

# KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE  
YOUNG SOCIALISTS YOUTH  
SECTION OF THE WORKERS  
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21  
Vol 23 No 51 • PRICE 3p



## It's 'as bad as the 1930s'



— JAMES CALLAGHAN, LABOUR FOREIGN SECRETARY

5.0	6.5	45	8	U U Textiles	30	..	3.6	15.7	4.8	109	25 1/2	Do B	16 1/2	1.0	2.5	9.5	13.3	240	25	R	
15.6	1.3	127	30	Unicorn Ind	23	+1	16.0	9.8	3.6	48	15 3/4	Indus & General	26	-1/2	2.0	4.9	36.4	113	12	S	
5.7	7.7	109	22	Unigate	164	+3	66.8	5.3	6.7	76	40	Internat Inv	40	-1	6.1	8.3	16.7	231	63	S	
12.4	2.5	396	151	Unilever	£12 1/2	-7 1/2	8.5	14.5	6.2	132	194	Invest in Suc	73 1/2	-1	1.5b	6.5	12.9	136 1/2	13 1/2	S	
26.8	2.5	152 3/2	97 1/2	Do NY	59	..	12.5	..	..	81	3	Inv Tst Corp	2	..	0.7	1.9	57.1	124	28	S	
10.2	4.7	133	59	Unitech	27	..	26	..	..	36	6	..	50	..	..	..	..	216	52	S	
18.8	1.5	102	27	Utd Bi	22 1/2	..	2.2	..	..	42	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	435	63	S	
11.3	0.8	145	22 1/2	UBM	15	..	4.7	..	..	15	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	115	9 1/2	S	
30.6	2.1	42 3/4	14	Utd C	15	..	1.1	..	..	15	37	..	37	..	..	..	..	167	9 1/2	S	
3.0	3.9	41 1/4	14	Utd I	7 1/2	..	1.1	..	..	9 1/2	37	..	62	..	..	..	..	46 1/2	6 1/2	S	
13.6	4.7	121	6 1/2	Utd I	94	..	3.3	..	..	8	62	..	37 1/2	..	..	..	..	100	27	S	
15.4	2.5	410	94	Utd I	13	..	4.5	..	..	10	37 1/2	..	30	..	..	..	..	55	6	S	
17.9	2.7	51	13	Utd I	19	..	..	..	..	10	10	..	45	..	..	..	..	28	9	S	
21.1	..	126	18	Va	4 3/4	..	16.0b	..	..	10	10	..	11 1/2	..	..	..	..	135	17	S	
19.6	3.2	6 1/2	4 1/2	Vereengins	165	..	..	..	..	119 1/2	11 1/2	Do Cap	19	..	..	2.8b	14.5	11.0	220	10	S
18.0	2.2	290	120	Vetco	£ 20 3/4	-2	11.2	15.7	3.9	115 1/2	11 1/2	Ldn Pru Invest	47	..	..	5.0	10.6	13.6	33 1/2	3 1/2	S
12.5	3.8	21 1/2	11 1/2	Vickers	71	..	4.7	39.2	1.7	62	19	Ldn Pru Am	47	-5	..	9.6	11.0	12.3	..	..	S
22.3	2.7	151 1/2	70	Vita-Te	12	..	4.8	..	..	2	2	Ldr	..	..	..	3.7	7.0	20.5	..	..	S
16.4	3.0	85	12	Vosper	12	..	2.6	..	..	2	2	Me	..	..	..	2.4	13.3	11.4	..	..	S
14.4	..	114	39	W Ribbon	16	..	4.4	..	..	47 1/2	Me	..	..	..	..	2.5b	9.8	15.3	42	25	RUBBEL
5.3	..	55	16	WGI	26	..	1.5	..	..	18	Me	..	..	..	..	1.6	9.4	14.4	87	52	S
18.7	4.3	80 1/4	26	Wade Po	14	..	6.3	..	..	130	Me	..	..	..	..	5.0	2.8	16.1	118	58	S
13.3	0.9	47 1/2	14	Wadkin	40	..	10.7	..	..	130	Me	..	..	..	..	2.1	5.1	25.8	28 1/4	16	S
2.0	7.0	145	40	Wagon Ir	140 1/2	..	1.1	..	..	34	Me	..	..	..	..	2.3b	30.7	4.1	77 1/2	26	S
13.7	2.1	50	8	Walker &	48	..	1.9	..	..	5	Me	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	12	S
3.0	13.7	119	58	Walker C	50	..	6.9	..	..	2	Me	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39 1/2	27	S
10.2	3.2	238	70	Walker C	20	..	2.5	..	..	2	Me	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	17	S
11.8	2.8	81 1/4	26	Walker J. Gold	20	-1	2.5	12.5	3.0	113	29	Northern Am	33	-1 1/2	..	3.3	11.3	13.0	62 1/2	28	S
12.8	2.2	70 1/2	20	Do NV	42 1/2	-5 1/2	13.2	31.0	2.7	146	33	Northern Sec	20	-1 1/2	..	2.3	11.3	12.9	73 1/2	4	S
19.7	2.3	162	12	Walmesley Bury	20	+1	6.2	23.1	2.0	57 1/2	..	Oil & Associated	35	+1 1/2	..	3.7	10.5	13.3	440	142	S
16.9	3.9	197	110	..	9	-1 1/2	..	..	..	27	..	Per	..	..	..	40.0	3.1	..	43	24	S
15.1	3.2	110	29	..	2	..	..	..	..	12	..	or	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	58	S
7.0	5.3	158	158	Gill	2	..	..	..	..	185	10	Pro	..	..	..	10.0	12.4	..	150	8	S
13.1	1.9	331	80	War	13	..	..	..	..	200	..	Pro	..	..	..	11.2	9.2	..	41	1	S
25.2	2.0	80	13	War	13	..	..	..	..	142	..	Ra	..	..	..	12.6	..	..	61 1/2	2	S
16.2	4.8	7	14 1/2	at	14 1/2	..	..	..	..	49 1/2	..	Ra	..	..	..	10.5	12.1	..	50	2	S
2.4	9.1	16 1/2	60	at	60	..	..	..	..	42	..	Ra	..	..	..	5.8	19.7	..	54	3	S
16.4	4.2	8	28	at	28	..	..	..	..	5	..	to	..	..	..	15.5	9.0	..	22 3/4	..	S
15.2	4.2	30 1/2	7	el	7	..	..	..	..	7	..	Sa	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	..	S
21.4	3.1	36	10	Weeks Assoc	19	..	5.8	30.3	2.2	120 3/4	..	Scot & Cont	31	..	..	5	4.8	21.7	56	..	S
19.4	2.2	121	19	Weir Grp	13	..	2.5b	19.5	4.1	97	31	Scot & Merc	15	..	..	3.4	22.9	5.3	53 1/2	14	S
16.9	3.1	46	13	Wellman Eng	26	..	3.5	13.6	3.2	80	14 1/2	Scot & Merc	45 1/2	+1 1/2	..	4.1b	9.0	14.3	14	..	S
6.8	6.8	80	25	Westbrick Pds	13	..	2.3	17.8	4.7	140	45	Scot Eastern	27 1/2	..	..	1.5b	5.4	26.7	..	..	S
..	..	80	13	W Cum Silk	13	..	3.9	20.4	3.8	94	27 1/2	Scot European	35	..	..	3.1	8.7	18.4	..	..	S
..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	126	35	Scot Invest	40	-1	..	3.4b	8.6	15.8	..	..	S
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Scot Mortgage	40	-1	..	4.0	8.2	16.4	110	..	TEA

# A POLICY TO BEAT RECESSION

### STATEMENT BY THE KEEP LEFT EDITORIAL BOARD

THE world economic crisis is as bad as the 1930s and marks the end of an era, said Foreign Secretary and Labour Party chairman James Callaghan last week.

Britain is now in the midst of recession and the Labour government is attempting to force workers and youth to pay for it.

The pound has fallen to a record low—21 per cent down since the July 1972 'float'—while the rate of inflation has shot up to 18.3 per cent a year.

The Bank of England have borrowed millions overseas to stem the flood. The record £535m trade deficit last month means that British capitalism is bankrupt.

The capitalists have

no confidence in their own system. Share values are the lowest for 20 years, and the Financial Times' index is down to 150 points.

They know only one way to proceed—imposing mass unemployment and poverty on the working class.

All the new capitalist projects like Hawker Siddeley 146 and Concorde will be axed. Large-scale sackings are beginning in the car, aviation, electronics, construction and engineering industries.

British-Leyland's financial crisis is only the tip of the iceberg.

Workers in every capitalist country face a struggle to defend their rights. In the USA, unem-

ployment stands at 6 million and the car industry is collapsing. In West Germany, youth unemployment went up by 233 per cent this year.

The imperialists are now preparing for war to grab the oil fields from the Arab states. American aircraft carriers have been moved into the Mediterranean and Israel is stocking up with nuclear warheads.

The crisis has been caused by the destruction of the huge amounts of fictitious capital on which the post-war economic boom was based. There is no solution under their system—it can only go to barbarism, fascism and world war.

The only answer to the crisis is socialist policies.

To stop the attack on wages and living standards, the social contract must be smashed. We demand a full basic wage increase plus a sliding scale of wages to cover inflationary rises in the cost of living.

To fight sackings, factory closures and unemployment, a sliding scale of hours with no loss of pay must be demanded. The threat of closure must be met with factory occupations, and this must itself be a step towards the nationalization of all major industries under workers' control without compensation.

These policies cannot be implemented by capitalism or its Labour servants.

The struggle ahead is for the working class to take power and establish socialism. This also means the disbanding of the standing army and police force and their replacement with a workers' militia.

The Young Socialists has fought consistently to warn about the crisis and prepare youth to fight for their future. We call on all young people to join us in the struggle to build a new revolutionary leadership for the taking of power.

The Annual General Meeting of Keep Left on

Saturday January 11 in London, will be of great importance in rallying all youth in the fight to defend their basic rights and for socialist policies.

We call on all Young Socialists to launch the biggest campaign possible over the next three weeks to bring hundreds of youth to the AGM.

We say to all those youth whose right to a full education is being destroyed, who face unemployment when they leave school or college, who cannot earn a decent living wage or learn a trade under capitalism, who are experiencing the preparations of the police and army for dictatorship.

**FIGHT BACK NOW!  
JOIN THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!**

**COME TO KEEP LEFT'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING • BUILD THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!  
SATURDAY JANUARY 11, 2.30 p.m. • DANCE 8 p.m. TO HOUSESHAKERS, RED STAR SOUND**

FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 8



# KEEP LEFT SAYS

1974 opened with the Tory government in office and the three-day week closing down factories and offices throughout the country throwing millions on to the dole.

The central issues facing the whole working class were the defence of jobs against the threat of mass unemployment and the issue of the miners' pay claim.

Nearly two-and-a-quarter million working men and women were thrown on the dole. The Young Socialists and Keep Left called for factory occupations to defend jobs against the threat of unemployment.

Our Keep Left Annual General Meeting on January 5 saw a sharp turn in the crisis with the preparation for military-police dictatorship.

'Today the British Army moved tanks into Heathrow airport. The Heath government has declared war on the working class,' said Keep Left editor Sarah Hannigan in the main report.

And we warned, 'This is no ordinary confrontation between the miners and the government over money and wages. What is posed is the fight for jobs and a livelihood as against being driven onto the dole queues in millions.'

'This is the meaning of the three-day week. It is the beginning of recession.'

Days later talks on the miners' pay claim between the TUC and the

Tory government broke down. Keep Left said:

'This now clears the way for an historic showdown between the classes in Britain. What is at stake is not any longer the issue of miners' wages but the whole future of the Tory government itself.'

## Resign

The miners voted a powerful 81 per cent in support of strike action. The Tory government was forced to resign 18 months before its time.

The general election which followed the resignation of the Tories saw nine Workers Revolutionary Party candidates standing the first time the party had put up its own independent candidates.

Our candidates warned consistently that the central issue in the election was the threat of military-police dictatorship aimed at stripping the working class of its basic rights.

We fought consistently for the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Immediately after the return of a minority Labour government the issue of runaway inflation faced every section of workers and the middle class. Chancellor Denis Healey's first budget of the year imposed more price increases.

On March 30 the 14th Annual Conference of

the Young Socialists — our biggest ever — voted unanimously to become the Youth Section of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

In April we saw the Tory National Industrial Relations Court — encouraged by the continuous capitulation of the Labour government — issue its most vicious attacks on the rights of trade unionists.

The NIRC threatened to sequester the entire funds of the engineering union if it continued to refuse to pay a £47,000 fine.

But in May the response of hundreds of thousands of engineers to their executive's call for indefinite national strike against the sequestration order forced the court to climb down and accept a compromise.

The engineers like the miners in January had demonstrated that power lies not in the 'democratic' processes of parliament but in the struggle of class forces.

On April 25 in Portugal the oldest fascist regime in Europe was brought down. Within days hundreds of thousands of Portuguese workers and youth celebrated their first May Day in nearly 50 years free from the oppression of the Caetano fascists.

In Ulster the forces of the extreme right-wing declared a lock-out against the Sunningdale agreement and forced its downfall. The British army ignored the Labour

government's orders and stood by while the so-called Ulster Workers Council intimidated workers throughout the six counties.

On June 15, a 20-year-old student Kevin Gately died of cerebral haemorrhage from a blow on the head during clashes between police and anti-fascist demonstrators in Red Lion Square.

At the same time thousands of new workers came into the battle to defend living standards. At the end of May, nurses all over the country started official action demanding a 55 per cent pay increase.

They did so at a time of fast deterioration in the capitalist economic crisis. In June, top finance ministers of the main capitalist nations decided that countries could pledge gold reserves at free market prices.

## Recession

This decision marked the definitive turn towards international recession.

On July 27 Keep Left reported the fall of the seven-year-old Greek military junta.

At the same time Healey announced his second budget of the year — it put the British working class further in debt to the international bankers. A week later plans by British Leyland to axe 13,000 jobs in Oxford, the Midlands and

Merseyside were revealed.

In August Nixon was finally forced to resign as a result of continuing revelations over his role in the Watergate cover-up and the conspiratorial methods of his administration.

Ford took office and immediately announced plans for recession. In Britain the stock market crashed below the 200 mark.

At the end of August over 600 police launched a vicious attack on youth at the Windsor Park Pop festival.

The TUC conference in September saw the Communist Party and 'lefts' collaborate to allow the TUC to overwhelmingly pass its wage cutting 'social contract'.

Immediately after the return of a majority Labour government the differences between the working class and the bureaucracy became clear.

Over 25,000 Scottish workers struck against the 'social contract' in a fight for higher wages and shorter hours.

Healey's third budget introduced swingeing price increases in petrol, gas and electricity charges. It was allied to the threat of unemployment if workers refused to accept the 'social contract'.

The international economic crisis erupted with the American imperialists preparation for war against the Arab oil-producers. The build-up

for war increases daily — with millions of pounds of armaments sent to the Zionist imperialist-backed state of Israel.

In Britain the miners rejected the Labour government's plan for speed-up in the pits and demanded a £30 a week pay increase in line with the cost of living.

It was against this background that the Labour government — aided by the terrorist bombings in Birmingham — rushed in its police-state plans in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act.

The law — which gave the police unlimited powers of arrest, detention, interrogation and harassment — was gleefully supported by the Tories.

But these vicious attacks on the basic democratic rights of all working class organizations have solved nothing for the capitalist class.

The crisis of credit has now driven the stock-market to below the 150 mark.

The year ahead will see an enormous sharpening of the class struggle in Britain and internationally.

It is a struggle which today definitively poses one central issue for the working class — the taking of power and establishing socialism and the defeat of the ruling class and its plans for recession, dictatorship and war.

# POST BAG



## Careers and the crisis

I WOULD like to say something briefly on the crisis and its effects on the ideas of the girls in my year, and their intended careers.

We have had many heated classroom discussions which are becoming more frequent as the crisis deepens. The topic is What Next? — career-wise.

But each time these discussions take place a section of the girls usually try to divert it. The conversation also brings up much discussion of recent strikes.

It is necessary for the girls to realize that they won't be having any careers as the crisis is already hitting all sections of industry.

The only solution to this crisis is a planned economy and this can only be realized under a socialist system.

This is why it is necessary to create the leadership to fulfil these requirements.

Build a mass Young Socialists!  
Val,  
Tottenham YS.

## Schools cash crisis

MY school was opened only seven years ago, designed to teach about 1,200 pupils. It now holds nearly 1,700 pupils. To help accommodate the extra numbers several different measures have been taken.

The first was to begin 'converting' parts of the school. This included blocking-off ends of corridors, and spaces under the stairways, so that they could be used for teaching and study rooms.

The second measure was the recent instalment of temporary classrooms.

These are often flimsy, easily damaged (if not already so). Heating is provided by one paraffin burner per classroom and the furniture is often scant.

Few classes are not over sized numerically.

Paper, books and equipment are also in short supply. If a book is lost, pupils have to pay for replacements.

The feeling among pupils at the schools in the area is sometimes confused, and many youth see that there is simply not enough going

into education, but cannot see that the Labour government does not want educated youth.

It is at this point we must intervene not just in Havant but nationally.

Already in Havant there have been spontaneous strikes and actions. These show the determination of youth to fight for their education — but alone they are not enough.

The Young Socialists, as the youth section of the Workers Revolutionary Party, must be fighting to show the reactionary nature of the Labour government and unite youth in the fight for a decent education and future.

YS member,  
Leigh Park  
(Havant) YS.

## The most vicious attack on our rights

AS THE crisis drives the ruling class into frenzied preparations for wars, and the smashing of the working class and its organizations, the Labourites take up their historic role as the conscious agents of the ruling class.

YOUNG workers at the Post Office are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with being given boring menial work instead of receiving proper training in the field.

Despite protests voiced to their training officers and various representatives of the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) over the past three years, ever since I myself started as a trainee, nothing constructive has been done to rectify this situation.

In fact having become fed up with complaining to the training officer, I went with a few colleagues and asked to see the official union rep for trainees. He agreed to meet us during the dinner break. However he not only failed to turn up that time but twice afterwards as well.

Now the situation is



Post Office telephonists marching for higher wages

supposed to have become much better — this, however, is not the case.

The fact is that the Post Office have more than halved youth recruitment in most areas while in some areas it has been stopped altogether.

This they readily dismiss because 'we already have more than enough youth for any foreseeable future needs.' They steadily increase the number of adult entrants, but even this seems to be slowing down now.

So many who speak

of Post Office training schemes as some sort of fantastic apprenticeship, they are sadly mistaken. In fact the only good thing which comes out of this scheme is that they pay you for any further education doing City and Guilds telecommunications, which is OK if you don't want to study anything else. If you do however it is strictly out of the question to do it in 'their' time.

The only way to fight this sort of situation not only in the Post Office, not

only in England, but the world, is to fight for socialist policies within the workers' organizations themselves.

Only the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Young Socialists are doing this, fighting for the right to work and for a free education for all. Only by joining the Party and helping bring forward the fight for these policies can the victory of the working class of the minority ruling class be achieved.

Mick  
Bermondsey YS

CAN YOUR BRANCH write the letter of the week? Send your views to Post-bag, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG, or phone 01-720 5661-2.

voice was raised against these laws which are the foundation of Bonapartism.

The way to defend rights of the working class is the building of the mass revolutionary party to take the working class to power.

Steve Casely.



# CHRISTMAS IN JAIL



Dennis Warren (left) and Eric Tomlinson.

**'BUILDING workers are angry—angry that these men have been left inside, angry that the trade union and Labour leaders have left them.'**

This was the response from builders in the North West who spoke to Keep Left last week about the continued jailing of the 'Shrewsbury Two' pickets—Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson.

In December 1973 these two men were sentenced to prison under the 1875 Conspiracy Act. They were the victims of Tory class justice against workers who had fought to defend trade union rights and conditions under the Heath government.

Last month their appeal was rejected in the High Court. But as every worker knows Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has full power to release these men yet he has consistently refused to do so.

But building workers are no longer prepared to sit back and allow the Labour government to continue to hold the 'Shrewsbury Two' in jail.

Mike Farley, secretary of the Wigan Building Workers' Action Committee told Keep Left:

'Builders have tried all the legal channels open to them. They have tried half-day strikes, one day stoppages; they are increasingly aware that the only action which will release them is the sort of action which freed the "Pentonville Five", linking

up with other workers for an all out stoppage to demand they are freed.'

He added, 'The view among a lot of building workers is that it will be a major defeat for the building trade organization if these men are left in jail. After all they were the strike leaders.'

'They were carrying out the union policy of escalating and extending the strike—the

## These two men must be released!

only way to do this was by flying pickets. But they have been deserted by the trade union leadership.

'We have also seen what the Stalinists are doing. They are sending postcards and asking everyone to send postcards to Warren and Tomlinson wishing them a happy Christmas!

'The so-called "lefts" have been completely quiet. Eric Heffer who was always so keen to remind everyone that he was a building worker has not raised his voice.

'We don't want to wait until May or June when Warren and Tomlinson may be released on parole. That is not enough. We are demanding the repeal of the 1875 Conspiracy Act under which they were jailed—this law cannot be left on the statute books to be used again against trade unionists.

'The Stalinists will not fight for this.

'This is not just a building workers question. It involves

the rights of all trade unionists. It is linked completely with the fight against the labour government's anti-liberties laws.'

Warren and Tomlinson were sentenced a year ago this week—December 19—to three and two years respectively on charges of conspiracy, unlawful assembly and causing an affray during the national building workers strike.

As he was led out of the Shrewsbury Court, Tomlinson said:

'Will the day come when it will be an offence to be a member of a trade union?'

The treachery of the trade union and Labour leaderships in the past year have allowed these men to be held in jail. This cannot be allowed to continue.

**The time has come for the entire trade union movement to join the fight for the immediate release of Warren and Tomlinson.**



Heavy police guard at the Shrewsbury trial last year.

## SCHOOL MEALS GO UP

THE Labour government announced last week that the price of school meals will go up from 12p to 15p next April.

The decision by Tory Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher to increase the price from 9p to 12p in April 1971 led to thousands of pupils giving up school meals, and in some areas the incidence of scurvy among school youth increased significantly.

In April a family with three children will have to pay £2.25 weekly for school meals.

## THE OLD SLANDER

THE old slander that Marxism equals violence has been dragged out again—this time in the schools.

Progressive education methods, egalitarian thinkers and Marxists who 'make no secret of their determination to break down the authority structure of schools' are to blame for pupils' problems, says a report by the National Campaign for Discipline in Schools, formed last year and based in Oxfordshire.

Sixth-form activists are alleged to instigate 'violence and indiscipline which is reaching dangerous proportions.'

The Young Socialists reject this slander completely.

The breakdown of discipline in schools is the responsibility of the Tory and Labour governments who have slashed school spending and attacked the right to a full education for all youth.

# One last mad fling!

**THEY are really letting it rip in the top shops this Christmas—it's their last chance!**

Perfumed hands have exchanged millions. The thick-piled carpets have been worn down by frantic bourgeois feet. Cameos, wood carvings, perfumes, poker dice, gilt ornaments, wedgewood, puppies, cigars, satsumas, serviettes and polo-sticks have vomited out of the hallowed portals.

Keep Left reporters battled through the frantic rush to find out how Christmas is hitting London's exclusive shopping centres.

One lady we met outside Harrods in Knightsbridge had 'so much money I don't know what to do with it.'

One well-dressed couple were delighted to relate their purchases. 'Toys for the children—microscopes, painting and drawing sets, guitars—good value for about £7 each... then for our friends poker dice... we've bought a gilt chain, the usual round of wedgewood-type bowls and butter-dishes for £3 or £4 each.'

'The total will come to between £50 and £100—we haven't really worked it out yet!'

'We'll have turkey, ham and everything for Christmas dinner. We'll probably spend about as much on food as on family presents.'

We asked what sort of Christmas it will be. 'Oh, very

BY LORRAINE PHELAN AND SIMON PIRANI

good. People have got more to get away from,' giggled the wife. 'It'll be worse next year,' confided the husband to Keep Left as he hailed a taxi.



A Swiss lady told us she expected to spend about £100.

Two fur-coated dames rushed past. 'Oh! We haven't decided anything yet! We're going to get a book called "The Joy of Sex"...' One of them said 'for her parents, and my husband!'

An elegant American lady said: 'I am getting small luxuries like talc, toilet water—most of my things are going back to the States.'

'People don't like to think it's an austerity Christmas although it is!'

How much was she spending? 'With family, over the £100 mark on presents.'

'I'll probably spend out £40

on presents and £20 on food.'

A Swiss lady bought a pipe for her husband 'about £15', and cigars 'about the same again'.

'I have bought a few cosmetics for £5 upwards and sent flowers to my friends. I have spent about £60 on presents.'

'I should think we will spend about £20 on drinks and the same again on food for celebrations.'

The last lady we interviewed has bought a few sets of handkerchiefs, coming to £23. 'I also went into Marks and Spencers for underwear and spent £7 or £8.'

'I will be giving half a dozen bottles of scotch as presents costing between £2 and £5 each.'

'For my friends' children, I will give money—about £2 each—along with presents.'

'All the presents will cost about £100.'

The very, very rich sense that this is the last Christmas they are going to celebrate. As the Stock Exchange winds down to 1929 level and the Financial Times index dips towards the 150 mark, their spending sprees are getting more extravagant.

But back in Shepherd's Bush the atmosphere is very different. We interviewed youth who are struggling to piece the money together for presents.

Robert and Martin are buying chocolates for their parents at £2 a box. £1 on books, £3 on records and per-

fume at £1.95 a bottle is about all.

'Prices going up has made it more expensive,' they told Keep Left. 'Christmas presents all together come to about £10.'

Dawn Lawrence said: 'I've bought perfume for £1.50, and records 55p for singles and £2.50 or £3 for LPs.'

'Christmas this year has been really expensive because of rising prices. I will be glad when it's over and life gets back to normal.'



Another lady has spent about £100 on presents.

Desmond Jansen and Billy Jordan said 'this year it doesn't seem like Christmas, because of the lack of decorations. Hardly anyone seems to have taken an interest in it.'

'We can't afford to buy clothes or anything like that for friends. They are buying cigarettes—100 for £1.50, af-



## HOW THE OTHER HALF SHOPS

West End shopping.

tershave for 50p, book tokens for £1 and record tokens for £1.

Christmas this year for working-class youth will be the hardest ever. The effects of sky-rocketing inflation and the wage-cutting policies of the Labour government are squeezing pay packets and money from part-time jobs to the bare bone.

The great season of festivity has turned sour in thousands of homes where workers and youth just can't afford to celebrate as they used to.

For the ruling class it is the last Christmas before the crash. For us it is being blotted out by the enormous struggles ahead to defend our living standards and basic rights.



# WHEN THE TROOPS STOPPED FIGHTING

Trenches on the Eastern Front, 1914

**CHRISTMAS Day, sixty years ago. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers face each other across miles of barren bomb-torn waste between the trenches which stretch across Europe.**

French, German, British, Turkish and Russian workers have already seen their mates shot to pieces and die in the snow. The temporary enthusiasm whipped up by governments to persuade workers to die for their 'own' capitalist class has been replaced by bitterness and hatred.

Sir Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, expressed his fears to his wife on December 10, 1914. 'What would happen, I wonder if the armies suddenly went on strike and said some other means must be found of settling the dispute.'

On Christmas Day, the pent-up opposition to the war erupted, and the imperialist Churchill's fears were justified.

On the Western Front, the few miles of ruined French farmland on which over a million men died fighting, British and French troops met their German 'opponents' in the No Mans Land between the trenches.

Captain Sir Edward Hulse of the Scots Guards wrote an account of the 'Historic Christmas Truce' before being killed in action four months later.

He described how four unarmed Germans left the trenches and started towards English lines: 'My fellows were not very keen, not knowing what was up, so I went out alone, and met Barry, one of our ensigns,

also coming out from another part of the line.'

The Germans were three privates and a stretcher-bearer.

Their spokesman said that it was only right they should wish their 'enemies' a merry Christmas, and trusted them implicitly. The spokesman came from Suffolk, 'where he had left his best girl and a 3½ h.p. motor bike!'

Captain Hulse took a letter from the German to the girl and posted it to her. They chatted generally and made their opposition to the war quite clear.

'They protested that they had no feeling of enmity towards us at all, but that everything lay with their authorities, and that being soldiers they had to obey. I believe they were speaking the truth when they said this, and that they never wished to fire a shot again.'

'They said that unless directly ordered they were not going to shoot again until we did... We talked about the ghastly wounds made by rifle bullets, and we both agreed that neither of us used dum-dum bullets, and that the wounds are solely inflicted by the high-velocity bullet with the sharp nose, at short range.'

'We both agreed that it would be far better if we used the old South African round nosed bullet, which makes a clean hole...'

After arranging a meeting place for the duration of the 'Christmas Truce', and exchanging Albany cigarettes and German cigars, Hulse reported to headquarters. When he returned to the front-line trenches, no one was on guard and 'Tipperary' and 'Deutschland uber Alles' were being sung with gusto.

I saw, to my amazement, not only a crowd of 150 British and Germans at the half-way house which I

had appointed opposite my lines, but six or seven such crowds, all the way down our lines, extending towards the 8th Division on our right.'

The officious Captain Hulse trotted out and made the armistice as official as possible with the German officers, who said they had no desire whatsoever to re-start the fighting.

The men went hare-coursing in the No Man's Land, and shared a bottle of rum and some plum puddings.

Hulse told the 'enemy' they would have to play the game and end the truce, but they came out again on the 26th.

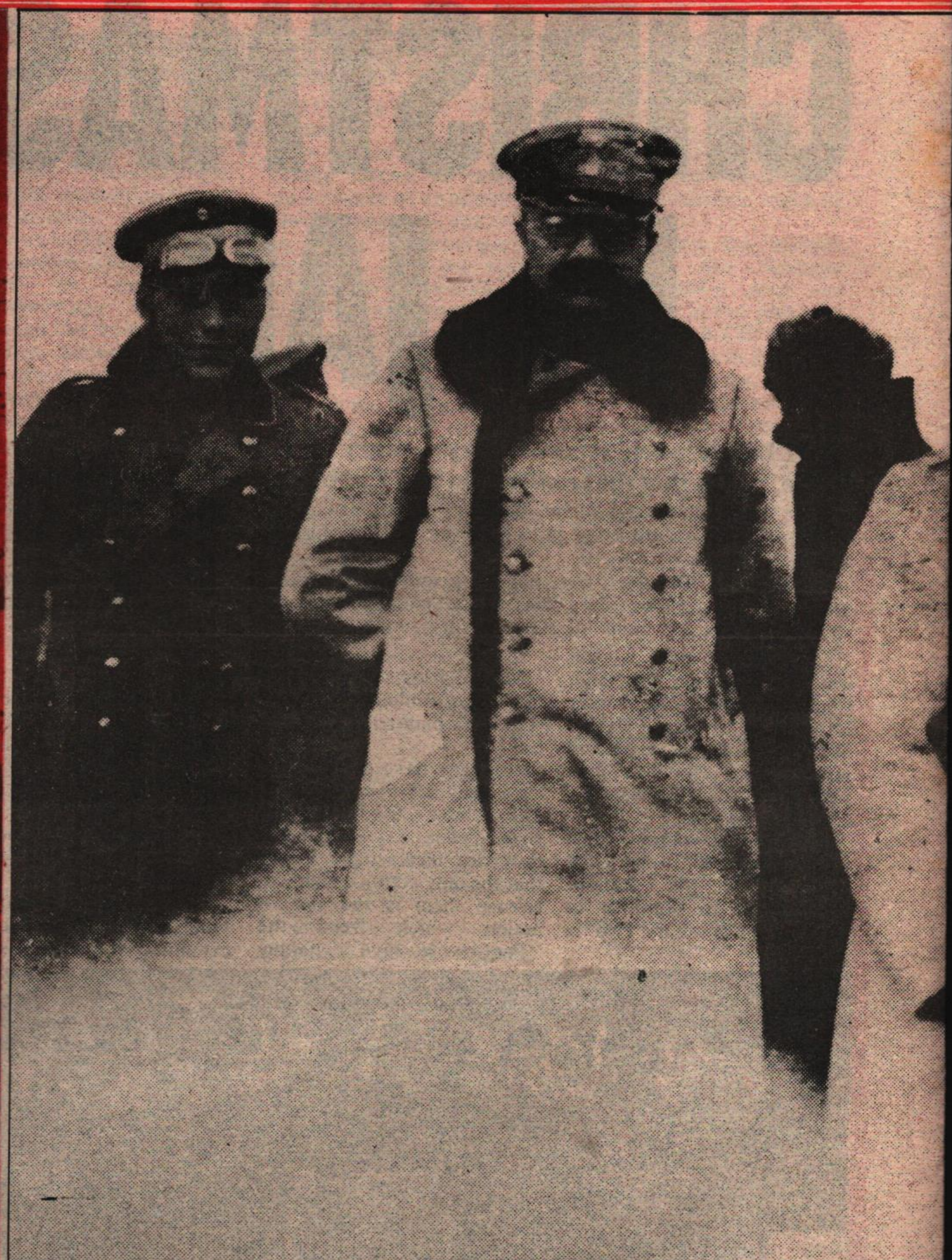
A rumour spread through British lines late on Boxing Day that a deserter had come from the German lines with a story that they were about to open fire.

'Suddenly our guns all along the line opened a heavy fire, and all the enemy did was to reply with 9 inch shell (heavy howitzers) not one of which exploded, just on my left. Never a rifle shot was fired by either side (except right away down in the 8th Division) and at 2.30 a.m. we turned in half the men to sleep and kept the other half awake on sentry.'

After the heavy firing which had been ordered from the top, Hulse met the Germans again and apologized for the misunderstanding. When his unit was relieved by the Grenadiers, he passed on instructions 'in case the enemy still wished to pay visits...'

The incident was not isolated. Literally hundreds of troops engaged in fraternization.

'At another point on the front,' reports the authoritative 'Times History of the War', 'the Colonel of a British Infantry regiment met enemy officers... and told them that if they would have



German and British soldiers posing for photographs during the 1914 'Christmas Truce'. This

## THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE, D

an armistice on New Year's Day the British would play them at football.'

In one section a football could not be found, and in another one was borrowed but the match was forbidden by a frantic British Colonel. 'But at one place at least, the international event was actually achieved; a British regiment had a match with the Saxons opposite them, and were beaten, three to two!'

Troops exchanged helmets and in at least three places

up Europe and the colonies for exploitation by the big Imperialist powers.

The High Command in both Britain and Germany were extremely alarmed.

The 'Times History' reports that in Germany 'an Army Order of December 29 forbade any recrudescence of fraternizing, and especially any approach to the enemy in the trenches, and declared that any infraction of the order would be punished as treason. German newspaper

the British command, which was equally hostile, and the complete wall of silence erected by the British Press.

The 'Times History', concluding that the December 1914 events were not isolated but a trait of wars in general, said that during the siege of Port Arthur in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904, 'soldiers of opposing armies entered into friendly communication with one another, and exchanged cigars and cigarettes.'

'What would happen, I wonder, if the armies suddenly went on strike and said some other means must be found of settling the dispute'

— Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, 1914

posed for photographs, one of which is shown on this page.

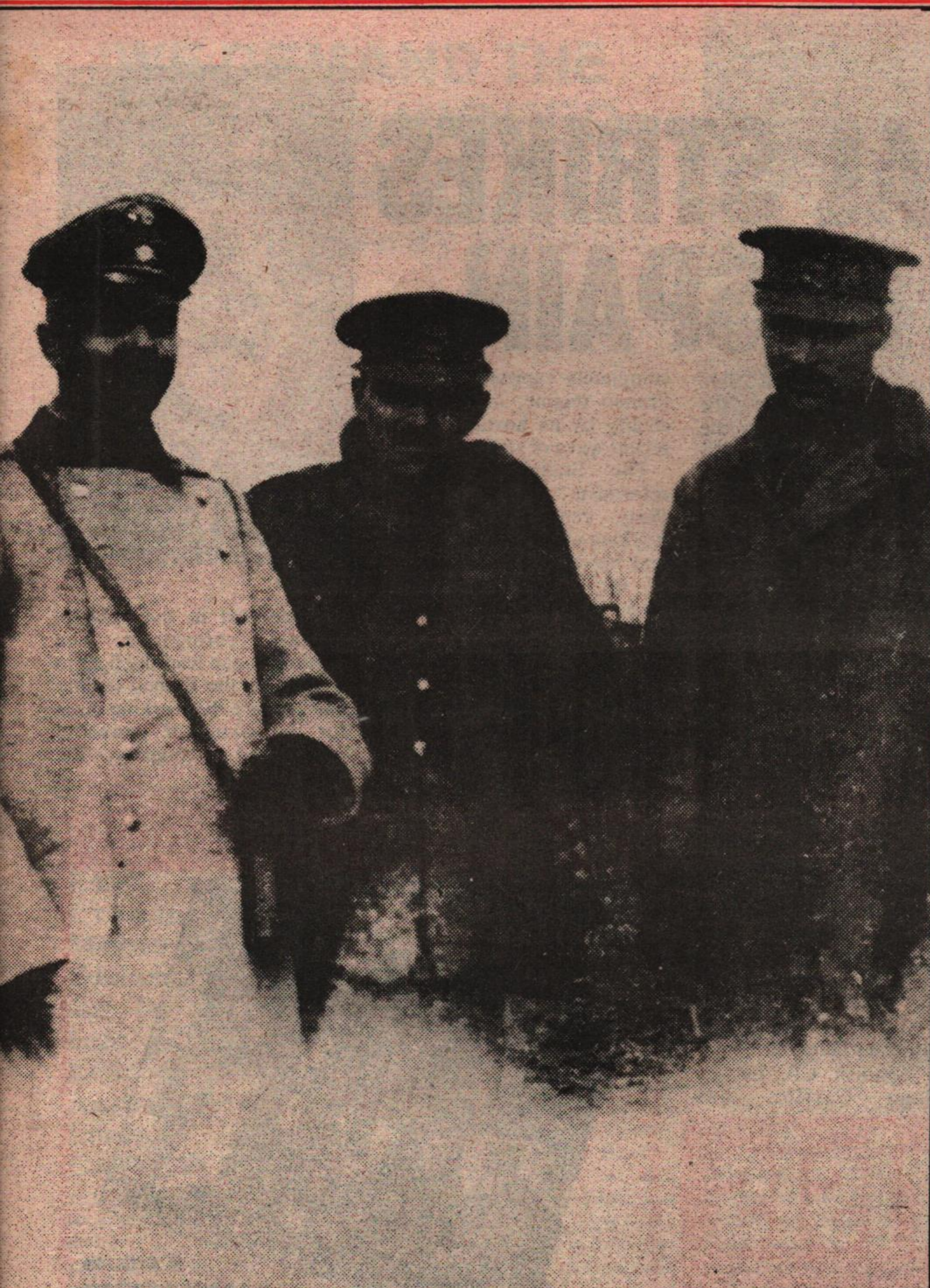
The 'Christmas Truce' was widespread and showed the overwhelming hatred for the war, which was fought solely in the interests of the employers, in order to divide

writers, composing their lucubrations in the reposeful atmosphere of their offices, drew from it, doubtless by order, many lugubrious deductions.'

The 'Times History' does not record the reaction from

As far back as the Napoleonic Wars, 'the French and English soldiers also fell to fraternizing, and Wellington and the French commander took measures to stop it.' The French called the British 'nos amis, les





is a group of officers in the Bridoux-Rouges Bancs sector

CEMBER 1914 BY SIMON PIRANI

ennemis' (our friends, the enemy).

The prospect of the troops abandoning their positions, fraternizing as workers and ignoring the instructions, threats and pleas of the Army was extremely alarming for the capitalists.

The First World War began, not as the school history books say because of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austro-Hungary, but because the terrific speed of capitalist expansion was bursting through the national boundaries.

The War signalled the fact that the means of production, the development of industry, science and technology could not be developed any further under the capitalist system, which was concerned only with making profit for the different national capitalist classes.

Germany, which was challenging Britain for superiority in the capitalist world, went to war in a desperate attempt to find new markets, to find new populations of workers to exploit, in order to continue the extraction of surplus value for profit.

But the contradictions of the capitalist system which caused the First World War also brought the possibility of the working class internationally taking power, destroying the capitalist system and carrying out socialist production.

A tiny handful of revolutionaries; Lenin, Trotsky and Zinoviev in Russia, Karl Liebknecht in Germany, and others throughout Europe including John Maclean in Scotland; were alone in consciously expressing the needs of the

working class throughout Europe, of the millions of soldiers who wanted peace, an end to the pointless slaughter, and the defence of their basic human rights.

Unlike the crawling reformists of the Labour Party in Britain and the Social-Democratic Party in Germany, these communists called for an immediate end to the war and for the workers to use their arms to take the power.

Lenin, leader of the Bolshevik Party and later of Russian Revolution, wrote in his pamphlet 'Socialism and War' (August 1915):

'The bourgeois papers of all the belligerent countries have quoted examples of fraternization between the soldiers of the belligerent nations, even in the trenches. The fact that the military authorities of Germany and England have issued severe orders against such fraternization proves that the government and the bourgeoisie consider it of serious importance.

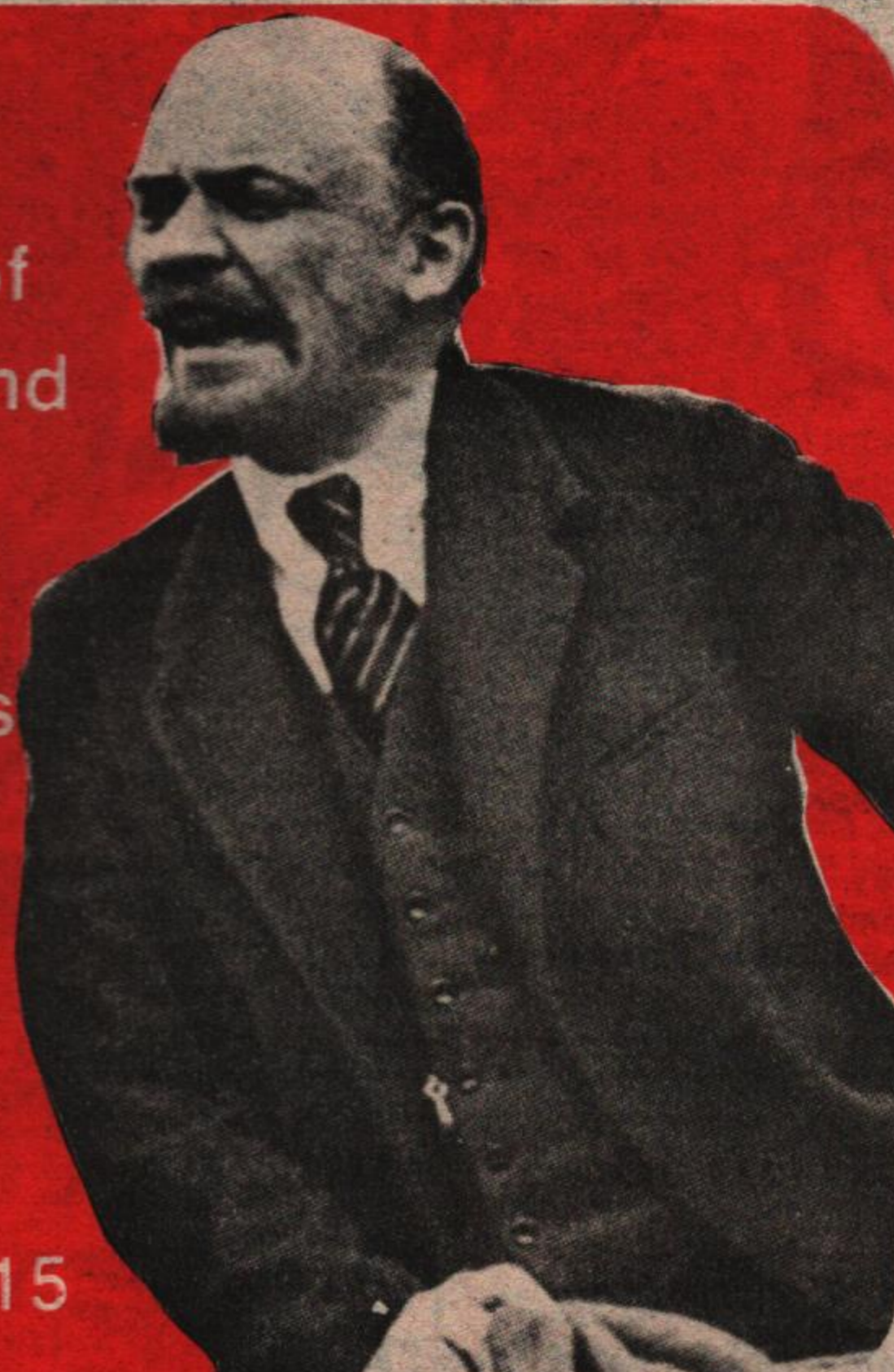
'If at a time when opportunism among the leaders of the Social-Democratic parties of Western Europe is supreme and social-chauvinism is supported by the entire Social-Democratic press as well as by all influential figures of the Second International, such cases of fraternization are possible, how much nearer could we bring the end of this criminal, reactionary and slave-driving war and the organization of a revolutionary international movement if systematic work were conducted in this direction, at least by the Left Socialists of all the belligerent countries!'

Lenin saw the 'Christmas Truce' as evidence of the huge

latent opposition to the war which could be mobilized by socialists to prepare for the overthrow of capitalism.

In September 1915, an International Socialist Conference was held at

**'The fact that the military authorities of Germany and England have issued severe orders against such fraternization proves that the government and the bourgeoisie consider it of serious importance'**



**— V. I. Lenin, 1915**

Zimmerwald, Switzerland, against the war. The Left Wing of the Conference (the Bolshevik Party and some Eastern European sympathizers) voted on a resolution saying:

'The signal for this struggle is the struggle against the World War, for the speedy termination of the slaughter of nations. This struggle demands the refusal of war credits, quitting the cabinets, the denunciation of the capitalist anti-Socialist



A Russian regiment after voting against the war, 1917



Austrian and German troops fraternized, encouraged by the Bolsheviks

character of the war . . . the sharpest struggle against social-patriotism, and the utilization of every movement of the people caused by the results of the war (misery, great losses etc), for the organization of street demonstrations against the governments, propaganda of

bullets in their guns, food on their plates or boots on their feet, began to stop fighting.

Fraternization between German and Russian troops began *en masse*. Thousands of troops deserted. As news came from Russia's capital, St Petersburg, that the workers had thrown out the hated Tsar

large scale, encouraged by communist propaganda.

In 1917, the war turned into revolution in Russia. Under the Bolshevik leadership, soldiers who had guns from the Imperial army joined the working class in overthrowing the capitalist provisional government and establishing the first dictatorship of the proletariat in Russia.

The revolution did not spread to Germany, France and Britain as Lenin and Trotsky had hoped, largely because of the treachery of the reformist leaders of the working class in those countries.

In 1918 the German workers and soldiers took to the streets and formed councils of action, but their leaders failed to take the power and they were later smashed by the right-wing military.

The revolutionary movement which swept across Europe during 1917-1918 cannot be separated from the small and short-lived fraternization in December 1914.

As Lenin said, it showed the hatred that working men who fought and died in the war had for the capitalists who sent them there to shoot each other to pieces.

It showed that those workers knew the war was a pointless slaughter to serve only the ends of the capitalists internationally.

As Lenin fought to explain then, and the revolutionary movement fights to explain today, the horrors of war are part of the capitalist system.

Only when the working class of all countries is united, under an internationalist revolutionary leadership, to take the power and establish socialism, can war be put an end to.

Nicholas and a Provisional Government had been installed in March 1917, the army virtually revolted.

By June 1917 two million Russian soldiers had deserted and the Bolshevik Party said: 'Why fight any more? Take your gun and go home and seize your piece of land.' Thousands of soldiers took this advice.

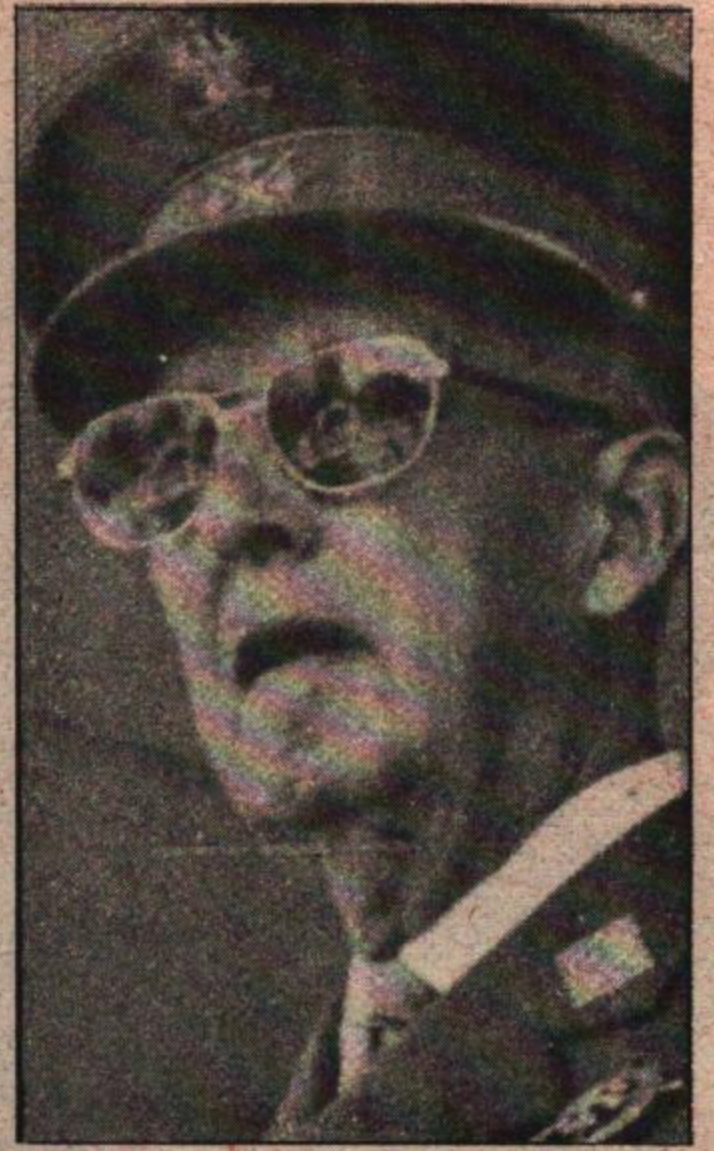
On the Austro-German front, troops fighting for the two Empires fraternized on a

international solidarity in the trenches, the encouragement of economic strikes, the effort to transform them into political strikes under favourable conditions. Civil war, not civil peace — that is the slogan!

The fraternization in December 1914 on the Western Front was overshadowed by the developments on the Eastern Front in 1917.

The Russian army, demoralized, hungry, without





Franco

International in the struggle against reformism and Stalinism, can lead the fight to overthrow the Franco regime and prepare the working-class for the taking of power in Spain and throughout the World.

# German youth jobless 233% UP

**YOUTH** unemployment in West Germany has risen to record levels for recent years.

A survey into youth unemployment revealed that at the end of September there were 69,800 unemployed under 20 years of age — of these, 31,900 were still looking for their first job.

Out of these were 3,800 for whom the careers advisors could not find an apprenticeship of any kind.

In comparison with September 1973, the number of unemployed

youth has risen by 48,000 or 233 per cent, while the unemployment level as a whole has gone up by 154 per cent.

Unemployment is rising rapidly throughout West Germany as a whole. In this once boom country while sections of industry are now threatened with recession and closure.

The future facing workers and young people in West Germany is a future of bitter struggle to defend high living standards and jobs against mass unemployment in the fight against their Social Democratic leaders.

# POLITICAL STRIKES IN SPAIN

In the past few weeks thousands of Spanish workers have struck — under conditions where striking is illegal — in defiance of the Franco fascist regime.

More than 200,000 Basque workers participated in the General Strike called by the Basque nationalist movement (ETA) on December 12.

Thousands of workers in many other parts of Spain, also came out on strike in sympathy with 144 political prisoners, who are on hunger strike in 11 jails throughout the country.

The General Strike was supported by the illegal trade unions, the Spanish Socialist Party, and a number of other illegal left-wing organizations.

The Spanish Stalinists in the Communist Party, however, gave only a very limited and half-hearted support to the strike.

In the Basque North-West provinces of Spain, shops and schools closed for the two days of the strike.

In the town of Guernica,

which gave its name to Pablo Picasso's painting of the atrocities committed by the Fascist forces during the civil war, the strike met with 100 per cent support.

During the last few months many sections of Spanish workers have struck, in many cases for the first time since the Civil War, to defend their living standards which are being rapidly eroded by cost of living increases.

Pamphlets issued by the illegal trade unions during the last strikes demanded wage increases to meet the rising cost of living, basic democratic rights, and the release of all political prisoners held in Spanish jails.

In such a situation, where even the bank workers in Madrid and Barcelona have recently struck for higher wages, the Communist Party's role is that of complete counter-revolutionary betrayal.

The Spanish CP, led by Santiago Carillo, has

completely capitulated to the Franco regime, as is shown clearly by its hostility to the recent wave of strikes.

The Stalinists and the reformists of the Socialist Party can only lead the working-class into fresh traps and betrayals like the defeat of the Spanish Revolution after the Civil War in the 1930's.

Only a Revolutionary Party, basing itself on Marxism as developed by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky and the International Committee of the Fourth

ORDER NOW! ORDER NOW!

KEEP LEFT PAMPHLET AVAILABLE NOW



Articles about eight members of the Bolshevik Party that led the Russian revolution, written by their comrades, about the part which they played. Reprinted from Keep Left. First class production and illustrations.

YS BRANCHES — ORDER COPIES NOW!

PLEASE SEND ME . . . COPIES OF 'HEROES OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION'  
I ENCLOSE £ . . . (Price 50p + postage and packing 10p)

YS BRANCH OR NAME . . . . .  
ADDRESS . . . . .

# Smith regime in crisis

OVER 100  
BLACK  
POLITICAL  
PRISONERS  
SET FREE



Repression in Rhodesia: it hasn't stopped the demands for majority rule

**BY CLIVE HILLS**  
THE Rhodesian regime of Ian Smith has been forced by the pressure of the growing African revolution to make concessions to the Black nationalist movement.

Over 100 political prisoners including nationalist leaders Joshua Nkomo and Ndabaningi Sithole have been released after 10 years in jail.

The ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) and the ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) can now operate legally for the first time since Smith's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965.

But leaders of the government party, the Rhodesia Front, have said that if the nationalist leaders do not stay within the bounds of 'normal activity' then they will be jailed again immediately.

### Pressure

The collapse of the Portuguese empire in Africa following the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship on April 25, has placed great pressure on the Rhodesian government.

The liberation of Mozambique threatens a

railway link running through Mozambique which was vital to the Rhodesian economy. The line was used to break sanctions imposed by the United Nations after UDI was declared by Smith.

### Risks

Smith clearly sees the concessions he has made as a means of clinging onto white power and avoiding a revolutionary war with the ZANU and ZAPU forces. But he has taken considerable risks in releasing the African Nationalist leaders.

The political campaigning of the nationalists, who recently united to form the African National Council, which is pledged to fight for a black Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), must raise the question of majority rule in the near future.

The concessions made by



Smith

Ian Smith's regime are seen by extreme right wing sections of the white ruling class as a betrayal of the 'white community' and a capitulation to 'terrorists'.

But the concessions which Smith has made are a desperate attempt to delay the overthrow of his regime by black workers and peasants.

The growing African revolution will consign the

reactionary white ruling class of Rhodesia and South Africa to the 'dustbin of history' where they belong.

Smith and his friends in the South African regime are in mortal danger from the rising revolutionary movement of the black workers and peasants.

In this situation the reformist and Stalinist leadership of the African National Council are pleading desperately for talks with the hated Vorster leadership in South Africa because they fear the 'time bomb' which is now threatening to explode in the fight of African workers and peasants for their liberation.

But they will be unable to hold back this struggle for long. The oppression which the African peoples have suffered at the hands of the white supremacist regimes in southern Africa ensures that.



# THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT LEADS THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES.

NAME . . . . .  
ADDRESS . . . . .

I AM INTERESTED IN (tick where applicable):

- DISCOS
- MEETINGS
- ATHLETICS
- CRICKET
- FOOTBALL
- SWIMMING
- NETBALL
- COACH TRIPS

Post to: YS national secretary, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG



**'WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION'**  
 —Kingsway students

# Labour officials face grants lobby

LAST week Lord Crowther Hunt, Minister of State at the Education Department and Dr Eric Briault, head of the Inner London Education Authority visited London's Kingsway College.

The object of the visit was to see the good work being done at the college, particularly in the field of underprivileged children.

Kingsway students, however, took the opportunity of informing Crowther Hunt and Dr Briault of the fact that the vast majority of their number are underprivileged and suffer from abysmally low grants, or none at all.

On arrival, the two were greeted by a student delegation from Hammersmith, Stoke Newington and Kingsway Colleges.

Kingsway Students' Union

REPORT BY SARAH HANNIGAN  
 PICTURES FROM KINGSWAY S.U.

chairman, Werner Ullah, told Keep Left:

'Crowther Hunt and Briault were in one of the top rooms with the principal and vice-principal having tea and biscuits. We decided to ask them some questions, particularly Crowther Hunt.

'We asked what he was going to do about education cuts, what he was going to do about grants. We asked him what the Labour government was going to do.'

But to all their questions the students could get no satisfactory answer.

Patrick Watson, a Kingsway student told Keep Left that he had also spoken to Briault and Crowther Hunt.

### Political

'Briault told us that giving grants to certain people and not to others is a political decision. We then turned to the "political" Crowther

Hunt and demanded that grants for people in further education should be mandatory, that they would be given to all students over 16.'

The students also pointed to specific cases where underprivileged union members were being discriminated against.

One of these is Douglas Neill who is 17. Douglas explained to Keep Left:

'I am on a general education course building up to 'O' levels. I started here on October 8.

'So far I have never received a grant even though I have sent off forms and told my tutor and asked for help in obtaining one.

'My mum says that if I don't get a grant within two weeks then I'll have to leave. At the moment I'm coming to college on my grandmother's pension money.'

Douglas is one of the very few students who have

entered full-time studies at Kingsway from the College's Community Education Research Unit which deals with the problems of underprivileged youth.

Terree Selby is 17. She confronted Dr Briault to explain her position.

### £180 yearly

'I am a full time student and the maximum grant I can receive totals £180 a year,' she said.

'At present, my mother who is officially past retiring age has had to take a part-time job to keep me at college.

'If she did not do this she would have to keep me on the pitiful widows' pension that the Labour government think is enough to support two people.

'I confronted Dr Briault with my problem and told him that all students over 16 should have mandatory grants. His reply was, "Ah, well, that's your belief."



Lord Crowther Hunt (back to camera) confronts Kingsway students



Tea and biscuits for Doctor Eric Briault (left) and head teaching staff was rudely interrupted

## UNDER-25s ARE HOMELESS

BY A KEEP LEFT REPORTER

'DOSSERS' today are more likely to be under 25 according to a report published last week by Crisis at Christmas.

People who spend night after night sleeping rough in big cities are more likely to be young people under 25 than older down-at-heel tramps.

The report estimates that between 10,000 and 20,000 young people are homeless — 20 per cent of the total figure.

Sociologist David Robinson who prepared the report says the problem is increasing at an 'unprecedented' rate.

In the London area alone, it says, between 12,000 and 25,000 people are squatting in empty houses because they have nowhere to live.

A 'guide for action' attached to the report says that the number of homeless could be 'dramatically

reduced' if local authorities made more use of empty property awaiting demolition or redevelopment.

It points out that as many as 600,000 properties could be made available.

Dr Robinson blames local authorities for failing to provide enough single accommodation flats in cities. Other factors contributing to the problem include the difficulties of finding city jobs, broken marriages and the fact that young people leave home earlier.

'They are ordinary young people, hailing from a range of backgrounds and classes, and who, through physical disability, mental inadequacy or simply overwhelming social economic pressures have been forced out of conventional society,' he says.

### YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS



## LEEDS BAZAAR ATTRACTION



THE Young Socialists Christmas Bazaar in Leeds last Saturday raised hundreds of pounds for the Workers Revolutionary Party Special Fund.

Members from throughout Yorkshire worked on every stall and side-show at the Leeds Corn Exchange to make the Bazaar a magnificent success.

The bottle draw (the stall where you have to win!), shown above, was a tremendous success.

The fashion stall and boutique, attended by YS models, was also a big hit, closely rivalled by Santa Claus (left).

Other attractions were grocery and tinned foods bargains, gifts, children's toys and clothes, side shows, refreshments, raffles and Peter Armitage, TV's favourite milkman.

The success with which the YS Christmas Bazaar has grown from year to year in Leeds shows the response we can win.

## £15m EXTRA — BUT £20m SHORT

UNIVERSITIES are only to get £15m—less than half the money they need to meet the rising costs of inflation—Labour Education Minister Reg Prentice announced last week.

The extra £15m award follows a strongly-worded memorandum from the Committee of vice-Chancellors in October pointing out that they needed £24m more to meet running costs in the universities.

The universities started off the current academic year with a deficit of around £40m because the government did not pay the usual supplementary grant to compensate for inflation.

In July Prentice awarded them £4m. But even with the latest grant, inflation rates of about 20 per cent a year still leave universities about £21m worse off.

Prentice has also warned that when he announces the new levels of university grants for 1975-1977 he will take into account the fact that the number of students going to university has not risen as rapidly as was expected when the present five-year period began in 1972.

Send off 25p now plus 3p postage to get your Young Socialists badge. You can also make a bulk order for your YS branch. Send to: YS National Treasurer, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

Please send me ..... YS badges

I enclose (.....)

Name .....

Address .....

GET YOUR YS BADGE NOW!





# Book Now! FOR THE BIG YS EVENTS

**1** **YOUNG SOCIALISTS XMAS BAZAAR**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21

NOTTINGHAM Albert Hall Institute, Derby Road Starts 2 p.m.	LIVERPOOL The Unity Boys Club Dove Street Toxteth Starts 12 p.m.
--	--

**2** London Area Young Socialists

## XMAS DANCE AND RALLY

Sunday December 22  
St Pancras Town Hall, Euston Road  
(near Euston Station)

**HOUSESHAKERS ROCK'N'ROLL BAND  
RED STAR SOUND**

7.00 p.m. Tickets 50p

**3** Scottish Region Young Socialists

## XMAS DANCE AND RALLY

PLUS FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL RALLY

Sunday December 22  
Woodside Halls, Woodside Road, Glasgow

SOUNDS • LIGHTS • REFRESHMENTS

Starts 2.00 p.m. Tickets 30p

**4** Keep Left invites its readers and supporters to our 24th

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY JANUARY 11, 1975

East India Hall, East India Dock Road, London E14

No to the police-state laws! National Speaking Contest  
No to the social contract!  
For a sliding scale of wages to beat inflation!  
For nationalization of basic industry under workers' control and without compensation!  
Build the mass Young Socialists!

**Dance** in the evening  
**HOUSESHAKERS BAND  
RED STAR SOUND**

Tickets 50p • Coaches from all areas

**5** YOUNG SOCIALISTS

# 15th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 12-13, 1975

The Grand Hall, The Spa, Scarborough

- Conference to discuss socialist policies to meet the crisis. Saturday 2.30 p.m.
- DANCE plus Civil Reception and Buffet. Saturday night
- Winner of YS Photo Competition announced

Coaches from all areas  
Special trains from London

APPLY FOR ALL DETAILS TO YS, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS

## YSSS FOUNDED IN EDINBURGH

NINETY students and staff attended the first meeting of the Edinburgh University Young Socialists Student Society last week.

Eisenstein's revolutionary film of the 1905 uprising,

FROM A REGIONAL CORRESPONDENT

'Battleship Potemkin', was shown and a discussion on it was opened by a speaker from the Workers Revolutionary Party. He spoke about the role of the working class in the present capitalist crisis and its fundamental lack of revolutionary leadership. This was too much for

members of the Stalinist-reformist 'Broad Left', at the meeting, who hastily left when their political arguments were exposed as increasingly bankrupt.

After this exodus, a lively discussion followed, clearing away many illusions festered by these groups—the

International Socialists, International Marxist Group and Communist Party—who are long established in the University.

Our membership has doubled on the strength of this meeting. So too has the hostility from these groups.

As the reformists move to the right, the mass of students moves leftwards as the crisis deepens—reflected in the Labour government's education cuts and the serious financial position of Edinburgh University.

After determined campaigning, this fight has been reflected in our Society's rapid expansion, now one of the strongest, most active, political forces here.

We have just scratched the surface, but what is shown here is the huge movement of students and workers looking for an alternative, a revolutionary leadership to fight in the sharpening crisis. Among students, this leadership can be given by the YSSS in the fight to build the revolutionary movement in every college and university!



Election HQ of Labour Education Secretary Reg Prentice, by East London YS member

## KEEP LEFT PHOTO CONTEST

KEEP LEFT invites all Young Socialist branches to enter the National Photographic Competition which we will run from now until the YS 15th Annual Conference in April.

The aim of the competition is to take as many interesting, powerful or amusing photographs as possible, both of the YS in the area and all other aspects of the life of young people.

YS branches are invited to submit as many entries as they like. All entries will be exhibited at the Annual Conference where a panel of judges will present prizes for the winners.

Branches can send us finished prints or undeveloped film (black and white only) which we can process.

Send entries to: KL Photo Competition, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

Keep Left invites all Young Socialist branches to send in letters and discussion on the Draft Resolution for the YS 15th Annual Conference, which we published last week. Every branch should discuss any amendments or additions to the resolution and send items for publication to us by Monday morning.



## YS BAZAAR IN PORT TALBOT

THE Christmas Bazaar organized by Port Talbot Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party members last Saturday was a great success.

This is the first bazaar we have held in the area and a big political fight had to be carried out to make it a success. On

FROM YVONNE WILLIAMS  
S WALES CORRESPONDENT

the Saturday, it did turn out to be successful, and the local people who attended said they had enjoyed it.

We had stalls of jumble, groceries and gifts, a bottle draw, a raffle for a Christmas

hamper. Father Christmas was also there.

The Bazaar showed what can be done when a fight and struggle is taken up.

Build the Young Socialists, build the Workers Revolutionary Party and we are well on the way to decent living and working standards!

# KEEP LEFT £200 MONTHLY FUND

WE have collected only £103.39 for December's Keep Left Fund, and it is lagging far behind.

In the campaign for the Keep Left Annual General Meeting in January, every effort must be made to turn out into all sections of youth with Keep Left and recruit them to the Young Socialists.

At the same time we appeal for the maximum possible effort in raising our funds in order to meet the enormous increases in costs which are affecting Keep Left.

We appeal to every YS branch to post amounts immediately to KEEP LEFT FUND, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

## SUBSCRIBE TO KEEP LEFT!

## SEND OFF NOW!



Please send . . . . copies of each issue.

To Keep Left subs, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG. I wish to subscribe to Keep Left for . . . . months. (Postal subscription: 78p for 3 months, £1.56 for 6 months, £3.00 for a year. Delivery by local YS branch: 36p for three months, 72p for six months).

NAME . . . . .

ADDRESS . . . . .

Money enclosed . . . . .