

B/OSL FILE

Youth will lead fight for socialism

by The Editor

WHAT are the prospects for socialism in Britain? Virtually nobody has any more illusions in the right-wing Wilson government. Every important decision that it takes is in one way or another directed against the working class.

Its programme of parliamentary legislation consists of one retreat after another before big business.

Following close on its heels comes the weekly paper, 'Tribune', and its supporters in the parliamentary party. Not only have they covered up for Wilson, they have, in fact, assisted him in implementing his pro-Tory policy.

Behind them, of course, follows the Communist Party, who can at least boast that the age group of its political leadership is higher than any other of the left organisations in Europe. It has completely lost touch with the working class in struggle and contents itself in calling for peaceful co-existence between capitalist powers and the Soviet Union, whilst, at the same time, it calls upon Wilson to move a little more to the left.

YS leadership

Surely if the prospects of socialism in Britain are to be left to these kinds of leaders, there will never in fact be any socialism here. Fortunately, the opposite is the case.

The Young Socialists, who have led thousands of young people over the past year in campaign after campaign against the sell-out of Wilson, are now enjoying considerable support. They are, in fact, on the threshold of becoming a real alternative leadership for the labour movement to follow. There are several reasons for this.

Firstly, because of their youth, they have not undergone the painful experiences which the betrayals of the past have inflicted on the older generations of the Labour Party and trade unions.

Secondly, they are much closer to the age of automation and the enormous impact which it is having on their thinking.

Thirdly, they have complete contempt for the betrayals of the leaderships of the older parties.

Fourthly, and most important of all, they accept the advice of and fight day after day alongside the Socialist Labour League.

Trotsky era

It is their generation which will usher in the forthcoming Trotsky era of world politics.

At the Seventh Congress of the Socialist Labour League, which recently met in London, the vast majority of delegates came from the Young Socialists movement.

Immediately after the conference they launched their own recruiting drive for 5,000 new members. A special feature of this drive is to draw into the trade unions thousands of youth who are at present unorganised.

The purpose of this concentration on trade union activity is not to behave as left trade unionists but to

build strong Marxist cadres within the unions.

Perhaps not since the early '20s has there been such a favourable opportunity for carrying out such work. There is absolutely no room for pessimism about the future. The youth are moving in their thousands towards the building of the Marxist revolutionary party.

Confident future

In the vanguard of this movement is the Socialist Labour League. Its plans to launch a daily paper to coincide with an insurmountable capitalist crisis which cannot be resolved by either the Tory or right-wing Labour government. It will be the youth, above all, who will build the basis for the daily paper.

Great Britain, we are confident, will be the first metropolitan country in the world where the mass revolutionary party is going to be constructed in the coming years.

Young Socialists viciously attacked at Brown meeting

STEWARDS kicked and punched Young Socialists whom they flung out of George Brown's meeting at Belle Vue, Manchester, last Sunday.

It was a display of violence against socialists only equalled in fascist meetings.

One Young Socialist was surrounded by a group of stewards, dragged by his hair across the seats, kicked and beaten up the gangway, thrown down 12 concrete steps outside the hall, and left unconscious. It was ten minutes before he came round.

A 16-year-old girl was flung down the steps after him, groaning with pain from a big bruise on her thigh. Unable to stand through shock, she had to be carried to a first-aid station. Later that night, she collapsed at a Young Socialists meeting, and had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

About 30 Young Socialists were in the meeting which was a North West Region Labour Party 'Victory Rally'.

They had picketed outside the hall. Their banners and placards called for an emergency Labour Party conference. Placards also had slogans like: 'The Labour Government must support Viet Cong' and 'George Brown scabbled on printers'.

Inside the hall there were large empty spaces. Noticeable was the high average age of the audience.

The youth at the meeting was in opposition to Brown. The brutal assault upon them came after they shouted 'Support the

Glasgow magistrates ban Vietnam demonstration

YS given no explanation

GLASGOW City magistrates' committee on Thursday banned a Young Socialists demonstration against the war in Vietnam, which was to have been held on Saturday.

The committee, controlled by the Labour right wing, refused to give any reason for this ban.

Police had recommended acceptance of the demonstration.

Young Socialists who went to City Chambers to

ask the reasons for the ban were refused an interview. They were told to write to the chairman of the committee.

Later the same day Young Socialists submitted a request for an open-air meeting in North Hanover Square—a traditional meeting place in Glasgow—but they were told that the magistrates' committee had banned not only the demonstration, but also any meeting.

This is unheard of in Glasgow since the war.

VIETNAM

Recognize National Liberation Front!

THE United States government took another major step towards escalating the Vietnamese war this week with the dispatch of 21,000 more U.S. troops and Mr. Wilson took another major step in committing the British labour movement to this reactionary and counter-revolutionary war by refusing

to even dissociate his government from U.S. imperialism. Mr. Stewart's statement in the Commons and his nauseating statements in Oxford reveal for the umpteenth time how utterly compromised, corrupted and politically degenerate the Labour government is.

Therefore, there is neither political virtue nor dignity in people like Warbey and Blenkinsop making platitudinous statements in parliament or asking the same questions and getting the invariable answer from Mr. Stewart. This is no time for parliamentary games.

ACTION

The deadly logic of escalation can only be stopped by action—organised action of the working class throughout the world. The example of the Australian dockers who risked a £74,000 fine for industrial action over Vietnam is the kind of action that is going to stop the war. But that is precisely the action that Lord Brockway and his fellow centrists do not want.

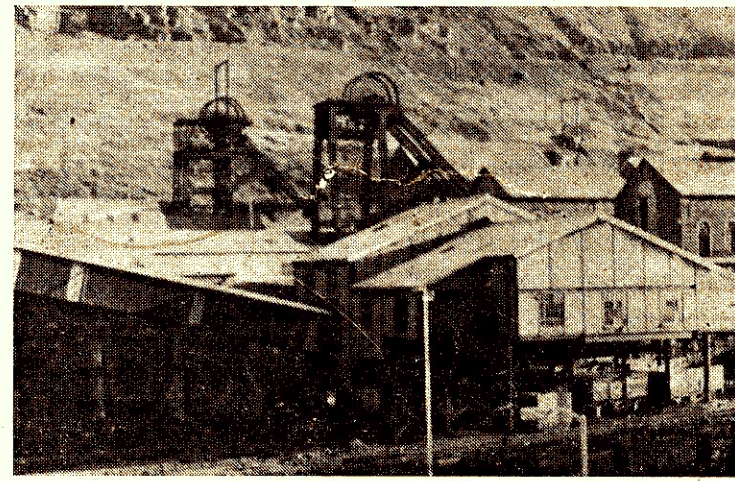
They want to sidetrack the growing opposition to the Vietnam war into parliamentary lobbies and a humanitarian exercise for sending medical aid and blood donations instead of making a political onslaught against Mr. Wilson even at the risk of bringing down his government.

Medical aid is good, but a motion demanding that Labour recognise the National Liberation Front as the legitimate government of South Vietnam and a countrywide campaign against all imperialist alliances would be infinitely more important and noble.

Stop ducking, stand up and fight or get out!

After years of betrayal by right wing and CP Miners must fight for new leadership

By Jack Gale



Miners in pits like this one at Tonypandy, South Wales, must look to the Socialist Labour League in a fight for a new leadership.

THE National Union of Mineworkers has rejected the Coal Board's offer of 11s. 6d. a week more for the day-wage miners.

But no real struggle for a decent wage increase will be carried out by the present leadership of the NUM. Look at their record over the last seven years:

- In October 1958 they claimed 15s. and accepted 7s. 6d.
In January 1960 they claimed 12s. and accepted 5s.
In January 1961 they claimed 18s. and accepted 8s. 6d.
In April 1962 they claimed £1 and accepted 7s. 6d.
In April 1963 they claimed £1 and accepted 9s.
In April 1964 they claimed 15s. and accepted 7s. 6d.

The leadership of this union is a combination of right-wing Labourites and the Communist Party. The role of 'communists' like secretary Will Paynter is to act as a left cover for the right wing.

All miners should study the lessons of last year's wage claim. The right wing would have been completely incapable of forcing through the Coal Board's offer of 7s. 6d.

But at a special delegate conference, after the Coal Board offer had been rejected by Yorkshire, Scotland, Wales, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Kent, it was Paynter who urged acceptance of the offer.

He also said miners could not strike because it would be against the government!

This conference resorted to a national ballot to avoid having to fight for the full claim. Paynter and Sidney Ford, the union president, toured the country speaking against a struggle for the full claim. Right-wing officials in Lancashire had Paynter's speech circulated to every branch in the area in order to influence miners against strike action.

At the annual conference of the NUM last year, Paynter spoke against submitting any further wage claim. The execu-

tive urged the defeat of a Yorkshire resolution calling for a £2 12s. 6d. wage increase for day-wage men.

It was at this conference that £12,500 a year Lord Robens declared: 'I agree entirely with the conclusions of Will Paynter.'

Leading positions in the National Union of Mineworkers have been held by the Communist Party since 1947. Not only the office of general secretary (held first by Arthur Horner and then by Will Paynter) but also the leadership of the Scottish and Welsh NUM has been held by the Communist Party.

No fight

Yet there has been no struggle against pit closures, no fight for wages, no real effort to secure guarantees for miners in face of the advance of mechanisation. Moreover, miners today work longer hours than were recommended by the Sankey Commission of 1919!

This is the direct result of the political programme of the Communist Party. This is the product of 'peaceful co-existence' and 'parliamentary roads to socialism'.

A struggle for decent wages for miners cannot be led by Communist Party union officials who are the products of these Stalinist theories. These men are bound within the limits of the bourgeois state. This is the political basis of their collaboration with the right wing.

Replace leaders

Miners need leaders who can defeat and replace both the right wing and the Communist Party. This cannot be done overnight, but the growing strength of the Socialist Labour League, particularly its success in attracting youth, and the development of The Newsletter into a daily paper, point the way forward.

All miners—particularly young miners—who want a real fight for better conditions should consider the programme of the Socialist Labour League.

Negotiation on Foyle's strike

THE strike at Foyle's bookshop is in its fourth week and the strikers, who now number 90, are determined not to return to work until the management sign an agreement covering wages, conditions and sickness.

On Wednesday, there were negotiations with the management, who said they were prepared to discuss with the union, but not sign an agreement.

The Executive Committee of the strikers' union, the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which met last week-end, gave the strike its full support and donated £1,000.

This week-end the London area of USDAW holds its annual conference. As well as giving full support to the strike, financial aid must be promised along with help on the picket line.

There has been little picketing help so far, but delegates to this week-end's conference must think seriously about the contradictions that this strike is creating in relation to the Labour government's incomes policy, which USDAW supports.

The unity and determination of these young people—many of whom have had no previous experience in the labour movement—shows the possibilities of building a movement to answer the betrayals of the Labour government.

Financial support for the strike should be sent to The secretary, Foyle's Strike Committee, c/o USDAW, Duke House, Malet Street, London, W.C.1.

Glasshoughton Miners injured

TWENTY-SIX miners at Glasshoughton colliery, Yorkshire, including Trevor Parsons, a member of the Socialist Labour League, were injured when the cage in which they were descending to the face, fell for a short distance down the half-mile shaft.

Thirty-nine men had boarded the cage in No. 1 shaft at 5.50 a.m. on Wednesday when it dropped without warning and was then pulled up abruptly by steel-wire safety ropes.

Detained in hospital after the accident were George Chappell (suspected spinal injury), Albert Brudhoe (fractured ankle), Matthew Murbick (fractured leg) and Trevor Parsons (fractured foot and suspected pelvic injury).





