

UNITES ALL YOUNG WORKERS, STUDENTS, APPRENTICES,  
UNEMPLOYED, IMMIGRANT AND SCHOOL YOUTH

# KEEP LEFT

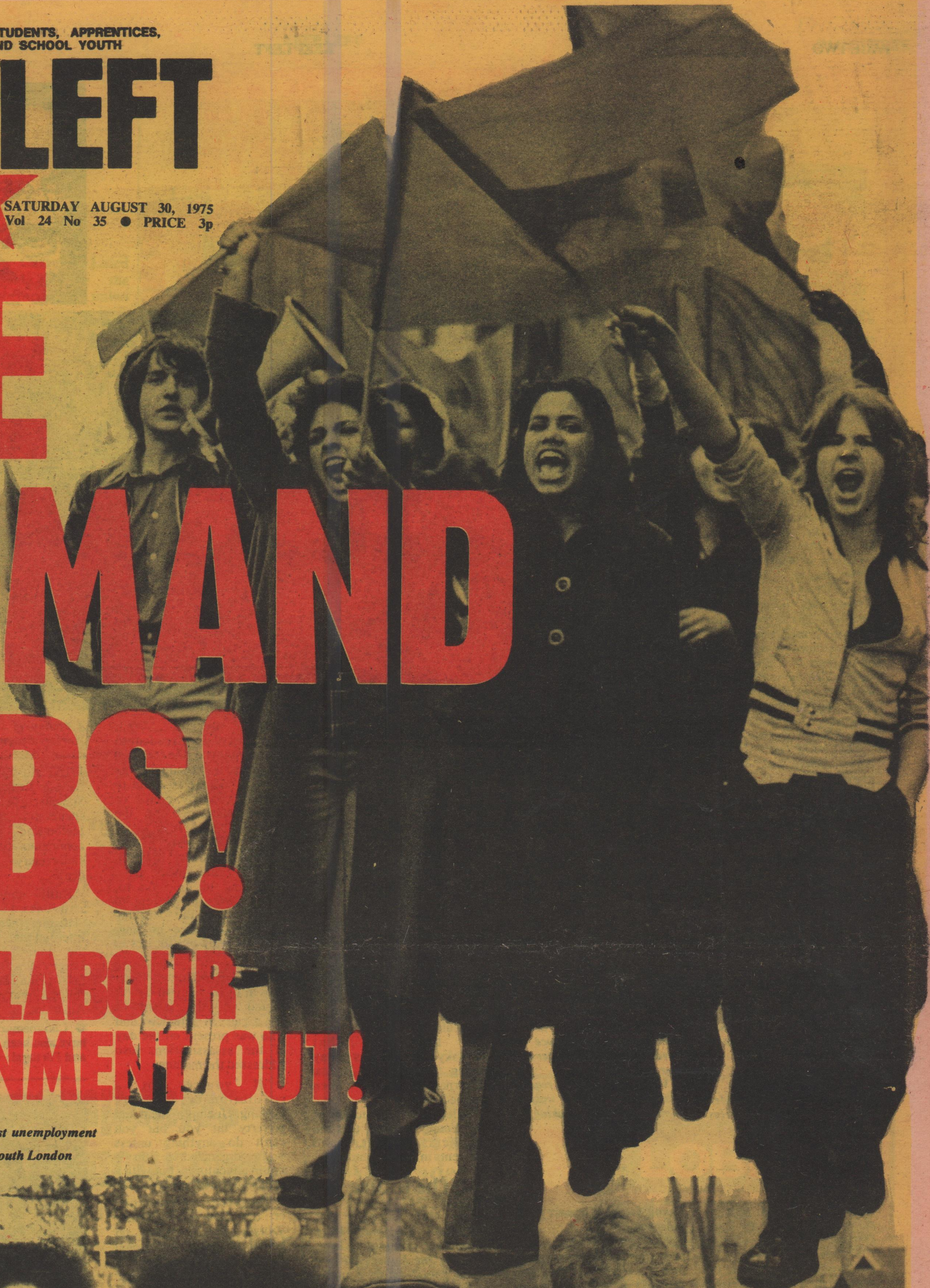
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# WE DEMAND JOBS!

## FORCE LABOUR GOVERNMENT OUT!



*Right: Young Socialists on the march:  
we have consistently led the fight against unemployment*

*Below: unemployed youth in Brixton, south London*



EDITORIAL BOARD STATEMENT ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT — CENTRE PAGES

# TROTSKYISM ON THE MARCH



## 1,500 AT GREEK TROTSKY MEETING

SPECIAL REPORT  
FROM GREEK  
YOUNG SOCIALISTS

OVER 1,500 workers and young people responded with great enthusiasm to the call of the Workers Internationalist League of Greece to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Trotsky's death.

The commemoration meeting in Athens was the biggest ever held by the Greek Trotskyist movement.

The police and right wing did their best to threaten our supporters but they all turned out in spite of this.

A speaker from the WIL told the meeting that the task in front was the taking of power, and said: 'The period in which the counter-revolutionary Stalinist machine murdered Trotsky and thousands of others is over.'

A representative of the Greek Young Socialists said: 'Today we can go forward decisively and make a reality of the victory of the Fourth International for which Trotsky died.'

'Today we can build the mass revolutionary youth movement internationally. In Greece we have laid the basis for our youth movement and are going forward to our first conference on October 18-19.'

The film of historic newsreel and archive material of Trotsky's life was shown, as well as slides and a concert.

THE 35th anniversary of Leon Trotsky's death, commemorated by Trotskyists throughout the world this month, marks a decisive turning point for our movement.

It has taken place in the midst of massive class struggles internationally. The economic crisis which is gripping the world capitalists drives the bosses and employers to attack workers' organizations, drive up unemployment and sky-rocketing inflation, and prepare to smash the working class with armed force.

The struggle is reflected at its sharpest in Portugal. The gains which the working class won after throwing out the fascist regime last April are endangered by the right-wing Armed Forces Movement.

The AFM has declared virtual dictatorship, and the newly-formed Constituent Assembly stripped of its power.

The Socialist Party and Communist Party, who have the support of the majority of workers, are completely paralysed. They refuse to warn the working class of the counter-revolutionary danger from the armed forces. They refuse to organize workers' militias to fight back.

Without a revolutionary party, armed with the perspective of taking power and not of reforming capitalism the working class, no matter how strong, can be smashed.

This danger exists in all the major capitalist countries. In Britain, the Labour leaders are splitting the working class



different. The capitalist class is suffering defeats on every front.

The working class have won major victories in Portugal, Greece and Vietnam. Undefeated during twenty-five years of the post-war 'boom', workers everywhere are ready to fight.

The strength of the working class and its readiness to fight is reflected in our movement. Sections of the International Committee of the Fourth International have commemorated Trotsky's death at highly successful meetings.

We are preparing to take the struggle for Trotskyism an important stage further at our International Conference of Revolutionary Youth later this year.

We say to all our readers and members: don't waste a moment longer in making the

THE Workers League of the United States commemorated 35 years since the assassination of Trotsky with their biggest ever meeting.

A capacity audience of 600 packed out the Marc Ballroom in New York on August 17.

'Today we not only recall Trotsky's death,' declared Workers League National Secretary Fred Mazelis.

'We are celebrating 35 years of unflagging struggle after that counter-revolutionary crime, with the knowledge that Trotsky's final call as he lay dying to build the Fourth International has been carried out.'

Adele Sinclair, editor of the Young Socialist, told the workers, youth, and students in the audience.

### The future

'In this struggle for socialism, the youth have absolutely nothing to lose. We are the future, but we have no future under capitalism.'

'The capitalist Press, the sceptics, the educational system direct all their energies to defending capitalism. They tell the youth: "Things may be bad now but at least you have freedom".'

'What freedom? What democracy? The freedom to be unemployed, the freedom to starve, the freedom to go to war, and the freedom to be murdered by police or secretly poisoned by the military.'

'The Stalinists, who murdered Trotsky in 1940, and the revisionists have something to hold on to. They have privileges to defend. But the working class youth have nothing. We have only our futures to defend!'

Harold Robins, who was chosen by Trotsky to be the captain of the guard at Coyoacan in Mexico and who was present on the day of the assassination, also addressed the meeting.

'If you're not a revolutionary, you're nothing. Unemployment and poverty hit you but you can't do anything unless you're organized to fight — not in adventures, but with a broad historical perspective.'

The premiere presentation of the film documentary *Trotsky Lives!* shown on behalf of the International Committee, received a rousing and enthusiastic reception.

A play especially prepared for the meeting entitled *The Dewey Commission: The Case of Leon Trotsky* was presented.

A magnificent collection of more than \$2,100 was made at the meeting.

A section of the audience at Workers League meeting.

THE Australian Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists held two highly successful meetings, in Melbourne and Sydney, commemorating the 35th anniversary of Trotsky's death.

Both meetings were addressed by Cliff Slaughter, secretary of the International Committee of the Fourth International. Large collections were taken for building the revolutionary party in Australia.

● Commemoration meetings have also been held in Ceylon and Portugal.

## KEEP LEFT SAYS

while the forces of state — police and army — are being prepared behind the scenes.

Trotsky began the fight for the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution, under conditions of enormous difficulty and isolation in 1938.

The working class had suffered major defeats and was not receptive to revolutionary ideas. In Germany, Italy and Spain the fascists had drowned the workers' movement in blood. Throughout the capitalist world, mass unemployment weakened the working class, and millions lived in conditions of poverty and demoralization.

These setbacks for the working class strengthened the rotten Stalinist regime in the USSR.

The Stalinists, through the GPU secret police, physically crushed all opposition within the USSR. Trotsky was exiled, his organization infiltrated and his supporters killed. It was an agent of Stalin who eventually killed Trotsky.

Today, the conditions for building the Trotskyist movement are completely

Young Socialists a mass youth movement.

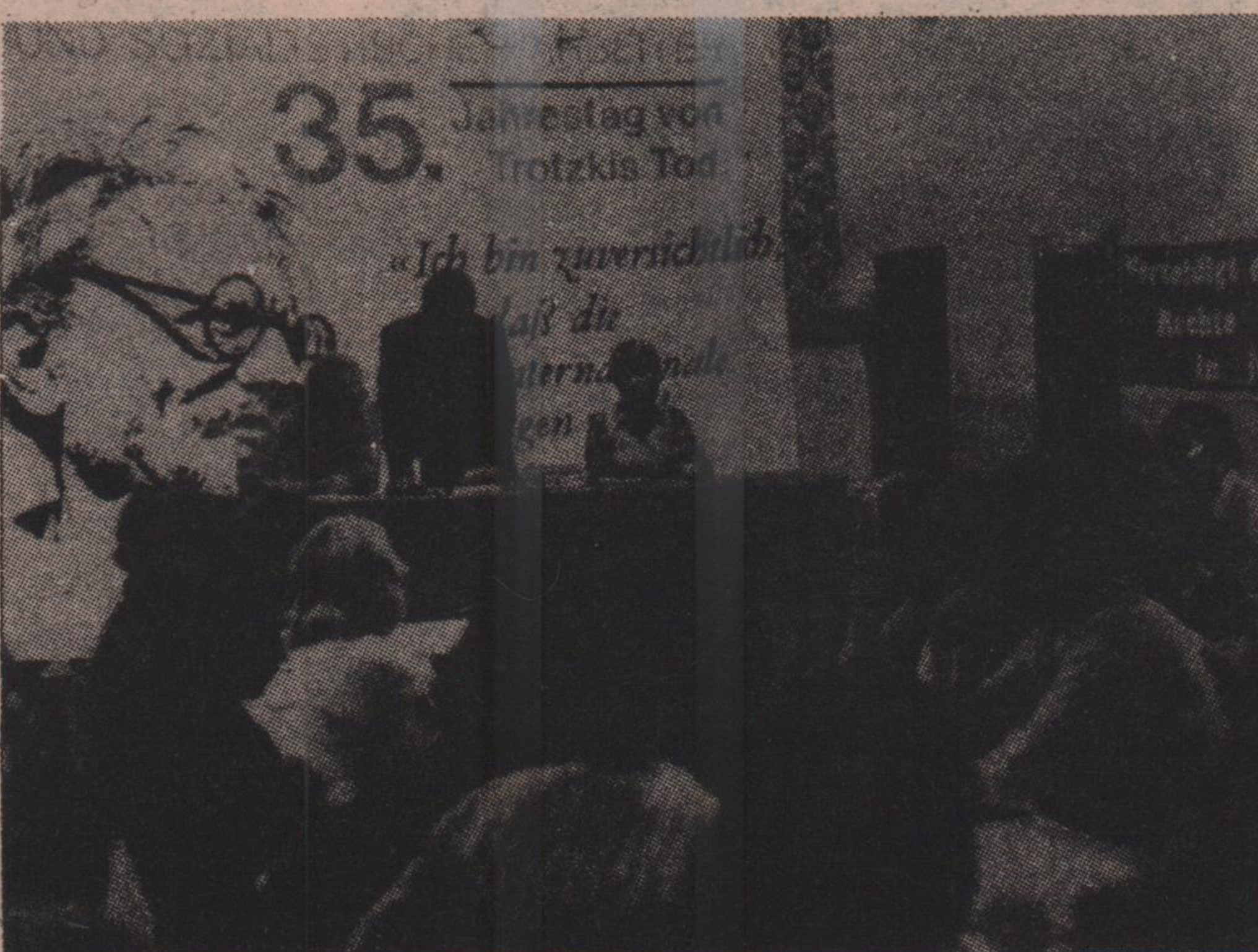
The ruling class ARE preparing. At the Birmingham bomb trial, police-state methods were used against unconvicted defendants. At Cammell Lairds, Birkenhead, massive forces of police are being used to attempt to smash picket lines (see page 3).

We must prepare with the greatest urgency. Every branch of the Young Socialists must turn out and win new recruits.

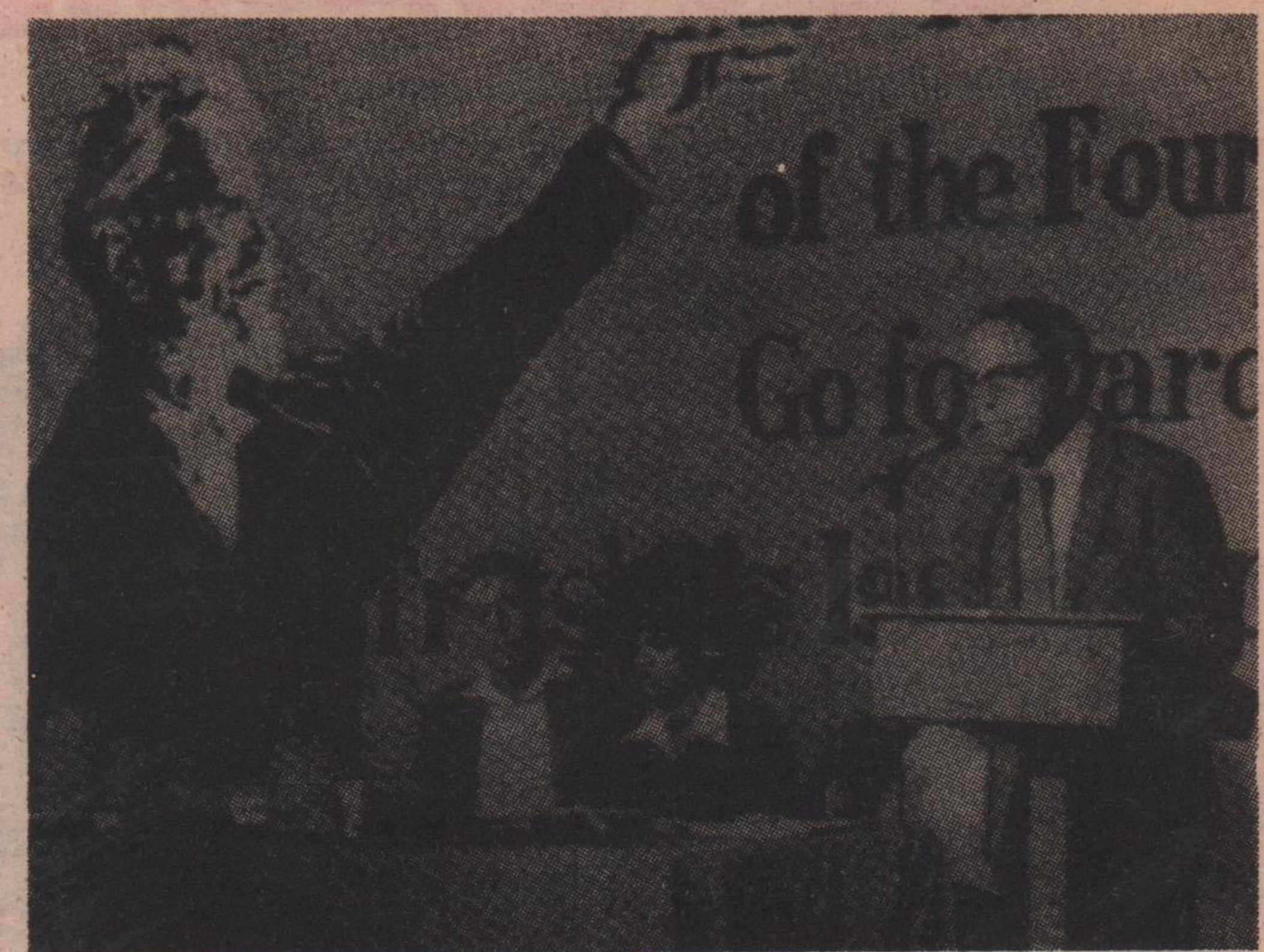
In line with this campaign, the sales of Keep Left must be fought for and expanded. Every branch must organize sales at the dole queues and social security offices where groups of youth are gathering.

We say to all our readers and members — forget the illusions of the 'boom' period under which we have been brought up. It has gone. Now we have to decide either accept the dictates of the decaying capitalist system, or fight to put an end to it.

It is only the building of our movement, to take the principles of Trotskyism into the working class, that can ensure victory.



John Spencer of the Workers Revolutionary Party speaking at the commemoration meeting in Essen.



The platform at the Workers League meeting: Harold Robins, Adele Sinclair, Fred Mazelis.

THE German Bund Sozialistischer Arbeiter, section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, held a series of meetings to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Trotsky's death.

They marked a decisive step forward in the battle against all the revisionist and Stalinist enemies of Trotskyism — particularly the meeting held in Berlin, in

the centre of Stalinist East Germany.

Large numbers of youth were present at all the meetings. The members of the German League of Socialist Youth showed great determination and enthusiasm for the tasks in front of the German movement.

The meetings were addressed by John Spencer, of the Central Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Over the five meetings 1000 marks were collective for the building of the revolutionary party in Germany.

# MERSEYSIDE BUILDERS' JOBS FIGHT

## POLICE MOVE IN

THESE pictures, taken outside the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead, Merseyside, show the stepping-up of state violence against the trade union movement.

The building workers on the picket line lost their jobs in February when contractors Peter Lind stopped construction in the shipyard, and since then have occupied the site.

Now they are picketing the gates, to stop scabs being brought in to complete their work.

Violence erupted last week when police moved in to break the picket and allow scabs through. Eleven of the men have appeared at court, and granted bail on condition that they stay half a mile from the site.

The Cammell Laird workers are fighting for their jobs in conditions where there are 79,700 unemployed on Merseyside, one in ten workers.



Police clear pickets from the path of a coach carrying scabs into Cammell Lairds



Police attack the Birkenhead strikers



## Two hundred companies— three vacancies

PAT, of Feltham, Middlesex Young Socialists works as an interviewer in one of the big private employment agencies. She told Keep Left last week of the desperate situation facing young people who go there.

'All the interviewers in our agency know that there is no work about today', she said.

'Our manageress has told us that what ever we do we musn't let the youth know this.

'It's especially bad for the school leavers. In our agency branch, there are about 60 school leavers who have been looking for jobs for three to four months.

'There are just no jobs for them. This is happening in every branch throughout the country. I've worked in three different branches in less than two and a half months, and the situation is the same in all of them.

'We try and find vacancies by canvassing all the firms in the area — we canvass the bigger firms every week, the medium-sized firms every two weeks and the small ones every three weeks.

'I have just canvassed over two hundred

BY BRIAN SMITH, FELTHAM YS

companies and only found three vacancies. It was ridiculous — these three jobs were all for qualified people.

'School leavers just don't stand a chance of getting a job.

'When we send youth to interviews, they are all sent back.

'The firms can't afford to train young people these days — we have got to the stage where we get the youth to fill out pen portraits of themselves. We then send them to every company we

deal with, and leave it up to them.

'The way it's going I'll soon be out of work myself. Just the other week, we had a list of hundreds of companies who owed us agency money. The list was ten foolscap pages long, written on both sides. Have all these gone bankrupt?'

'I don't know much about politics, but the unemployment seems disgusting to me. Youth go to school and college and work themselves to death, and just can't get jobs when they leave.'

### School meals 'stigma'

CHILDREN receiving free school dinners are singled out for special attention in many schools, making them unwilling to take advantage of this important right.

A report by the Child Poverty Action Group says that in many schools teachers publicly hand out free meal tickets during

register, or give them out in the office separate from those which pupils pay for.

'Poor children are still penalized for claiming free dinners,' says the report.

The report said that schools should take 'considerable trouble' to ensure that poor children cannot be singled out by their class mates and put in an embarrassing position.

### CALLING ALL YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

Support the  
All Trades  
Unions Alliance

**LOBBY  
THE TUC**

**Wednesday Sept 3, 9 a.m.  
Winter Gardens, Blackpool**

The ATUA national committee calls on all workers to:

- Fight Wilson's policies of mass unemployment, speed-up and wage-cutting with socialist policies. No return to the 1930s.
- Defend the basic right of NVT and all workers to a job and a decent standard of living.
- Force the Labour government to resign.
- Call emergency labour party conference NOW! Reject the Wilson-Tory coalition.

- Smash the social-contract and pay-laws. Defend the right to collective bargaining.
- Repeal conspiracy laws! Defend the right to picket! Release Des Warren NOW!
- Demand TUC support factory occupations!
- For a sliding scale of hours and wages. Open the books!
- Nationalize industry, banks and land under workers' control and without compensation.
- Build the revolutionary leadership.

I would like to attend the Lobby on September 3, please send me details of transport.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Return to 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

## Special statement by the Keep Left Editorial Board on

**YOUTH unemployment in Britain is over a quarter of a million, the worst since the 1930s depression.**

● The total jobless for August was 1,250,334—an increase of 162,494 since July.

● The total school-leavers unemployment was 165,623—the figure has more than doubled in a month. And there are only 28,114 vacancies registered at Careers Offices for school leavers.

● Two out of seven of those who left school this summer are unemployed.

● School-leavers unemployment is nearly three times what it was last August. This is the worst since 1935, and the figure is still increasing.

These figures mean that young people are going to have to fight.

The capitalist system is gripped by a world-wide economic slump worse than the 1930s. It is destroying our basic right to work, to learn a trade, to have a future.

The ruling class plan a future of unemployment, poverty and dictatorship. Tory MPs have already suggested 'job creation schemes', in which a sub-caste of unemployed youth is created, completely dependent on the capitalist state.

By forcing youth to work on pain of having their 'dole' stopped, a force like Hitler's work gangs would be created, which could be used as a strike-breaking battering ram against the trade unions.

The issue of unemployment affects every single section of youth.

School and college spending will be slashed, as capitalism does not need to educate youth for jobs they will never have. Apprentices will face instant sacking when they complete their training. Young workers will face the threat of unemployment at all times. College graduates will no more find jobs than school-leavers.

The issue of unemployment is linked with all the attacks on our rights—to a decent standard of living, to reasonable accommodation, to a National Health Service and social services, to join a trade union and fight for better conditions, to decent entertainment facilities for youth.

**UNEMPLOYMENT is caused by the international economic crisis and is hitting youth everywhere. In the United States, over 10 million workers are unemployed. More than one in five American youth are out of work, and in many towns it is over 50 per cent.**

In West Germany, youth unemployment totalled well over 100,000 even before this year's school-leavers were counted. In the Common Market as a whole, youth unemployment increased by 49 per cent from 1 million to one-and-a-half million between 1974 and 1975.

In every single country, youth leaving school are facing a life without work.

Internationally, production is falling. In the USA it fell by 10 per cent in the first three months of this year.

Whole industries are going bankrupt. In the car industry,

General Motors and Chrysler (USA) are cutting back; the three big British car firms British Leyland, Rolls-Royce and Aston Martin are virtually bust, Germany's Volkswagens are sacking thousands, and Italy's Fiat plants have cut one third of production.

This tremendous crisis is driving workers into revolutionary struggles against capitalism. In Portugal, Greece and Vietnam, we have seen the powerful defeats inflicted on imperialism by the strength of the working class.

The British Young Socialists and Trotskyist youth everywhere are preparing for our International Conference of Revolutionary Youth in November, to prepare for

revolutionary struggles all over the world.

**BRITAIN is the weakest link of the capitalist chain. The international bankers and monopolists, on whom British capitalism depends, have demanded a policy of massive inflation and unemployment to smash the working class.**

With the collaboration of the Labour government, the value of pound sterling is being driven down. Since 1971, it has been devalued by nearly 30 per cent.

Labour's policy is to drive unemployment towards two

million, and this is fully backed by the Tories.

● Employment Secretary Foot announced the destruction of 20,000 jobs in the state-controlled British Steel Corporation last month.

● The Ryder report has laid down plans for slashing the British Leyland combine — which has been described itself as inadequate.

● The Labour government refused to provide cash backing for Norton Villiers Triumph motorcycle manufacturers, thus threatening thousands of NVT workers with the sack.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson announced 'rough justice' for the working class in his special TV



## 'Unite black and white youth together to fight'

### FROM HOLLOWAY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

**HOLLOWAY** Young Socialists interviewed two unemployed members to find out how the jobs crisis was affecting them.

Hiram Braithwaite, of Upper Holloway, used to work as a cutter until a month ago. He had to take the day off work, on the Thursday, and on Friday he was told to pick up his cards and outstanding payment.

'The management wasn't worried about me', Hiram told Keep-Left. 'There was no union to fight for me, and plenty of others who would take the job.'

'They don't bother to send you up for jobs at the Labour Exchange any more. If you do go, they always ask you for CSEs or other qualifications — they don't give you a chance.'

Hiram's girlfriend Joyce said that at school the teachers were always telling you that you had to have exams, but she did not think it made much difference.

'Friends of mine with 'O' levels are on the dole or in unskilled jobs anyway. It has just been a waste of six years at school for them.'

'This Labour government should be for the workers, but they're more on the side of the rich people. They don't do anything for us, in fact they seem to fight against us.'

Joyce said: 'Why should royalty get all that money? Princess Anne gets thousands of pounds for riding around on a horse, whereas now they don't even have enough money to

buy things for primary schools.'

'The money you get on the dole isn't much good either — it only lasts a couple of days, then the youth get fed up and disappointed. That's why there is so much trouble.'

'You haven't just got inflation here — it's stagnation and inflation.' Joyce said that she was thinking of going back to the Caribbean.

'What's the point of that?' said Hiram. 'That's why our parents came over here—to find work and money.'

'We need a party that is going to fight for young people,' he agreed. 'I think the Young Socialists is good because it tries to bring black and white youth together to fight for a decent future.'

## School-leavers unempl

**SOUTHERN** region Young Socialists are beginning a campaign of recruiting around the dole queues. Surrey has been hit by dramatic increases in youth unemployment.

North West Surrey, which includes Woking, Staines, Weybridge and Walton had 52 youth out of work last year, this year the figure has rocketed to 252.

School leavers unemployment in Surrey has

increased by 200 per cent in the last year and vacancies have fallen by about two-thirds.

Keep Left reporters spoke to youth at Kingston dole who described their desperate search for work.

Patricia Shanahan, 16, said: 'They say my chances are very bad in the employment exchange. The Labour government seems to think that it's a good thing to have lots of people unemployed.'

'The government is bloody useless. Their policies are all wrong. They should be getting people back to work. There shouldn't be people out of work. There shouldn't be dole offices.'

'My fiance, for example, is a trained mechanical engineer. Half the time he's got no work.'

Patricia's friend Wendy Smith, 18, also out of work, said: 'I hate the way these rich people walk past

## Ashford badly hit by jobs crisis

BY GEOFF PORTER

**ASHFORD**, Kent, has been badly hit by unemployment and a large number of school leavers this year are without jobs.

Interviewed by Keep Left on the high street last week, Bruce Rhymer (16), who left school in July, said: 'I think unemployment is because of the system breaking down. This country could get like Portugal.'



Bruce (left), Alan and another friend

Bruce has been unemployed since he left school. He has applied to get into the Merchant Navy, but did not think there was much hope of getting accepted, because there was a long waiting list.

His friend, Alan Cumberland (15), said that unemployment was caused by competition between capitalists in different

countries. 'Things should not be produced for profits, but for what people need, according to some kind of a plan.'

Alan is at Duncan Bowen High School in Ashford, and is due to leave next year. Last year, about this time, well over three quarters of the school leavers had jobs. According to a teacher, this year it is less than half.



The dole queue at Brixton

# youth unemployment

speech last week, by which he meant more unemployment, wage-cutting and attacks on democratic rights.

Tory deputy leader William Whitelaw pledged full support for Wilson.

What are the 'lefts' doing to fight unemployment?

Employment Secretary Michael Foot has suggested paying employers to take on youth. But he is actually creating unemployment by cutting off funds from public industries like steel.

Transport and General Workers Union leader David Basnett has called for more public works and 'selective import controls'. But Basnett's colleague Jack Jones has already accepted, in a previous speech, that unemployment is a

necessary part of solving the capitalist crisis.

The fake 'Marxists' of the Labour Party Young Socialists have called for socialist policies, but at the same time are not prepared to call for the resignation of the very right wing who are betraying the fight for socialism.

**Only the Young Socialists have a programme to fight to defend the right to work. We say:**

## UNITE EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS!

Unemployed youth cannot fight on their own! All workers — skilled and unskilled, young and

old, black and white, employed and unemployed, unite to defend basic rights!

The trade unions must organize the unemployed workers and youth. Set up unemployed workers' sections in the unions!

Full trade union rights for all young workers! Full representation on all committees of the Labour movement!

The trade unions must lead the fight for jobs! Support the All Trades Unions Alliance Lobby of the Trades Union Congress on September 3rd! Fight for a new leadership in the unions!

## FORCE LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO

## RESIGN! SOCIALIST POLICIES NOW!

This Labour government is virtually a coalition with the Tories and is carrying out the most reactionary attacks on the working class. Unite the entire trade union and Labour movement to force Wilson's treacherous Labour government out!

Bring the right-wing traitors to account at the Labour Party conference! Decide on socialist policies to meet the crisis and elect a Labour leadership to carry out those policies!

## SOCIALIST POLICIES FOR YOUTH

We demand the right to work! Factories must be kept open and jobs maintained without loss of pay! If employers cannot do this, the factories must be taken over under workers' control!

We demand good conditions and equal pay for all youth! A shorter working week, six weeks paid holiday every year, reasonable hours of work without night work or excessive overtime; recreational facilities at work!

We demand a fixed minimum wage! Establish the principle of 'equal work for equal pay' under workers' control!

We demand the right to learn a trade! Workers' control over technical education and apprenticeships; the reduction of apprenticeships to two years; the raising of technical qualifications as far as possible; the forbidding of all work connected with apprenticeships!

These demands cannot be won under the capitalist system. The

banks, land and major industries must be taken over, nationalized under workers' control without compensation to the bosses.

This means the taking of state power by the working class and the destruction of the capitalist state. Only under a socialist, planned economy can these demands be carried out.

Central to this is the building of the Workers Revolutionary Party, the only force which can prepare the working class to take the power.

## JOIN THE YOUNG SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT!

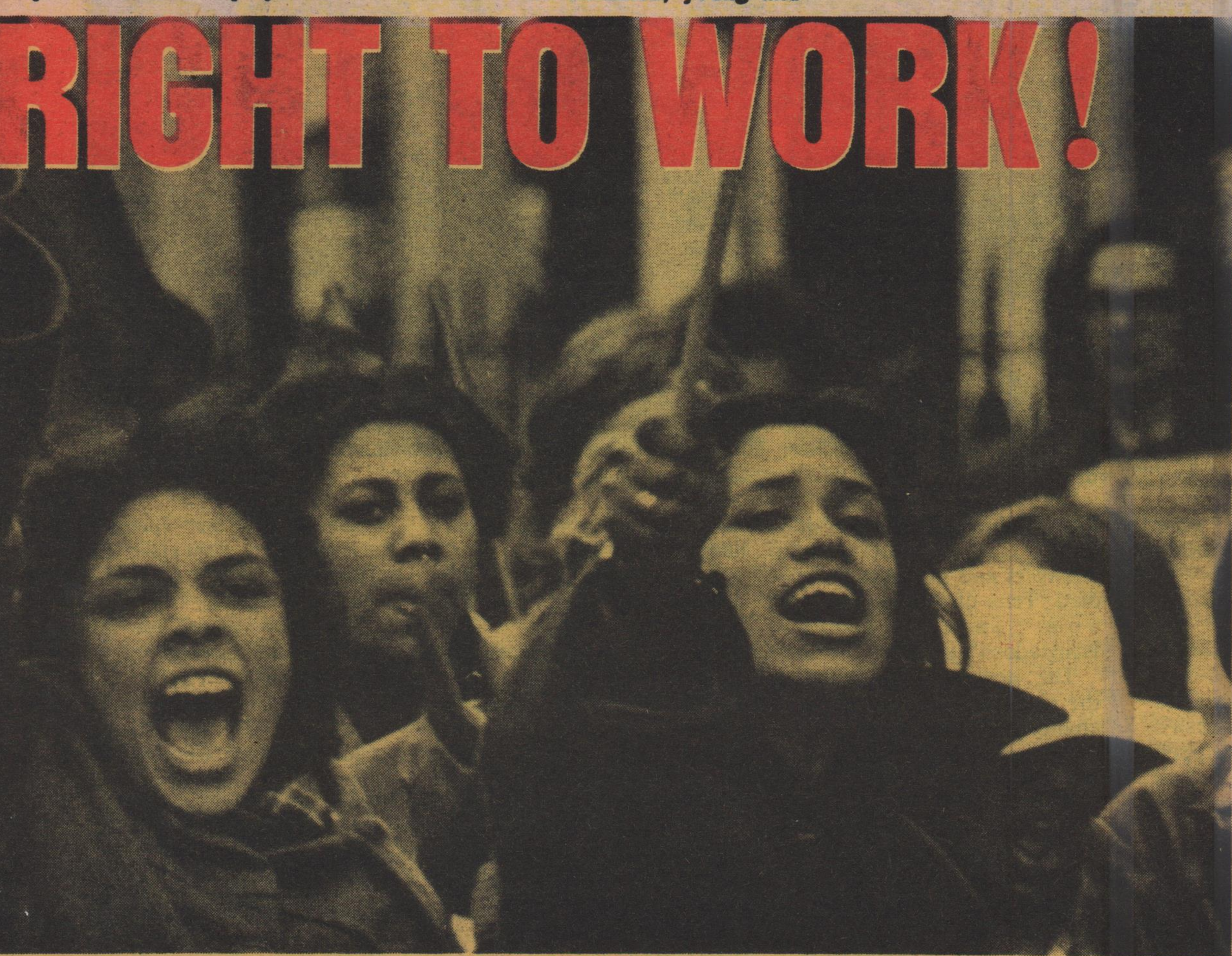
The Young Socialist are launching a campaign demanding the right to work throughout Britain and alongside our comrades throughout the world.

We will be campaigning with our paper 'Keep Left' around the dole queues and social security offices, to win the maximum number of recruits.

We will be organizing rallies and demonstrations in every region demanding the right to work (full details of the campaign will be available shortly). We want to mobilize the support throughout the labour and trade union movement.

To all branches — make your plans and go into action immediately!

To all youth who are not yet members of the Young Socialists — join us in the fight against unemployment, to make the Labour government resign and for socialist policies! Join the Young Socialists now!



# RIGHT TO WORK!

## Unemployment up 200 per cent

you here. They come by with their flash suits and their briefcases. They make you sick.

Patricia said: 'I think that the whole social system needs to be changed. It's all wrong at the moment in every sense.'

Wendy said: 'I'm going to the Social Security this afternoon. If I don't get any money, there will be a row.'

### £12 rent

'I have £12 rent for a one room flat to find by tomorrow or I'll be out on my ear.'

'I can't remember the last time I had a meal. I could be dead by the time the Social Security decide to do something.'

Patricia said: 'The last time we had a meal was Sunday. Since then we've been living on coffee and peanut butter sandwiches.'

'My fiance won't have any money until a week Friday, and I haven't got a penny to my name.'

'The sort of movement that you're trying to build is like the Chartists — uniting all workers for a single aim.'

'I'll join your party and canvass with your paper round the houses and so on.'

Brian Ward (18) said: 'I worked for a firm in Chessington making televisions for 18 months — then I was made redundant.'

'Even in the two weeks that I've been coming here



Patricia and Wendy

the queue has grown longer. It now stretches right round the corner. It is 50 or 60 yards long now, at nine o'clock.

'It's the government that's to blame, but not just them, it's the business men. They put their own money up but they're taking ours away.'

'What do I think of workers taking over the industries? I'm for it — all the way.'

Martin Westrop (18) said: 'I'm only looking for a job until I go to university.'

'I would take anything just for now. But they don't have anything.'

'The Labour government? I don't think their policies are very different.'

'Workers at NVT have occupied their factory to

keep their jobs, they should do whatever they have to in order to keep them.'

Peter Hayman (19) told Keep Left: 'I left school at 16. I worked for two years as a gardener. It was a good job but the pay was bad.'

'Since I left that job I have been unemployed for five weeks.'

### Qualifications

'I wanted a job with the Department of the Environment. But I don't have the qualifications.'

'I'm thinking of going back to college.'

'The unemployment reflects the general state of the country. Everybody's cutting back. It's a worldwide thing.'

**BACK and forth from lousy, low-paid jobs to the dole queue — this is the reality facing Stello (18), a Young Socialists member from Wembley, north west London.**

Despite the fact that he has several qualifications, Stello has been faced with blank after blank.

'In my old job I got between £10 and £15 a week after tax. They gave me the sack because I didn't make the coffee fast enough, and because they said I wasn't doing the job properly', he told Keep Left.

'But they had never shown me what to do, never trained me.'

'I've been for lots of interviews and been turned down. I went to one place,

applied for a job, got an interview and two weeks later someone else had filled the vacancy.'

'I've been to all the factories in the area and no jobs are available, no vacancies. It's impossible to make ends meet.'

'I have to get money from my parents, who are unwilling to give it to me because inflation is hitting them.'

'I've got an "A" level in Chemistry, six "O" levels and four CSEs. But they are no use.'

'I've been to agencies and spent day after day inside them, with no results. The girls in the agency said, there are hardly any jobs. When I told them my qualifications, they said I should get a job, but I still can't.'

Stello blamed the Labour government for unemployment. 'The Labour government — which is through and through a Tory government, are making the working class pay for the crisis, by unemployment and inflation.'

'But if they think the working class are going to accept it they have got another think coming. They've got something else coming, — like Norton Villiers, the miners the Young Socialists — the whole working class is ready to fight.'

'The government are playing with fire. They think they can control the fire but they can't. The fire is going to burn them up — and the YS are the ones who are going to fuel the flames.'



The Young Socialists Right to Work campaign, 1972

FORWARD TO THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH INTERNATIONAL 1975



# NEW BANGLADESH REGIME

A NEW regime has been installed in Bangladesh by last week's military coup. Dictator Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been killed.

Former Commerce Minister Mushtaque Ahmed has been sworn in as the new president — but diplomatic sources claim that the take-over was carried out by a small group of army officers. Ahmed and other members of the new government were only called in after Sheikh Mujib had been killed along with several of his family.

Ahmed has a reputation as a 'liberal' and announced: 'Sheik Mujibur Rahman has been killed and his autocratic government toppled.'

But in fact Ahmed was a leading member of this government. He is an anti-communist and pro-American.

Ahmed made himself popular with reactionary army elements by his personal supervision of improved relations with US imperialism.

The 75 million workers and peasants of Bangladesh have been through unparalleled suffering at the hands of imperialism.

Their struggle for independence from West Pakistan in 1971 was accompanied by one of the world's most horrific famines. The Pakistani troops, armed with Chinese and Russian weapons, mowed down thousands in an attempt to crush the Bengali revolution.

The overwhelming hatred for the Pakistani regime, and the intervention of the Indian army ensured success for the national liberation struggle.

Sheik Mujibur Rahman, then the popular leader of the nationalist movement, founded the state of Bangladesh.

The economy of Bangladesh very soon broke down completely. The government had no foreign reserves whatsoever, as these were all kept in the Central Bank of Pakistan.

Mujib raised an emergency float of £200m from India and another £500m from overseas loans. But this money had run out by June 1974 and Bangladesh was surviving on £16m from the International Monetary Fund.

## Floods

Thousands of starving people flocked from the country into the towns. Disastrous floods wrecked what was left of the economy. The principal industry — jute — was running at 50 per cent production due to the international fall in demand.

Prices have gone up by 800 to 900 per cent since independence while strikes have been outlawed and wage rises restricted to such ridiculous figures as 25 per cent.

By October last year the last 500,000 tons of the government's grain was rationed out to the country's starving millions.

A US government official, explaining why hardly any

food aid was being sent to the country, said: 'To give food aid to countries just because they are starving is a pretty weak reason.'

America's food aid depends on political strategy and fighting the world revolution — the top countries on the US list last year were Chile, Cambodia, South Korea and South Vietnam.

## Corruption

The total corruption, graft and swindling in the ruling National Awami Party worsened the crisis. It was estimated, for instance, that only one out of seven tins of baby food and one out of 13 blankets, received by the Bangladesh regime from the United Nations, ever reached the starving people.

**The only way that Mujib could control the workers and peasants who originally put him in power was by brutal dictatorship.**

Thus as early as 1972, the right to strike was banned and five newspapers were suppressed.

The Lal Bahini and Nil



Bengali guerrillas during the 1971 war of independence

Bahini terror squads were used against the trade unions.

The repression reached its peak on December 28 last year when Mujib announced an indefinite state of emergency and suspended 12 articles of Bangladesh's constitution which stripped workers and peasants of all basic and fundamental rights.

The government ruled by decree, with the power to suspend any political party, trade union or association, stop any propaganda or communication, arrest and intern anyone without trial.

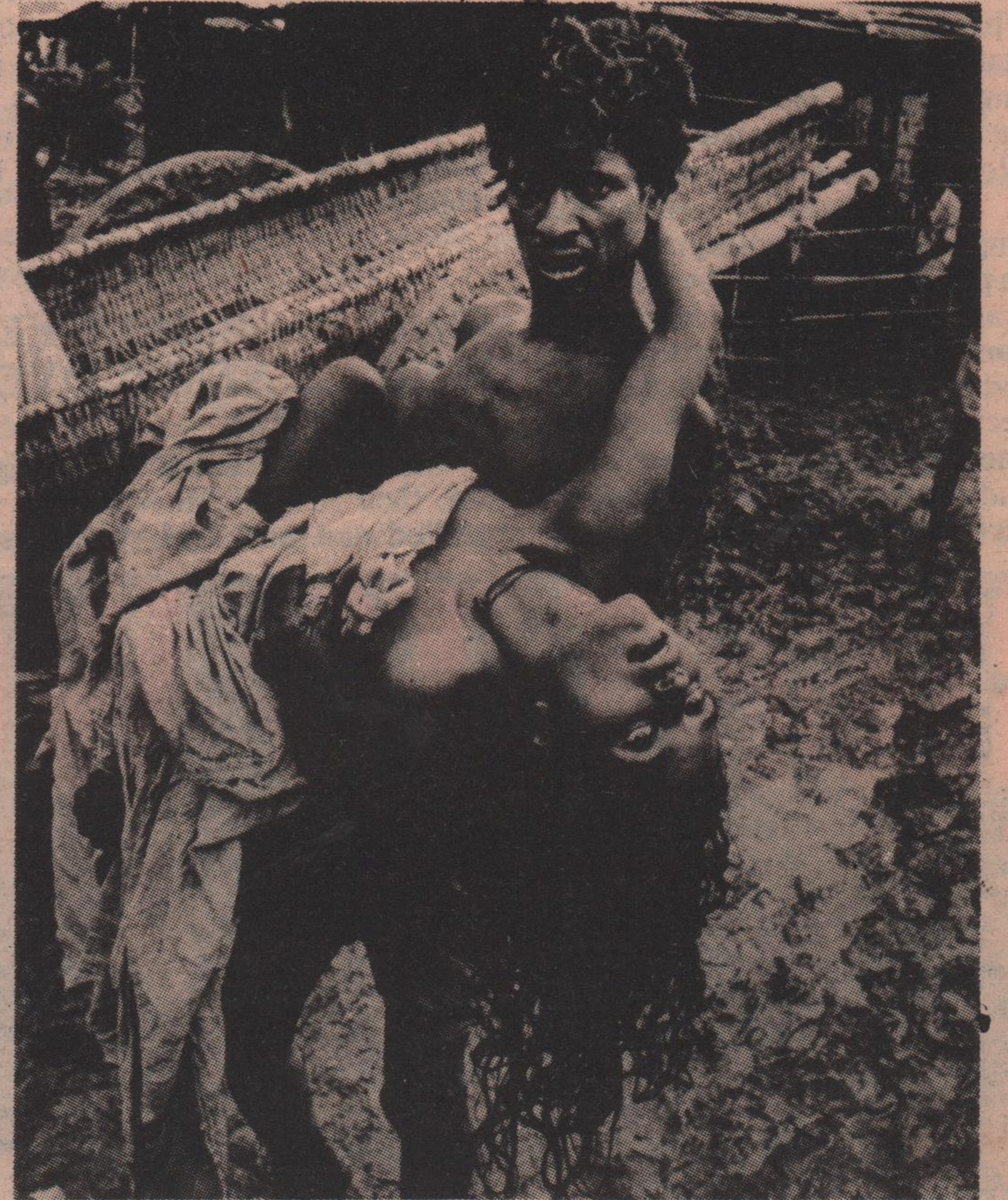
The dictatorship has been enforced by the dreaded

Rakki Bahini, at the hands of which thousands of trade unionists and militants have died. Tens of thousands are now interned in Bangladesh's jails.

The new government of the national bourgeoisie can change nothing for the agonized people of Bangladesh.

They can only protect the interests of the corrupt and rotten ruling class of which they represent a part.

They cannot either destroy the revolutionary determination of millions of workers and peasants who, in defiance of world imperialism and the Stalinist leaders in Peking and



The horrors of starvation.

Moscow, achieved national liberation in 1971.

The revolution is developing throughout South East Asia. The workers and peasants of Vietnam and Cambodia have defeated the world's biggest military power, the United States.

## Tide

The revolutionary tide is being felt in Thailand and by the panic-stricken Gandhi dictatorship of India as well as in Bangladesh.

The building of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the

world party of socialist revolution, will be absolutely vital in the coming struggles.

The preparations for the International Conference of Revolutionary Youth are going ahead and a large delegation of youth will be organized from Ceylon and the whole Indian sub-continent.

The greatest assistance we can give the people of Bangladesh is the building of a revolutionary party here in Britain to prepare the destruction of one of the most powerful capitalist regimes of all, and speed up the process of world revolution.

## THE ROAD FROM BLACK POWER TO REACTION

*'I've always been a super patriot' — Cleaver*

BY SIMON PIRANI

*'CLOTHING is an extension of the fig leaf, it puts our sex inside our bodies. My pants put sex where it should be.'*

These wise words were spoken by Eldridge Cleaver. He was Minister of Information in the Black Panther party, author of 'Soul on Ice', organizer of the Revolutionary People's Communication Network from his exile in Algeria, and a hero of the black power and protest movements of the 1960s.

Cleaver has re-surfaced in the Latin Quarter of Paris, designing trousers 'destined to revolutionize men's fashion and corner world market'.

Setting himself up as Cleaver Unlimited, he says that the design of the pants — 'Cleavers' — came from his interest in sociology.

Cleaver as a 'sexologist' may seem funny. The reactionary political vomit that this former Black Power leader is spewing out, however, is not.

## Naivete

*'One thing I realize is that I've always been a super patriot. Because of our naivete, some of us were manipulated into being subversive. From now on I'd like to have an American flag in my hand.'*

Not satisfied with raising the flag under which millions of workers have died in Vietnam and elsewhere, and under which workers and youth in America are subjected to unemployment and police terror, Cleaver continues:

*'I'm tempted to go to Orly and take a plane to San Francisco... To tell the truth I have to fight back the impulse sometimes.'*

The 'International Herald Tribune' reports that 'Mr Cleaver believes now in working within the system'.

Cleaver told them: 'It's reassuring to know the fibre is solid'. This is when there are twelve millions jobless Americans, the industrial production in the US is slumping every month, and they have just lost the most expensive and destructive war in American history, in Vietnam. Very solid indeed!

How can a militant leader of the Black Panthers turn in less than ten years to a reactionary playboy with complete faith in capitalism?

The Black Panthers put up an extremely heroic and courageous fight. Their party was founded for armed defence of the black community and large numbers of its members were wiped out by police bullets.

As the protest, anti-Vietnam war and student

movements grew in America, the Panthers became the darlings of condescending white liberals and all the revisionist groups.

Only Trotskyists such as the Young Socialists warned loud and clear that armed shoot-outs with the police could not win the fight any more than mass 'peace' demonstrations.

We warned that the Black Panthers could not win the fight single-handed. We called for the unity of the working class — black and white — to defend democratic rights.

## Suicidal

The Panthers, however, stuck to the suicidal philosophy of armed struggle with the police.

The same idealism which led the Panthers to violence led them next to a complete

capitulation to liberalism. Huey Newton began to organize food programmes and gave up the fight. Bobby Seale became a Democratic Party candidate for Mayor.

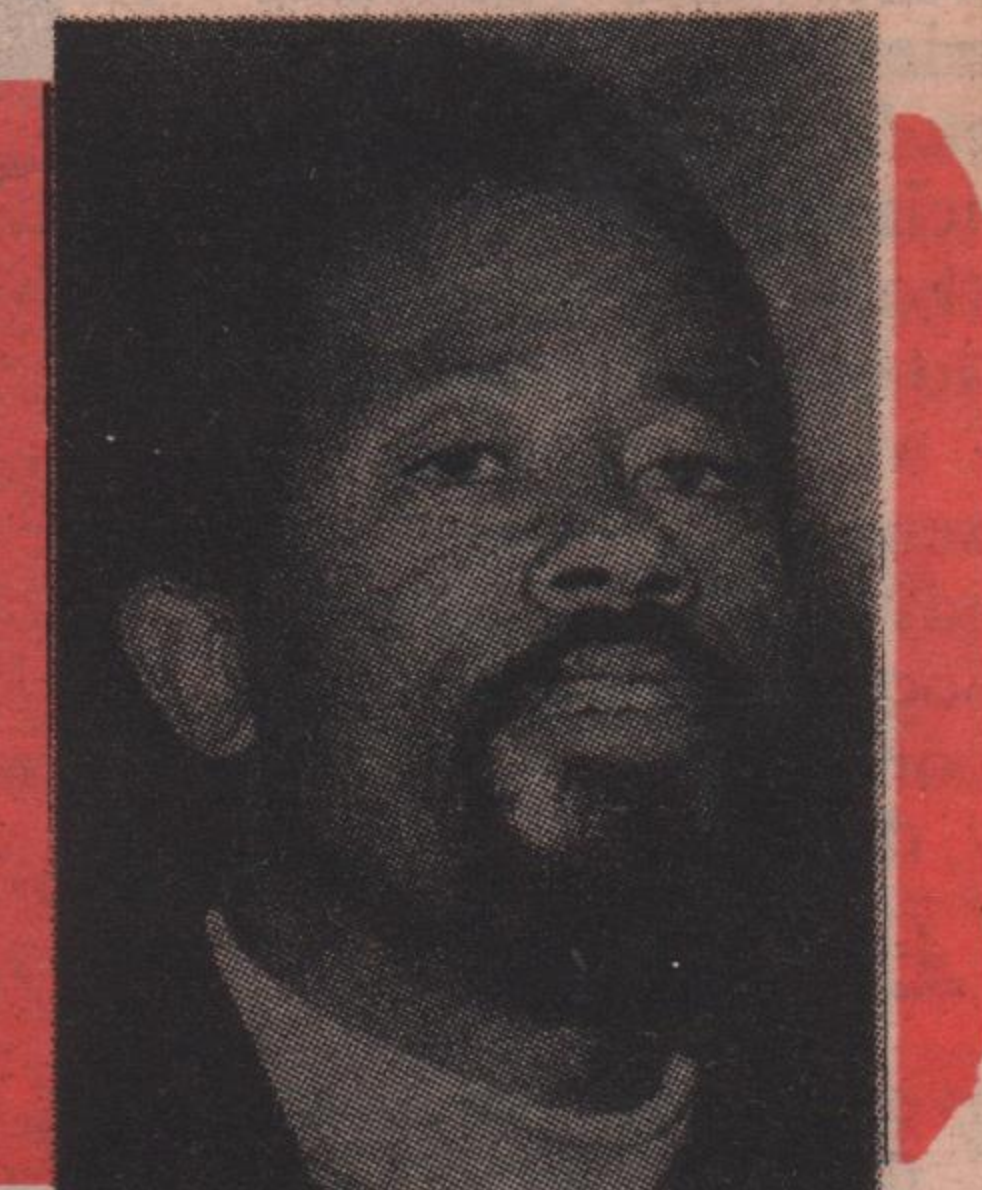
Cleaver's position is a logical extension of this degeneration.

The experience of the Black Panther Party is a valuable one for young people everywhere. You cannot fight capitalism by taking it on single-handed, no matter how violent.

As Trotsky explained, 'a terrorist is a liberal with a gun'.

It will take the organized strength of the working class, black and white united, led by a Marxist revolutionary party, to destroy capitalism and establish socialism.

The Young Socialists in Britain, the USA and all over the world are now fighting to build revolutionary parties.



# POST BAG



## Get our Party organized

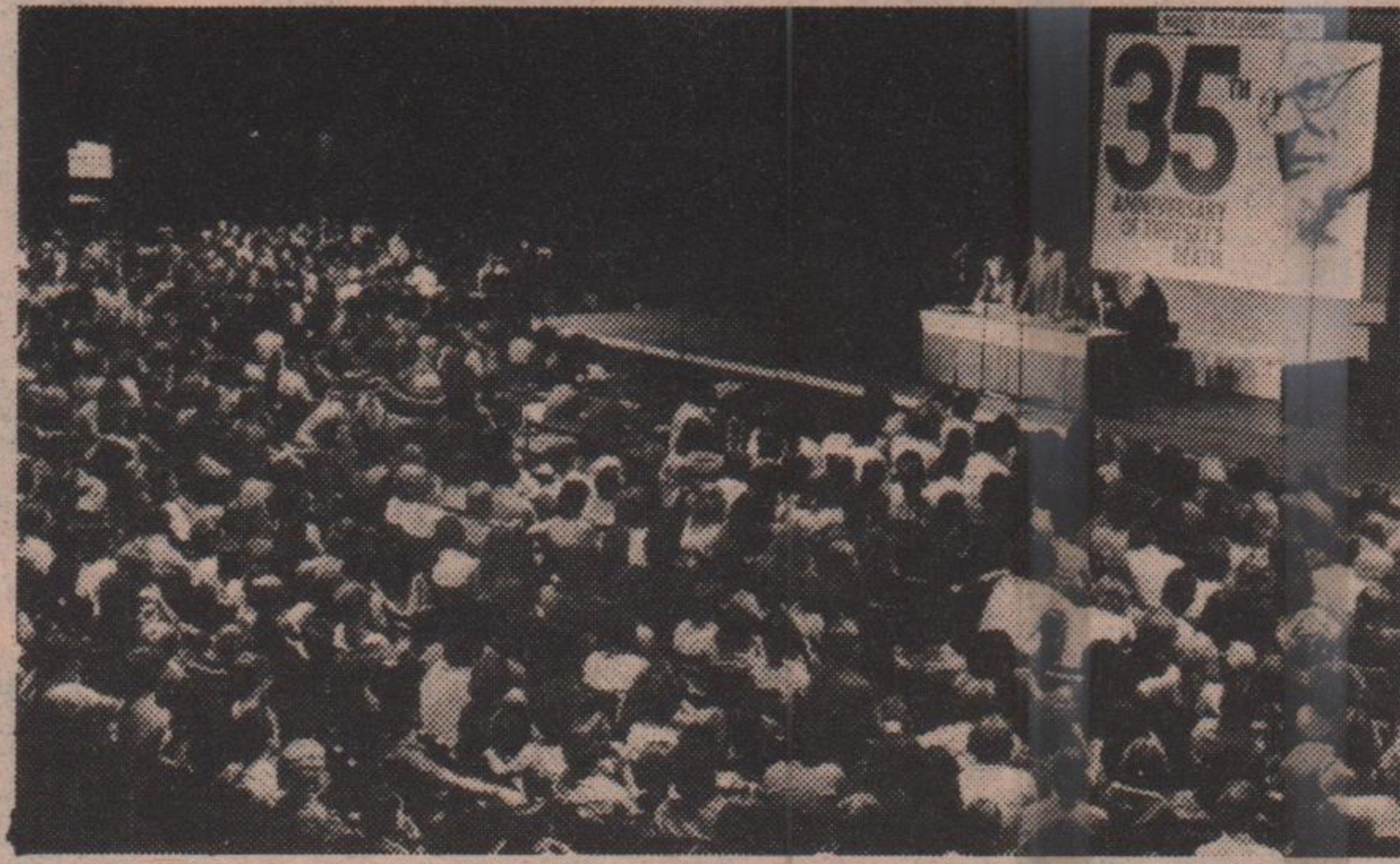
THE Rally for the 35th Anniversary of Trotsky's death was my first meeting. I liked it because there were a lot of people and a lot was said about unemployment and the young people.

I think it is a good

idea to have a Party to help people and fight the unemployment. There are a lot of young people leaving school who can't get a job, so we have to fight and get our Party organized.

Clafosters  
Tottenham YS.

Right: the 35th anniversary rally



## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN HULL

### Letter of the week

HULL has been hit harder than most northern towns by unemployment. With around 12,000 unemployed, of which at least 2,500 are school-leavers, youth are being affected more now than ever before.

Industrially, Hull has always centred around the fishing industry, which is at present in a state of decay and collapse — indeed another frozen food firm closed down only last week.

So youth are faced with a Youth Employment Office which is virtually closed down, and of

the ever-lengthening dole queue.

The Young Socialists in Hull have mounted an intense campaign around the dole queues, and it has quickly become obvious that many ideas instilled in schools of abundant employment have been shattered in a very short time.

Martin Healy, unemployed, told us: 'I was persuaded by our headmaster to stop on and take CSEs. He said it would improve my chances of getting a job. I

would have been better off if I had left at Easter. There are no jobs left at all.'

And so, under these conditions, we must press ahead with principled campaigning, and make clear to youth the betrayals of the Labour government and the bankruptcy of the capitalist system, in order that they will join us and take up the fight to build the Young Socialists.

Clive Naylor  
Hull YS.

## An important experience

WHEN we arrived at Wembley we saw a lot of people selling papers, fighting to build the Young Socialists. Then a member came up to us and started to speak about unemployment and price rises.

At first we didn't really understand, but as we walked along the streets we thought about it. We went back and asked if we could sell Keep Left. We sold 15 copies in an hour.

Then we met an old bag—she started saying we were wrong to sell papers. She said: 'You

can find a lot of bloody jobs around here.'

We said: 'You should come to Watford, where we live, and see how many jobs are there.' She said: 'There are a load of bloody jobs there, so I don't know what you are talking about.'

Then the greengrocer butted in and said she was talking good sense. The lady said: 'If I were you I'd go and give those papers back, and tell them they are speaking a load of codswallop.'

So we went back and

told Margaret, the YS member who had given us the Keep Left. She said the lady was wrong and what she was saying was not true.

Margaret said if there were 200 jobs in the evening paper but 600 people were looking for jobs, then there would be unemployment.

Our friend's dad is being made redundant.

The only way to beat them is build the revolutionary Young Socialists and fight for our rights.

Laura and Carol,  
Watford YS.

I FIRST learnt about the Young Socialists through attending a South London sports meeting a couple of weeks ago. Afterwards I went to the meeting, held at a nearby hall. The speaker was Simon Pirani, who is the national secretary of the YS. After listening to his speech which he delivered with much concern and conviction, I became convinced that I should join the YS. I learnt that there was a Party that had the interests of the working

class at heart, quite unlike the present Labour government under the leadership of Harold Wilson.

Before I heard of the Young Socialists, I was very concerned about the plight of this country and especially about the problems of inadequate job opportunities facing youth — after all the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. And as far as I can see the majority of all youth leaving school will find themselves unemployed

for the next five or ten years.

I feel that by joining the YS and attending all possible meetings, older speakers will be educating me, and in turn I can try and

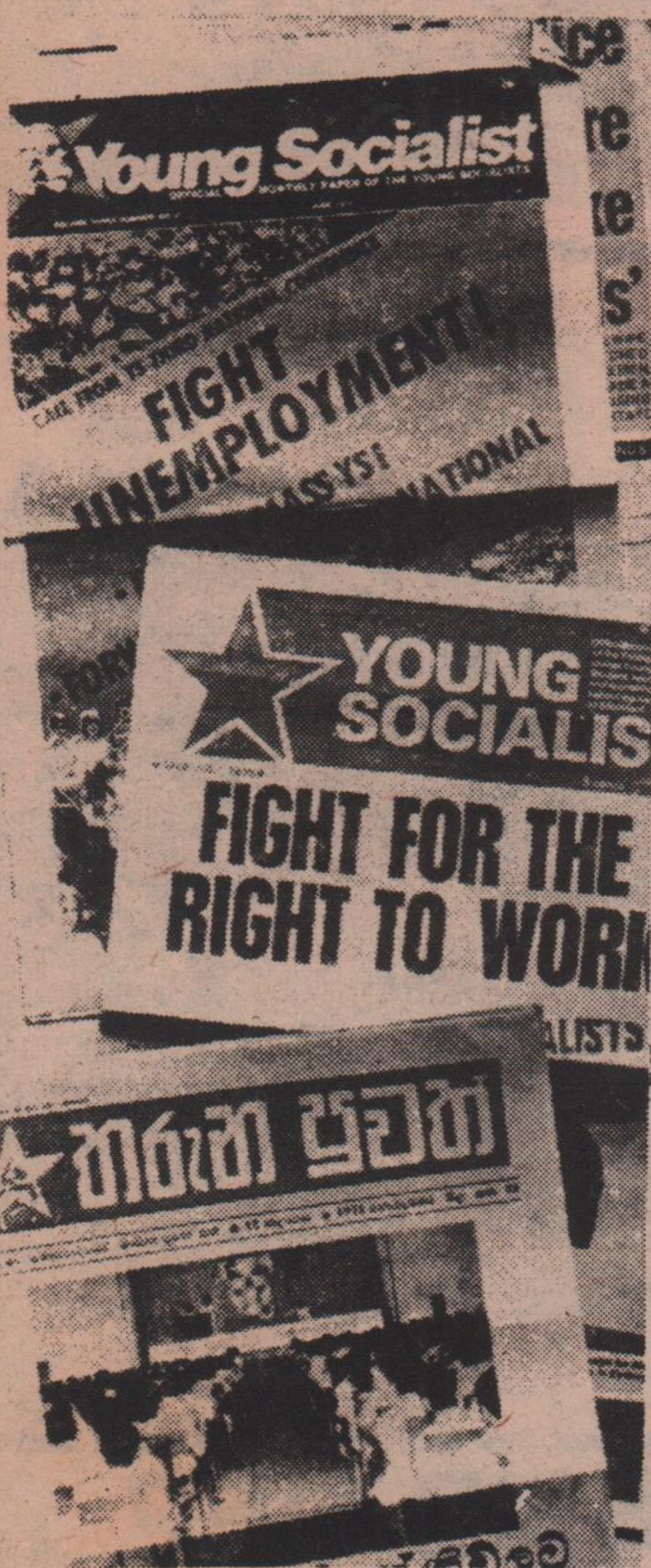
educate friends, so that we, the young people, can make a valuable contribution to the future revolutionary struggle.

Yvonne Davis  
Streatham 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.**

## SPECIAL OFFER TO BRITISH YS

Read YS papers from all over the globe!



### 'YOUNG SOCIALIST' (USA)

Official monthly paper of the Young Socialists  
45p for 3 months,  
90p for 6 months,  
£1.80 for a year.

### 'YOUNG SOCIALIST' (AUSTRALIA)

Official monthly paper of the Young Socialists  
26p for 3 months,  
51p for 6 months,  
£1 for a year.

### 'YOUTH PRESS' (SRI LANKA)

Official monthly paper of the Young Socialists  
26p for 3 months,  
51p for 6 months,  
£1 for a year.

I wish to subscribe to:

YOUNG SOCIALIST (USA) FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS  
 YOUNG SOCIALIST (AUST) FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS  
 YOUTH PRESS (SRI LANKA) FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ :

Return to YS, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

# What's on where



## YOUNG SOCIALISTS SPORTS DAYS

100M  
200M  
400M  
800M  
1,000M (boys only)  
1,500M (boys only)  
4 x 100M hurdles

4 x 100M relay  
Long jump  
High jump  
Discus  
Javelin  
Shot-put  
Tug-o-war

### WESTERN REGION YS

Sunday August 31

Horsepath Stadium,  
Oxford

### DISCO

in the evening  
Tickets 25p

### YORKSHIRE REGION YS

Sunday September 7

Rawlinson Sports Centre,  
Dyche Lane, Sheffield 8  
Starts 2.30 p.m.

### DISCO

in the evening

### LONDON AREA YS

## SWIMMING GALA

Saturday August 30

Seymour Baths,  
Seymour Place, London W1  
Starts 6.30 p.m.

I would like to enter (tick where appropriate):

Girls 50m Breaststroke  
Boys 50m Backstroke  
Girls 50m Backstroke  
Boys 50m Butterfly  
Girls 50m Butterfly  
Boys Relay  
Girls Relay

Boys 50m Freestyle  
Boys 100m Freestyle  
Boys 200m Freestyle  
Girls 50m Freestyle  
Girls 100m Freestyle  
Boys 50m Breaststroke  
Boys 100m Breaststroke

Name .....

Address .....

Return to YS, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

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



**THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!**  
THE YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT  
LEADS THE FIGHT FOR  
SOCIALIST POLICIES.

YS NEWS

YS NEWS

# Eastern Region YS Sports Day

## THE FINAL RESULTS A win for Newmarket

**100M:** 1st Steve Moule, Cambridge, 12.2 sec; 2nd Nicky Negus, Newmarket; 3rd Simon Negus, Newmarket.

**200M:** 1st Simon Negus, Newmarket, 26 sec.

**400M:** 1st Nicky Negus, Newmarket; 2nd Simon Negus, Newmarket; 3rd Gary Atis, Cambridge.

**1500M:** 1st Nicky Negus, Newmarket, 5m 05 sec; 2nd Gary Atis, Cambridge; 3rd Simon Negus, Newmarket.

**800M:** 1st Nicky Negus, Newmarket, 2m 38 sec; 2nd Gary Atis, Cambridge; 3rd Gavin Langley, Lowestoft.

**JAVELIN (Juniors):** 1st Kevin Simms, Cambridge, 36.49 metres; 2nd Nigel Squirrel, Norwich, 30.10 metres.

**JAVELIN (Seniors):** 1st Ronald Simms, Cambridge, 40.60 metres; 2nd Edward Jacks, Cambridge, 38.21 metres.

**LONG JUMP:** 1st Ronald Simms, Cambridge, 4.80 metres; 2nd Steve Prigg, Newmarket, 4.40 metres; 3rd Robert Simms, Cambridge, 3.20 metres.

**HIGH JUMP:** 1st Nigel Squirrel, Ipswich, 1.65 metres.

**EASTERN Region Young Socialists Sports Day was held at the University Athletic Club, Cambridge on Bank Holiday Monday.**

**Newmarket won the Sports Day with Cambridge close behind.**

There were also teams from Ipswich, Norwich and Lowestoft.

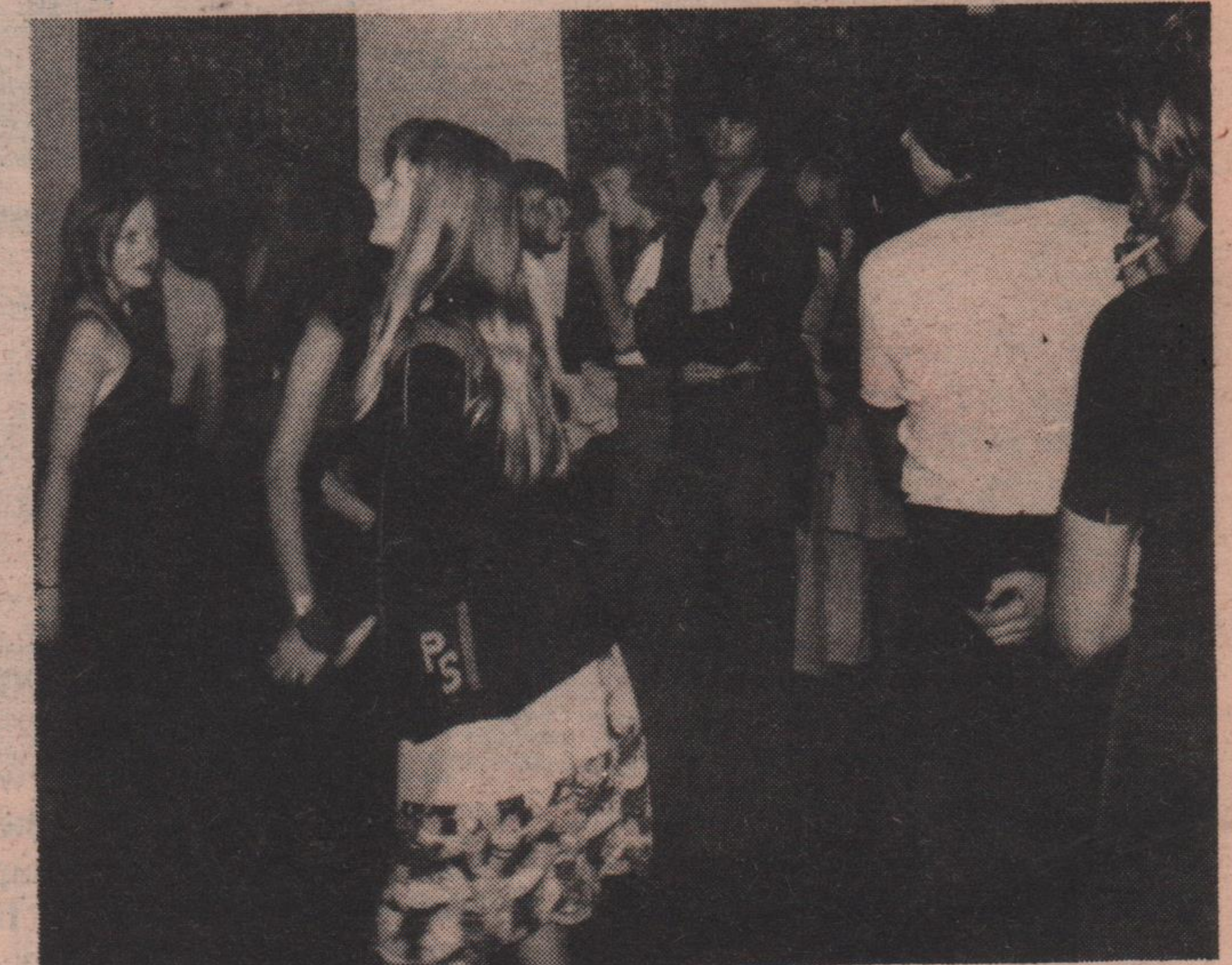
A rally followed the Sports Day, which was addressed by Ian Ralph of the Young Socialists National Committee. The vital role of youth in the revolutionary party was discussed.

A number of questions were asked about the role of the army and police, how the YS could solve the unemployment problem.

A number of youth agreed to come to the International Conference of Revolutionary Youth in November.



The javelin event.



The disco after the Eastern Region sports day

### Dance

In the evening, over 200 youth danced to the sounds of 'Electric Storm' disco, who played soul, pop, rock and funky records.

A number of provocations by the police, both uniformed and off-duty, took place at the disco, but there was no trouble. It was a great end to a successful day.



Oxford YS on a recent outing.

## LONDON YS BANK HOLIDAY OUTINGS

**TWO** coachloads of youth from South London and Southern regions of the YS went to the coast on Bank Holiday Monday.

Branches in the Brixton, Clapham and Woking areas went to Littlehampton while South-East London and Croydon went to Bognor Regis.

Most of the members who went to Bognor spent their time in Butlins. In Littlehampton the most popular spot was the funfair with the Wild Mouse.

A recruitment team at the sea front made a number of recruits for the YS all over the South of England.

The two coaches met in the evening for a disco in Crawley.

WEST London and West Middlesex regions of the Young Socialists travelled down by coach to Littlehampton.

On the way down a team went round with tickets for the all London swimming gala.

The weather was just right for sitting on the beach or wandering round the amusement arcades.

On the way back a disco was held in the Grove Tavern in Kingston with dancing to the sounds of 'Red Star'.

Two coachloads of youth went on the North London YS coach trip to Southend on Bank Holiday Monday.

A highly successful disco was held on the way back with the 'Rebels' sound system from Tottenham playing, in the Three Blackbirds in Leyton.

## SPOT THE COP!

**AUGUST** Bank Holiday is the height of the pop festival season. It is also one of the heights of police and capitalist media attacks on youth.

Following the 750-strong police invasion of the Windsor Free Festival last August, festival fans planned a protest at Windsor Great Park to commemorate the occasion. The state went into action once again.

The first two festival goers to arrive at the site last Saturday were met by 320 police. An hour later the

demonstration had swelled to a total of 12.

A sceptical fan explained to Keep Left that one reason for the hullabaloo about fans at Windsor was the fact that Prince Charles' polo ponies are kept at nearby Virginia Water.

But of course, as Keep Left pointed out last year, the real reason for the attack on pop fans there was the behind-the-scenes preparations for dictatorship and the training of police 'heavy squads' to be used against the working class.



Policemen wait discreetly for the demo that never took place in Windsor Great Park



The Watchfield festival... the flag says 'Remember the 4th Windsor'

**KEEP LEFT  
£200  
MONTHLY  
FUND**

COMRADES, as we go to print we have received £152.60 for our monthly fund. This leaves us £47.40 to raise in the last few days of the month.

We are confident that the branches will take urgent action to raise this vitally important finance.

Money is still coming in from the branches and we will announce the final figure for the month in next week's Keep Left.

Post all donations immediately to:

**Keep Left Fund  
186a Clapham High St  
London, SW4 7UG.**

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