mark and an inquiry into his activities was held. At the same time 19

people serving jail sentences claimed that Challenor had framed them.

The book goes into some detail about the police investigations into Challenor and concludes correctly that the police are not impartial.

Also, the courts, the Press and the former Tory Home Secretary, Henry Brooke, come in for a great deal of criticism.

Though this is a book well worth reading, the writer has a number of wrong ideas. She thinks it is a question of 'good' and 'bad' policemen, not that the police force exists to defend private property and that violence and corruption are part of the way the ruling class use them.

On the evidence of this book alone we should demand, as our conference did, an enquiry into the police by the labour movement.



National Committee member Bob Hamilton explains a point to a young worker.

5th Conference of Young Socialists

Demands emergency conference of the Labour Party

BY THE EDITOR

IN the largest, most impressive socialist youth congress for 25 years, 510 delegates and over 500 visitors took part in the Fifth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists in the Winter Gardens, Morecambe, on February 27 and 28.

This tremendous step in organising a conference independently of Transport House and its right-wing officials heralded a new stage in the fight to build a mass Young Socialist movement.

Answering the slanderous lies of the right-wing Labourites and the Stalinists of the Communist Party, these young people, many of them very new to socialist politics, showed exemplary discipline.

During the eight-hour conference, delegates voted for socialist policies, revealing themselves to be the most advanced leadership of the labour movement. They made the important demand for the calling of an emergency Labour Party conference immediately.

Many Young Socialists have, in fact, become most experienced leaders in the fight to defeat the right wing of the Labour Party and their policies and those of the so-called 'left-wingers'.

Some young people spoke before a political meeting for the first time in their lives to an audience which included visitors from old age pensioners' associations, trade unions and Labour Parties.

Experienced representatives of the capitalist press, who in the past have probably seen many political conferences and who were unable to criticise, deliberately played down the role of the momentous congress.

For them, this was something entirely new.

In the past the press has done its best to portray socialist youth as irresponsible hooligans. Keep Left has always condemned this attitude.

At Morecambe, these hardened cynics were unable to hide from the world the fact that the Young Socialists have established themselves as a disciplined leadership in the labour movement.

Before the conference, considerable pressure was put on the Mayor, the town council and hoteliers by the right wing of the Labour Party in a vicious and scurrilous attempt to get the conference stopped.

But the conference was held. It was a tremendous success. And, at the reception held by the Mayor of Morecambe, Councillor J. F. McHale, in the Winter Gardens ballroom on the Saturday evening, Morecambe's first citizen said:

'I don't agree with your policies, but I want to welcome you to Morecambe and express my gratitude and that of the town for the way in which you have behaved yourselves.'

In a letter to the Morecambe paper, 'The Visitor', hotelier, Mrs. L. McCalden, says:

'We were invaded this last week-end by a thousand young people who held their conference in our town.'

'As a hotelier I welcomed them. Rumours persisted that



The YS and the Labour Government

(Moved by Dave Ashby, chairman of the Young Socialists National Committee, and passed unanimously)

The calling of an emergency Labour Party Conference must be the demand of every trade union, YS branch and Constituency Labour Party if the movement is to be saved from a disaster of the magnitude of that engineered by MacDonald in 1931. Already divisions appear within the Labour Cabinet on economic policy and many unions will be forced by the demands of their members to oppose the Government's wage freeze as prices rocket. Are we to allow the Labour Government to go down in a morass of divisions and disillusionments? The Young Socialists say no!

No wage freeze, no sackings, stop rising costs! Backdate pension increases now. Say no to the banks! Nationalize aircraft, engineering, steel and chemicals, land and the building and building materials industry, the banks and insurance, with workers' control! End colonialism, withdraw all support for imperialism in Vietnam and Malaysia!

A call to the labour movement to demand an emergency Labour Party Conference was made by Dave Ashby, chairman of the National Committee in opening the conference. He was moving the resolution 'The YS and the Labour government.'

'Before losing any more support the labour movement must now pronounce that keeping Wilson in power means certain defeats for the workers.'

'There is only one way to prevent the return of the Tories. The Labour Party Conference must be called immediately to decide on a policy against the rising cost of living, against the wage freeze dressed up as 'incomes policy''.

The course of the present Labour government was following the implications of 1931, he added.

'We have to remind ourselves what happened in 1931. Pres-

sure was put on the Labour government by big business to cut the dole in order to secure a loan from the United States of America.'

He said that the labour movement could not tolerate a situation where Callaghan, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will introduce a budget entirely against the interests of the working class.

The Labour government had said continued the policies of the Tories. Callaghan had presented a defence budget to the workers and a three-year package deal in engineering, wage restraint and rising prices.

'We have to say that the Labour leadership has played a confidence trick on the working class, who voted for change.'

He stated that Brown had said the Labour government would not nationalize and that a retreat was now being prepared on steel nationalization.

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An old age pensioner tells youth at the conference 'fight like hell . . . we old people will help you all we can'.

they would tear the town apart and extra police would be needed and they would have a rare time. Fear grew in the hearts of the people who were extending hospitality.

'My house was full of gay, well-behaved young people. They were well organised in every way. I cannot speak too highly in their favour.'

The decisions of the Morecambe conference present a big challenge to the Young

Socialists and its young leadership of 12 National Committee members.

This leadership, all of whom have only been in politics for four years, has been forged in the fight against the right wing, and their supporters, the centrists.

With its official paper Keep Left, we are sure that the Young Socialists will forge ahead to lead big struggles against capitalism in the future, in the fight for socialism.

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'The problems of the working class have not been solved but we have seen under the Labour government rising prices and the refusal of the government to backdate the pensions increase.'

The Labour government, he said, used the excuse that bad housing and unemployment was the fault of coloured

people in Britain.

We had to take a firm stand against the Labour government strengthening the immigration bill which would encourage fascism in Britain.

'Our responsibilities in fighting for socialist policies and directing the struggles of the working class to build an alternative leadership are enormous,' Ashby added.

'We call for a Labour government to put forward socialist policies, and to keep the Tories out for ever.'

Housing (passed unanimously)

Conference demands that the Tories be made to pay by:

- (1) Immediate repeal of existing Tory legislation, including the 1957 Tory Rent Act, which allows landlords to increase profits at the expense of living conditions and permits land speculators to accumulate large profits while forcing up the price of land;
- (2) Immediate introduction of rent control and increased powers to local authorities for the requisition of property;
- (3) The nationalization of building land, the building industry and all ancillary industries;
- (4) The nationalization of the banks, insurance and finance companies.

Moving the resolution on housing JIMMY BURNS of Birkenhead described the terrible conditions of families living on the Merseyside.

He said that even though people moved from condemned houses on to new estates, conditions were still poor and shopping facilities were 'a nine-mile camel ride away'.

Wigan Young Socialists had led a campaign against rent

increases and 2,000 workers had come out onto the streets in support.

Seconding the resolution MYLES BUCHANAN said: 'The only differences between the official manifestoes of the Labour and Tory parties was one of building a few more houses a year.'

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KEEP LEFT

THE PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS
156 Lambeth Road, London, S.E.1

AT the same time as the right-wing government of Harold Wilson is crashing to ruins, the policies adopted at the Fifth Conference of the Young Socialists at Morecambe unmistakably signposted the way for a new and lasting victory for the labour movement.

The outcome of Morecambe was not simply the result of the struggles of the Young Socialists, important as they are. What is happening amongst the youth in Britain is taking place on a wide scale throughout the world. Almost immediately after their British Young Socialist comrades terminated their conference, thousands of Spanish youth demonstrated in the streets of the main cities of Spain against the hated fascist dictator, Franco. At the time of going to press several have been shot and we have no doubt that others are now being tortured and forced to confess to false charges.

As United States imperialist aggression builds up its armed forces against the practically defenceless people of Vietnam, thousands of young people bombard the United States Embassy in Moscow. Here they were treated with the utmost brutality by the armed forces and police detachments of the Soviet bureaucracy. In the United States, the citadel of imperialism, thousands of young Negroes joined hands with the civil rights movement in their heroic struggle against the racial extremists in the South.

In Vietnam itself, it is a well known fact that the vast majority of Vietcong forces consist of young teenagers, spurred on by an unquenchable desire to throw the American imperialists out of their country, and to begin to organise its resources in the interests of the people who live there.

All over the world, young people are on the march and it is the effect of their combined struggles which lies in the background of the Morecambe conference.

Those delegates who worked so hard for the conference may not be aware of the international implications of their activity but it is extremely important that they realise how significant this is. The Young Socialists must be internationalist in their outlook and always see their struggles as part of the international struggle of youth against the common oppressors.

In the Soviet Union, it is true that the struggle of the Soviet youth is different from that of the youth in the imperialist countries. They have to carry out the political revolutionary overthrow of the corrupt and crumbling bureaucracy. After this they will be able to continue to develop real socialist planning based upon the economic conquests of the October Revolution. In the countries of the capitalist world, young people will strive to overthrow the forces of capitalism by means of the socialist revolution.

It is only natural in these circumstances that the enemies of youth should gang up in order to pour out their slander and misrepresentation of what young people are doing. These are the forces of a dying social order.

We believe that the time is not far short when it will be possible to have not only a conference of Young Socialists at Morecambe but an international conference representative of all that is best in the youth movements which are now preparing in one form or another for the triumph of the world socialist revolution.

Tribune

A resolution on the paper 'Tribune' was put to the delegates by Chairman Dave Ashby and it was carried unanimously.

This Fifth Annual Conference of the Young Socialists notes the article by Richard Clements in 'Tribune' of February 26, 1965, in which he calls the Young Socialists 'rats' and 'chickens'. Clements is playing the game of the Tories and the right-wing leadership of the Labour Party in attacking the Young Socialists. We condemn 'Tribune' and Clements for this anti-socialist action and we call on all sections of the labour movement to support us in demanding that 'Tribune' immediately retract Clements' statement.

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Delegates raise their cards to vote for socialist policies.

Report continued from page 3
(with excerpts from resolutions)

Racialism and immigration

DAVE GREENBERG of North Kensington Young Socialists was the mover of the resolution on racialism which was seconded formally from the floor of the conference.

Greenberg related how in his area Roy Smith, a member of the Young Socialists, was nearly murdered after a demonstration and dance held by the YS.

The area was notorious for race riots and the murder of Kelso Cochrane. Mosley stood for election in 1959 and got 3,000 votes.

'The strengthening of the Immigration Act is a most disgusting action by the Labour government,' said Greenberg.

MAUREEN HEALY, later elected as national committee member for the East Midlands said: 'The strengthening of the Immigration Act is a deliberate attempt to divide workers. We must fight to unite the whole working class, white and coloured workers.'

This conference deplores the action of the Labour government in carrying even further the racist provisions of the Tory Immigration Act. The defeats of the Labour candidates at Smethwick and Eton & Slough, and the result of the Leyton by-election, show that Labour's immigration policy assists the Tories by splitting and confusing the working class.

The Young Socialists must campaign against racialism by recruiting all young workers, regardless of national origin, into the YS on the basis of common class interests.

Conference therefore supports the call of the London Young Socialists for a demonstration through North Kensington against racialism on March 13.

Conference also endorses the call of the London Young Socialists to hold a collection throughout the labour movement to give Roy Smith a holiday when he has recovered.



D. Greenberg



NC Member M. Healy

Nationalization & wage freeze

Socialist youth are determined to fight for socialist policies, said PADDY O'REGAN of Paddington South, moving the resolution on nationalization and wage restraint, which was seconded by Oxford Cowley YS.

'George Brown signed his infamous Declaration of Intent which means wage freezing.

'The package deal is really Labour Party policy on wages.

'It really strikes at workers' wages and conditions. It ties the hands of workers in the engineering industry and prepares for the introduction of automation, which will bring with it unemployment.

We insist that unless a policy of nationalization of all the major industries under workers' control is carried out, then attacks on workers' organisations and trade union rights will continue. In many industries the working class will face the constant threat of unemployment, redundancy and short-time working; in others the employers will demand shift working and compulsory overtime.

We condemn the leadership of the Labour Party for consistently refusing during the period of Tory rule to organise any campaigns which put forward the socialist policy of nationalization as the only solution to the problems facing workers in capitalist society.



NC Member P. O'Regan

'The only answer is a campaign for the nationalization of these industries. It is up to the YS to lead this campaign.'

Young to ma off

Foreign Policy

National Committee member for the East Midlands BARRIE EVANS moved the resolution on foreign policy.

In return for American support in Malaysia, Wilson gave approval to the American government's actions in South Vietnam.

'Every time that American planes drop napalm on the people of South Vietnam, consuming men, women and children in a sea of flames, then Wilson is as responsible as Johnson of the United States,' he added.

'But not for us Wilson's war

Conference declares that a socialist foreign policy international working class solidarity: the struggle are inseparable from the international class

This conference believing that the armed forces interests of big business at home and abroad, firm to bring back the call-up by the Labour



NC Member M. Farley

As a member of the National Committee MIKE FARLEY of the North-west moved the Constitution of the Young Socialists.

The Constitution accepted that Keep Left became the official paper of the YS.

More than ever, he said, the working class needed leadership. The call of the Young Socialists to workers was: vote Labour and kick out the Tories.

The YS could not be complacent. The conference was called not to impress the right wing of the Labour Party, but to discuss policies so that the YS could become the alternative leadership.

'The work of the Young Socialists has reached a new stage. British capitalism is striving to catch up with American and German big business.

'It must have automation and speed-ups. It must have closer unity with the unions and the state. The people to pay for the new machinery and factories are the working class.'

But, he added, the workers would not lose their hard-won conditions without a fight.

The Young Socialists had to become a disciplined organisation in order to fight capitalism.

Seconding the Constitution Keep Left Editor AILEEN JENNINGS said that the paper had a very long association with the British labour youth movement.

Throughout the four-year history of the Young Socialists Keep Left had defended the right of youth to campaign and recruit

in Malaysia those work where we o friendship. crisis of th United Na keeping for Evans sa uncondition Wilson go scription w duced. The reso by SUB JAC Green who of Young international darity.'

CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

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Young Socialists vote to make Keep Left official paper

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'But not for us Wilson's war

in Malaysia and Borneo. To all those workers in struggle everywhere we offer the hand of class friendship. Not for us the hypocrisy of those who support the United Nations as a peace-keeping force.'

Evans said the YS wanted an unconditional pledge from the Wilson government that conscription would not be re-introduced.

The resolution was seconded by SUE JACKSON of Wigan, Goose Green who said that the 'position of Young Socialists was one of international working-class solidarity.'

Apprentices

This conference pledges its full support for apprentices and young workers in their struggle for better wages and conditions. We are opposed to the way that most apprentices are forced to spend their time on production, getting very little training and pay.

We are therefore fully behind the demands of the Manchester Apprentices Direct Action Committee for:

60% of a skilled man's pay at 15, rising to

90% of a skilled man's pay at 20;

4 weeks' paid holiday per year;

35-hour week;

Full negotiating rights for apprentices.

Moving the resolution on the apprentices' struggle MIKE HUGHES from Droylesden called on the whole of the YS movement to support the fight of young workers.

'We do not accept that apprentices should be used mainly as a source of cheap labour.' Some apprentices took less than £3 a week home.

The intention of the recent



M. Hughes

Conference declares that a socialist foreign policy must be based upon international working class solidarity: the struggles of British workers are inseparable from the international class struggle.

This conference believing that the armed forces are used to protect the interests of big business at home and abroad, firmly opposes any attempt to bring back the call-up by the Labour government.

package deal signed by the leaders of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was to have a wage freeze for three years, he said.

Seconding the resolution SAM AGNEW of Pottinger, Northern Ireland, YS said the AEU leadership had failed miserably to win any of the demands of the apprentices.

CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS



NC Member M. Farley



Editor A. Jennings

As a member of the National Committee MIKE FARLEY of the North-west moved the Constitution of the Young Socialists.

The Constitution accepted that Keep Left became the official paper of the YS.

More than ever, he said, the working class needed leadership. The call of the Young Socialists to workers was: vote Labour and kick out the Tories.

The YS could not be complacent. The conference was called not to impress the right wing of the Labour Party, but to discuss policies so that the YS could become the alternative leadership.

'The work of the Young Socialists has reached a new stage. British capitalism is striving to catch up with American and German big business.

It must have automation and speed-ups. It must have closer unity with the unions and the state. The people to pay for the new machinery and factories are the working class.'

But, he added, the workers would not lose their hard-won conditions without a fight.

The Young Socialists had to become a disciplined organisation in order to fight capitalism.

Seconding the Constitution Keep Left Editor AILEEN JENNINGS said that the paper had a very long association with the British labour youth movement.

Throughout the four-year history of the Young Socialists Keep Left had defended the right of youth to campaign and recruit

young people into the labour movement, and the right to fight for decisions and policies.

Though proscribed by the National Executive of the Labour Party, its circulation had built up to 11,000.

The paper had supported all the campaigns of the Young Socialists and had become the champion of youth.

She made a strong appeal for unity with all those sections of

the movement who wanted to join in campaigns; in the Young Communist League and in the rump of Transport House's 'official' YS.

'We have a surprise for Transport House. We have got active supporters in the Young Socialist branches in the 'official' organisations, whom we will bring out in support of our policies. Transport House's conference will be a complete farce.'

To win the mass of young people in Britain for a socialist programme. To encourage all members of the Young Socialists Movement to be active in their trade unions and Labour Party Wards and Constituencies. To demand and fight for the reinstatement of all Young Socialists expelled from the Labour Party, and the reopening of all branches and federations closed down by the Labour Party leadership.

Membership of the Young Socialists is open to all young people who agree with its policy and programme.

Each branch shall elect annually a committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer and no more than six other members.

The Branch Committee must arrange for regular education classes to be held at which some important aspects of the history of socialism can be discussed more deeply than will be possible in the fortnightly business meeting.

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Every member of the Young Socialists shall pay a weekly contribution of 3d. to the national funds.

The newspaper Keep Left shall be the official organ of the Young Socialists. The editor of Keep Left elected at the paper's Annual Conference be an associate member of the National Committee of Young Socialists.

Police violence

T. MACINTYRE of Cranhill, Glasgow, moved the resolution on police violence.

'The fight against the police is the fight against the policies of the Labour government who pay and control the actions of the police force. This is a fight against the monopolies who control the Labour government,' he said.

He added that it was convenient for the police to look away whilst a young member of the YS was attacked.

This conference expresses concern coming to light of police corruption against youth. The police force seek attempting to intimidate and discourage the resistance of young workers, conditions, low wages.

Further we demand that the Labour commission of workers, trade union movement to investigate publicly even and not to leave the investi

Facilities for youth

From North-east Leicester PAT EVANS moved the resolution on facilities for youth.

The inability of the Labour

In their ruthless drive for profits, youth as cheap labour all day, are no The Young Socialists must therefore for the provision of free facilities: meeting places, club rooms, swimming clubs and

Fraternal delega

Young Socialists vote to make Keep Left official paper

Policy

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This conference expresses concern at the increasing number of cases coming to light of police corruption and brutality, directed in particular against youth. The police force serves the interests of big business by attempting to intimidate and discipline the working class and by breaking the resistance of young workers to dead-end jobs, sweat shop conditions, low wages and unemployment.

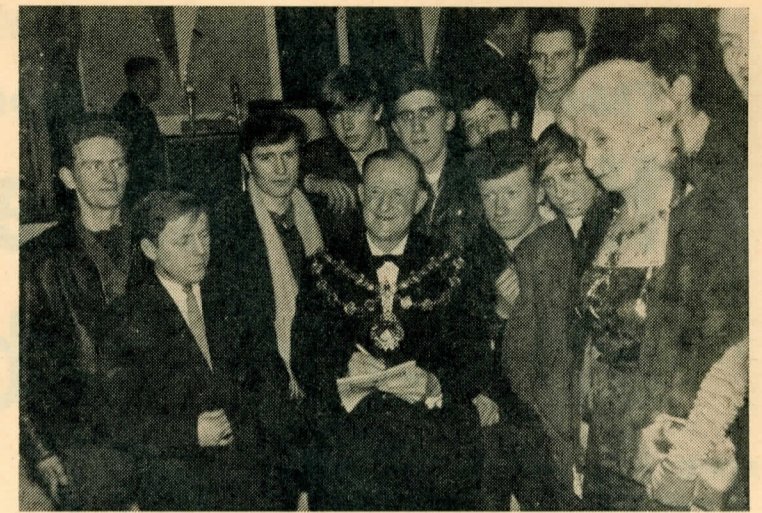
Further we demand that the Labour government immediately set up a commission of workers, trade unionists and other members of the labour movement to investigate publicly every case of police brutality reported, and not to leave the investigations to other policemen.

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From North-east Leicester PAT EVANS moved the resolution on facilities for youth.

The inability of the Labour

In their ruthless drive for profits, the employers after exploiting the youth as cheap labour all day, are not prepared to provide such facilities. The Young Socialists must therefore campaign in the labour movement for the provision of free facilities for youth. These must include meeting places, club rooms, swimming pools, dance halls and sports clubs and grounds.



The Mayor of Morecambe signing autographs.

Partition of Ireland

JACKIE VANCE, who was elected National Committee member for Northern Ireland, said that Ireland was the first country to strike out against British imperialism.

The bosses used religious bigotry to divide Irish workers but the YS in its campaigns had shown that workers could be united.

'We say we must unite North and South Ireland in the fight for socialism.'



NC Member J. Vance

Conference supports the struggles of our comrades in Ireland who have shown in practice that religious divisions can be broken and the workers united by a resolute fight for socialist policies. Religion was the tool used by British imperialism to keep the working class divided and impose partition. Conference believes that the ending of partition and the freedom of the Irish working class are inseparable and calls for the unity of all workers, North and South, against the bosses.

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Praise for the highly disciplined manner in which both the conference and the dance were carried out came from every quarter of Morecambe. The Mayor of the seaside town, Mr. J. F. McHale, seen with the Mayoress at the dance (top picture), thought the Young Socialists were a well-behaved and 'decent lot' of young people. The dance was a tremendous success. Delegates danced (above) to a leading Merseyside group, Earl Preston's Realms.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The following Young Socialists were elected to the National Committee.

Scotland—BOB HAMILTON

North-east—JACK WILLIAMSON

North-west—MIKE FARLEY

West Yorkshire—DAVE ASHBY

South Yorkshire—JIM BEECHILL

West Midlands—MAUREEN HEALY

East Midlands—BARRIE EVANS

Wales & West—TONY GARD

Middlesex & Essex—SHEILA TORRANCE

London—PADDY O'REGAN

Southern—JOE KEARNEY

N. Ireland—JACKIE VANCE

Associate Member—AILEEN JENNINGS, Keep Left Editor

Report continued on page 6

Fraternal delegates and emergency resolutions—see page 8

Thirteen year-old Vietnam schoolboy tells of a Harrowing experience of napalm bombing

THE angry, militant and successful demonstration by Chinese and Vietnam students in Moscow early this month against American imperialism's offensive in South-east Asia expressed, explosively, the feeling of many people throughout the world.

Young Socialists in Britain made their position on Vietnam quite clear on the weekend before the Moscow demonstration at their conference in Morecambe (as reported elsewhere in Keep Left).

The full horror of this 14-year war against U.S. imperialism is brought home by the harrowing experience of 13-year-old Ho Van Bot, a South Vietnamese schoolboy and survivor of a napalm bombing on a South Vietnam village (reported in the February issue of 'Vietnam Bulletin').

On July 8 last year U.S. planes rained napalm bombs on the village of Linh-Phung, scoring a direct hit on the school where Ho Van Bot was sitting with his schoolfriends, some of them active resistance fighters against the troops of the puppet South Vietnam regime and their American 'advisers'.

Ho Van Bot told his story to

a conference in Hanoi.

'It was 3 o'clock and we were doing arithmetic when a reconnaissance plane flew over. Shortly afterwards artillery from Giong Trom started shelling our village—people said they had counted about 200 shots. Following our usual practice we ran to the deep trench shelters built around the school. But almost immediately three planes came over and poured down napalm bombs, about 50 in all.

'The bombs fell on many places, two of them hit our school. Napalm jelly splashed all around and stuck wherever it fell, burning everything. It even fell in to the shelters where we were hiding.

'Many of my friends were frightened and leapt out of the shelters, and some fell dead on the spot. Then I too ran out of the shelter with fire burning all over my face, my arms and legs and belly.

'Looking around me I saw pieces of skin falling off my friends like rags. When I looked at myself, I was alight. The flames looked blue, the heat was terrible and seemed to come from my bones and my flesh, it

was impossible to get rid of.

'Wherever I put my hand, fire caught my flesh. Soon my whole body was like a torch, and like this I started to run for home.

'While we were running for our homes, the enemy planes came back and strafed us. I was lucky enough not to be hit, but many of my friends were and some were killed on the spot. We had to run at top speed to escape the bullets. . . .

'... Nearly all the 160 pupils at my school were burnt and wounded by the napalm bombs. Of those seriously burnt like me, only 62 survived.

'Thirty-two were killed on the spot in the school yard, on their way home or at the My-long ferry. Others died in hospital, and my teacher too was killed.

'The people of the village took all of us victims of the napalm bombing to a motor launch to take us to hospital in the Ben Tre provincial capital.

'We reached the My-Long ferry at seven the next morning, and there the U.S.-Khanh troops tried to stop us.

'But the people who were taking us and people from all



A Vietnamese holds a child burned by napalm jelly in a U.S. bombing of South Vietnam villages.

around put up such a struggle, that in the end, about mid-day, they let the boat go on. Unfortunately, by the time the boat reached the city, some of my friends had died from their injuries.

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'While I was in the hospital, I saw the last moments of several of my friends. While Vo Thi Thiet, a 13-year-old girl, was dying she was saying to her mother: "Open my eyes so that I can see you, mummy.

I can't see anything. Open my eyes, I still can't see anything."

'Sau and Chi, just before they died sang our song "Let's liberate South Vietnam".

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'I have had the great honour of being brought to this conference, and I have told you how the Linh Phung school was bombed with napalm. I repeat to all my "uncles" and "aunts" of North Vietnam and to all the delegates here the words of my friend Trieu van Hieu, "You must avenge me".'

MOTOR CYCLE COLUMN

It's the lasting finish that counts

LET'S face it, are the goods motor cycle manufacturers are offering these days as good as the glossy catalogues would lead us to believe?

They may look superb, brightly shining in the showrooms, and performance figures given by magazine road tests do not leave much to be desired, but before you walk through the showroom door and hand over your hard-earned cash, just stop and think: how long is your shiny new model going to last?

Do not be blinded by super performance figures, the initial thrill of speed and acceleration soon wears off.

Have a look at the finish of the machine, is it as good as it could be? I don't think so in many cases.

Last May I bought a new sports machine. It was great until I got down to examining it in detail.

Chipped off paint work down the front tubes where the bike had been held in its assembly cradle ruined what

By a Keep Left Correspondent

should have been a smooth painted finish.

Globules of paint on edges, and chips where parts had been bolted together are also regular 'features'. All this left without being touched up after final assembly.

Needless to say all these points had to be dealt with to prevent corrosion setting in. Is it good enough?

I know makers have made great strides in recent years in engine development, but I think their progress in overall finish of machines has been going backwards instead of forwards.

Engine performance means a lot, but to most motor cyclists a good, lasting finish matters just as much.

If you are going to pay over £300 for a 500 or 650 c.c. motor cycle you have a right to expect a better job than is at present generally being turned out.

It is one thing to bat along at over 100 miles per hour on a new bike, but it is quite another

if in two or three years time you are battling along on a nasty looking heap.

Look at chromium plating. What ever happened to the old style plating we used to know. The kind that peeled off in thick strips, when corroded.

You are lucky if the plating they produce today peels off at all, it usually just turns a dirty grey colour and wears through to the metal underneath.

And what about lasting quality? Four years ago I bought a 1938 motor cycle and the chrome was still bright and serviceable.

Bright-looking, cadmium-plated nuts and bolts are another thing. Put a spanner on them two or three times—the next time you look they are going rusty.

What of the spares services? Why is it that spares for some machines are relatively easy to obtain, yet getting your hands on spares for other machines is like getting your hands on gold, and cost twice as much.

5th Annual Conference

From page 5

Drugs and the abolition of public schools

This conference demands that public schools be abolished and their school buildings, assets and tutors be integrated into a comprehensive school system.

Young people take drugs to try and achieve something; they achieve nothing. This society has nothing to offer except misery for the youth. This conference is opposed to drug taking because it considers that the drugs are doing the bosses work by making young workers give up the fight against bad wages and conditions. Conference calls for a full inquiry by the labour movement into the manufacture, distribution and sales of 'purple hearts' and other habit-forming drugs.

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Morecambe

HAVING just returned from the Young Socialists Conference at Morecambe, which I and two others attended as observers, may I say that we were very impressed by the sincerity and political content of the debates.

Indeed this conference and the policies expounded there have revived our flagging hopes of seeing true socialism.

The Young Socialists have the policies which, if adopted by our 'Socialist government' would restore their tarnished image in the eyes of the working class.

May I wish the Young Socialists and their paper Keep Left further successes, as this conference certainly was one.

**Observers from Anchor Mills
Paisley, Scotland.**

Fascism

THE savage racist attack on Roy Smith of North Paddington Young Socialists shows the dangers of the situation we are facing.

This attack was a deliberate attempt to divide the Young Socialists.

The fascists are trying to take advantage of this compromised Labour government to build their forces.

We in Brixton Young Socialists intend to stop any attempt by the fascists and racials to divide the working class.

We can see that the way to prevent it is to build a mass Young Socialists to provide the leadership of all workers in their fight against the fascists.

We will give full support to Lambeth Trades Council's anti-fascist committee which can unite all working-class organisations in the area to this end.

The passing of the resolution against racialism at the Morecambe conference was a great success and we must show the whole labour movement this clear statement of the Young Socialist's view on racialism.

We will show all workers that the defeats of Labour candidates at Smethwick, Eton & Slough, and Leyton show that Labour's immigration policy assists the Tories by splitting and confusing the working class.

We are confident that armed with the policies, and the discipline the Young Socialists showed at Morecambe, we can smash the racials, build a massive Young Socialists movement and help to make Roy Smith the last murderous attack the fascists can make.

Member Brixton YS

Territorials

'JOIN the Territorial Army—Tough and Adventurous!' and there is a picture of a fellow who could be you, making a parachute jump.

The posters and publicists make it seem exciting—travel, sport, comradeship and adventure—these are the sort of things many young workers look for in the Territorial Army.

I joined a parachute unit myself without really thinking about it, just because I always wanted to have a go at jumping, and unless you are in the forces it's a rich man's sport.

Every so often we would practise emergency mobilisation. We received tickets to places and instructions to move within 24 hours to depots, where we were issued with weapons and kit, ready to move to any colonial 'trouble spot'.

At the same time as being a reserve fighting force the TA urges fellows to sign on as regulars. One method they use

is to give us good food—probably much better than the regulars actually get.

The officers used to make a point of strolling around at meal times, making remarks like 'enjoy your food fellows'. This was all to give the best impression of army life, so that you would think it was marvellous.

Our officers liked to make a fuss about *esprit de corps* and tell us that we were in a marvellous company, the best, and we must not let it down.

Of course, when an officer was transferred to another company he probably told them exactly the same thing.

Our sergeant-major used to handle weapons in a way that you could see he loved each one like a baby. He was more blunt than the officers.

'You fellows may think you're here for a bit of a game,' he told us, 'but get this straight, your purpose is to learn how to kill people.'

Showing us how to use a grenade he would give a big smile and say: 'You sling this into a room, and everyone gets a little bit.'

Another of the sergeants told us that in his opinion 'the yellow race aren't really human. They ought to be exterminated'.

After this I wasn't surprised to meet at a camp a man who was associated with the fascists. He seemed to fit in very well.

I got sick of the whole outfit, especially as some of my mates were in the YS and they explained politics to me.

I could see that we were being trained to kill ordinary working people in the Far East and those places.

The army had trained the sergeants to be like they were and they would have tried to make us the same if we had let them.

At the end of the course we had a big parade, and some high-up gave us a big talk on what we were in for.

He told us: 'The TA is going to have much more importance in coming years. You will get a chance to travel overseas to the Far East, something which I am sure you are all looking forward to. You may also be called on to assist in certain civil tasks.'

I had done my seven jumps and earned my wings. I had done the weapon training and I was informed that I was on a list of names selected as suitable for abroad, but why should I go and fight for the interests of big firms that control industry in other countries?

As for the hint about civil tasks it sounded to me as if we might be sent into the docks to break strikes or used to help the police.

I decided to chuck the TA there and then and so did many of my mates. If I do any fighting it won't be against ordinary workers. I'm with the Young Socialists to fight the bosses.

North London Young Socialist

Labour government

SINCE the so-called working-class government got into power, all they have succeeded in doing is doubling their own wages and raising the cost of living.

I work in a chemist's shop and during the last month the majority of articles have risen in price by sixpences and shillings.

If the cost of living continues to rise at the same rate as it is doing at the moment, the things which are considered essential will become luxuries.

I think it is quite evident that

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**Send us your opinions,
branch reports, ideas
on how to build the
Young Socialists**

the Labour government are out to make the working class pay for the crisis which was made by the banks and big business.

Why should the working class have to pay for this crisis? We are expected to sit back and watch the cost of living rise—while our wages stay the same.

I say **MAKE THE TORIES PAY!**
P.B.,
East Leeds YS.

Ryton

RYTON is typical of many pit villages in the North-east.

Most nights we go down to the only shop in Ryton with a juke box. But it closes at 8.30 p.m.

After that we usually go to the chip shop and then sit on the public benches near the shopping centre.

If it rains we shelter in a doorway but we are often moved on by the police, who constantly harass youth in the area.

Once we were moved on by a policeman who did not believe we were waiting for a bus.

The other night we were so bored we just sat in the house and constructed jigsaw puzzles.

The Young Socialists are the only ones who are fighting against lack of places to meet and police violence.

We are going to start weekly dances in Ryton and get more young people into the Young Socialists as this is the only solution to our common problem.

I.J. and I.D.,
RytonYS Left.

Canvassing

AT the Keep Left meeting in London on January 2 we heard Mike Farley (National Committee member for the North-West) talk about how in the area we were going to build the Young Socialist branches in all the towns.

He said we would go into these towns with a van with placards saying join the Young Socialists and a loudspeaker so that someone could speak, whilst other members gave out leaflets and sold Keep Left.

The first town we visited was St. Helens. There were two members from the following branches: Farnworth, Wigan, Liverpool and Manchester.

There were also three members from St. Helens.

We arrived at about dinner time and split up to go selling

Keep Left—it was raining very hard.

When we met later at a cafe in the centre of St. Helens there was a lot of discussion with loads of youth and a lot of leaflets were given out.

Because it was raining we could not put placards on the van or use the loudspeaker as arranged.

At five o'clock everyone was wet through and looking miserable so it was decided that we should go and get dry.

We came back at about 8.30 and went on a pub collection for the February 4 lobby over the pensioners' issue.

We collected £6 10s. in donations and everyone went home thinking they had done a good day's work—but that all depended upon how many young people came to the Young Socialists meeting at the local Labour Club.

North-west Young Socialists

Money

IN this modern age all teenagers are said to spend more money than ever before.

Well please let us in on the secret as we would love to know what to spend ours on.

Oh! We've had a few ideas. For instance we could always go to the pub and spend it at the bingo. Why not smoke 60 or 70 cigarettes a week and spend it that way?

Why don't we go to a dance hall or something in a town nearby?

You may well ask. Newcastle lies 10 miles away from Prudhoe in one direction, Hexham 11 miles away in the other.

The average wage for girls our age is about £3 15s. Mothers expect and deserve at least £3 out of this, which leaves roughly 15s.

How can you have a good night out in towns so far away on 15s. a week.

There are dances on every night up at Hexham and clubs for teenagers to join, yet Prudhoe has about the same population as Hexham and there is nothing for us to do.

Then they have the nerve to print in a local paper that Prudhoe is expanding, the population is rising.

Soon it will be crammed full of kids who have no means of amusement whatsoever.

No wonder that the reform schools are quickly filling up with so-called juvenile delinquents.

In one street alone in Prudhoe there are five teenagers who have joined the forces.

Is this a new way to get young people to join the forces?—by giving them absolutely nothing else to do.

Two bored Tynesiders

Law

IN an article in the 'Liverpool Echo' entitled 'How Can Magistrates Get Tough with the Under 21s?' a Justice of the Peace and Labour Party member launches a vicious attack upon working-class youth, echoing the outbursts of the capitalist press and wholeheartedly welcoming the introduction of the new police force in Liverpool.

In her article the author advocates harsher methods of dealing with youth.

Recently in Liverpool Magistrates Court a young lad was charged with house breaking and was given a heavy jail sentence.

This case was an example of hundreds of such cases where the inexperience of youth in legal affairs restricts them from putting their case.

Liverpool magistrates, who are

already renowned for their ruthlessness in dealing out sentences, need no encouragement from articles in the local papers.

Just before Christmas, two young girls, one of them a mother with a baby, were brought before the court on a charge of shoplifting.

Even though they had no previous convictions and after the young mother had explained that she had been finding it hard to live with the small wage of her husband, and she had a heavy mortgage to meet, they were fined £10 each.

It would seem that this intensified attack upon the working class in Liverpool is not just the property of the Liverpool police.

In Glasgow, teenage girls are to be recruited into the police. They can now join at 19. The purpose of this, according to the report in the 'Daily Mirror', is that 'the girls will be particularly useful in fighting the alarming growth in teenage crime'.

We would like to ask the writer of the article in the 'Liverpool Echo' just how tougher does she think the system can get? She leaves very little to the imagination.

Liverpool Young Socialist

Young Socialists

AT the first meeting of the Mitcham Young Socialists in South London, police were called to eject an adult member of the local Labour Party and a number of Young Socialists.

The chairman of the Ward Labour Party in the area claimed that the adult member was not entitled to attend the meeting as he was over 26—yet the chairman himself evidently had no intention of leaving and he was 50 if he was a day.

When we protested about the chairman's behaviour he told us that we 'were not the kind of element' he wanted in the Young Socialists, and we would have to leave.

We refused since we had every right to take part in the meeting. A member of the YS branch (who claimed to be the chairman, although no officers had yet been elected) then said he was closing the meeting.

He and the Ward chairman's daughter had appointed themselves as officers, and the Party condoned their actions, as they could be relied upon to curb any fight for socialist policies by other members.

The executive committee was called in from their meeting in another room to get rid of us 'intruders', and when they failed to intimidate us, the police were called in, who threatened to use force if we did not leave immediately.

As we went, the Party officials cornered one of us and told him that he could attend meetings but they would exclude the rest of us.

When he pointed out that he was no different from the rest they said: 'But you are—you're wearing a suit.'

They then showed him the Young Socialists programme for the next three months, which had been worked out without our knowledge.

It included such items as a talk by a Jehovah's Witness and a lecture on Marriage Guidance.

If the right wing think they can palm us off with this kind of rubbish they are very much mistaken.

We shall continue to recruit working-class youth with or without suits—and put up a real fight for socialist policies within the branch.

A Young Socialist

'Disbanded' S. Paddington fights on

Keep Left Reporter

REPRESENTATIVES of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party unsuccessfully attempted to witch-hunt and disband the South Paddington Labour Party last month.

One of the most militant Labour Parties in the country, South Paddington has always supported the policies of the Young Socialists and this is one of the major reasons why a small group of right-wingers inside the party called in the NEC to close it down.

This is the Labour Party which led a fierce struggle against Racketeering and racketeering landlords in South Paddington.

During the election campaign Bill Dow, a member of South Paddington Labour Party was the only Labour candidate to fight the election on the policies of the Young Socialists.

Young Socialists in London organised and helped in South Paddington and on the eve of poll they held a huge demonstration demanding the return of a Labour government on socialist policies.

The Tories' majority in the area was cut by half.

After repeated demands to expel and close down the local Young Socialist branch — which were always rejected by the General Management Committee — the NEC intervened.

Sara Barker, National Agent, and well known for leading previous expulsions, went to the South Paddington Labour Party General Management Committee to announce that the NEC had decided to disband them.

The Party voted to continue as South Paddington Labour Party and win support throughout the whole of the labour movement.

At a press conference Bill Dow stated: 'We shall recruit trade unionists, Young Socialists and workers from all round. Our membership is 600 at the moment and we shall go from strength to strength.'

At their last meeting, South Paddington Labour Party expelled George Brown, Minister of State for Economic Affairs.

It was decided to send Bill Dow as fraternal delegate to the Morecambe Conference of the Young Socialists.

Keep Left and the Young Socialists fully support the fight of South Paddington Labour Party in an area where there are serious housing problems.

5th Annual Conference of Young Socialists

Report continued from page 5

Fraternal delegates

Delegates and visitors gave a tremendous welcome to fraternal delegates from America, France, Belgium, South Paddington Labour Party, Merseyside dockers, Indian Workers' Association and the Old Age Pensioners' Association.

Delegates from America, France and Belgium congratulated the Young Socialists on their fight against the policies of the Wilson government. The Morecambe conference, they said, was recognised in their countries as being of great importance.

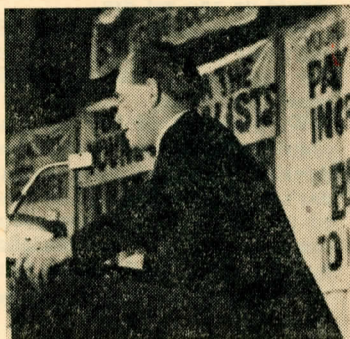
BILL DOW from Paddington South, which the Labour leadership closed down, said: 'You are the future leaders of this country to get rid of imperialism for ever.'

Docker PETER KERRIGAN asked the conference to pass unanimously the resolution supporting the struggle of the port workers.

The whole conference pledged its full support for the demonstration on March 28 organised by the Indian Workers' Association after a speech by MR. J. JOSHI the association's national secretary.

Speaking on behalf of the hundreds of old people who marched with the Young Socialists on the lobby on February 4 to demand the backdating of the pensions increase, an old age pensioner received a tremendous ovation after she declared:

'You youngsters are trying to fight for socialism. Don't be downtrodden. We old people will



B. Dow



J. Joshi

help you 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. Fight like hell and you'll win.'

Old people, she said, did not ask for luxuries. When they got the 12s. 6d. increase it would amount to only 7s. 6d. with prices continually going up.

'That is what the three stooges have done, Wilson, Brown and Callaghan.'

Mines

Moving a resolution on the mines a young comrade said that conditions in the mines were still bad and there was a real need for a sick pay scheme.

Secunder JACK WILLIAMSON called for the nationalization of the coal distribution and machinery production.

'When a mine closes,' he explained, 'it means a whole village is completely destroyed. Men leave to go to other areas where they do not know the local conditions and agreements and there are big problems of youth unemployment and housing.'

A delegate from the North Shields bus garage, Mrs. JOYCE WILSON said her father was a miner until he was made redundant. After six months he was too old to find a job.

'In some collieries there is machinery left underground worth thousands of pounds and it is a complete waste of money,' she claimed.



NC Member J. Williamson



Mrs. J. Wilson

This conference supports the following demands of the miners:

1. Substantial increase of wages for young workers.
2. Full piece-work rate after completion of face training.
3. Face training at 17½.
4. Higher grade work to receive higher grade pay.
5. Stop pit closures until full wages or alternative jobs at the same rate of pay are guaranteed.
6. Nationalization of the mining machinery industry.
7. Nationalization of coal distribution.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Vietnam

Moving an emergency resolution on Vietnam STEVE RICH of North-west Leeds told how the American government was spending nearly 2,000,000 dollars a day to support the war in South Vietnam.

There were 20,000 troops and 23,000 so-called advisers and still the American army was getting beaten 'hands down'.

Secunder PETER GREEN of Burgess Hill, Sussex, stated that the history of the Vietnam situation had been conveniently forgotten by the capitalist press in this country.

'Whilst the capital, Saigon, grew rich from the Americans, and from prostitution and gambling houses, 90 per cent of the people lived in hardship and poverty.'

'The American government opened 875 concentration camps imprisoning millions of peasants.'

'We demand that the United States army clear out of Vietnam and take their misery and corruption with them.'



P. Green

Conference calls for a campaign throughout the labour movement to demand the immediate end to the bombing and the withdrawal of imperialist forces so that the Vietnamese people can defeat imperialism and decide their own future.

Spain

From Sheffield JEAN KERRIGAN moved an emergency resolution on Spain. She described how armed police had beaten up metal workers and students and thrown

them into jail. The YS must call on the whole labour movement to demand the release of all political prisoners in Spain, she said.

Conference salutes the revolutionary working class of Spain and declares its complete solidarity with the struggle of students and youth in Spain against the Franco government. The labour movement must demand the liberation of Justo Lopez and all political prisoners in Spain and the restoration of the rights of political organisation, activity and expression.

Docks

Speaking on the resolution on the docks LARRY KAVANAGH of Birkenhead said that the demand was for immediate nationalization of the docks.

He added: 'We on the Merseyside were described by the papers as 'bloody-minded' and 'arrogant' for refusing to work Sundays and we are attacked by the press and the port employers all the time.'

'We can win our demands with the help of the youth, the Young Socialists and every section of the working class.'

'We have refused to accept decasualisation. We believe that the docks must be nationalized.'

The port employers have made millions in the past few years out of the dockers.'



L. Kavanagh

We ask for the support of the Young Socialists at this conference for the dockers' fight against the employers' proposals for decasualization, mechanisation and flexibility in the manning scales, while the industry remains in the hands of the employers.

W. London Demonstration against Racialism

WEST London Young Socialists, disgusted with the recent moves by the Labour Party to strengthen the Immigration Act, have called a mass demonstration against racialism and fascism through Paddington and Kensington on March 13.

In resolutions passed at a Federation meeting and sent to the Morecambe conference the youth said that the Labour Party action, along with vague statements by Home Secretary, Frank Soskice, in Parliament about 80,000 illegal immigrants, strengthened the racialists.

The demonstration, which will be attended by trade unionists, Labour Party members and Young Socialists begins at 3 p.m. at St. Stephens Gardens and will be followed by a public meeting at the Isaac Newton school at 4.30 p.m. and a dance at 8 p.m.