

LP MAY 24 FOOD - 60P Boxing Club

'MILITANT' RATTLED BY IRISH DEBATE

THE DEBATE ON IRELAND, after various manoeuvres by the 'Militant' to restrict the speaking time of minorities, hinged around the question of the withdrawal of troops and self determination for the Irish people.

Cheung Siu Ming (Wokingham LPYS) reminded us of Marx's saying: "A nation which enslaves another can never itself be free". Ken Stratford (Southall LPYS, 'Socialist Action') stressed that we in England could not get socialism in Ireland. Ed Conduit (Brent East LPYS) attacked the illusions of the 'Militant', pointing out that class unity is our aim, not what we have now.

'Militant' supporters pushed through a resolution from Garston. The IRA was

the British imperialist state.

The summing up from Bob Labi (editor of 'Left') showed that 'Militant' was rattled. In 1969, he claimed, Workers Fight supporters had called for repartition of northern Ireland!

The actual fact is that in 1969 Workers Fight supporters put forward the idea of the predominantly Catholic areas of northern Ireland taking self-determination into their own hands and seceding from the Orange state, thus making that state unviable. For 'Militant' — for whom nothing can ever be done except through the good offices of Westminster — this may seem like repartition. In fact it is poles apart.

'Militant' continued their panic slander

JULIE CANNON
LEN COLLINGWOOD
(Elesmere Port LPYS)

another bare-faced lie — asserting that Workers Fight had supported troops going into northern Ireland in 1969.

The struggle must now go on in all LPYS branches for affiliation to TOM and a realistic socialist position on the question of Ireland — support for the forces fighting British imperialism. In this way we can lay the basis for next year turning Militant's alarm and panic into defeat.



British troops on the rampage against catholic kids

equated to the UVF, and support for the Troops Out Movement was rejected on the grounds that if troops were withdrawn without a "Trade Union Defence Force" having been set up there would be a blood bath (perhaps Bloody Sunday was a picnic).

Alan Walker (Kirkby LPYS) said we couldn't support TOM because... it didn't call for socialism. Presumably the same would go for any campaign against the Jenkins law. But one wonders what Alan Walker thinks about strikes. Does he refuse to support them unless they call for socialism? No, he doesn't — because strikes are good, normal Trade Union practice, whereas the TOM is linked with (horror of horrors!) an armed fight against

attacks on Workers Fight in the LPYS Irish meeting on the Wednesday night. The meeting lasted for over two hours, but only one Workers Fight supporter was allowed to speak for three minutes to put our position and answer the 'Militant'. In fact, Alex Wood of the LPYS NC had resorted to

"For us, living in Britain, where the labour movement has only begun to emerge from stagnation and where the worst pedants still pass for the best revolutionaries, Connolly can be a bridge between us and the only real tradition of revolutionary action in the British Isles". 10p from 98 Gifford St, London N1.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE TRADE UNION DEFENCE FORCE ?

It would simplify matters if Ireland were just like England — if there were national question, no sectarianism, no force of occupation and so on. But the Irish Question demands that we face these unpleasant realities of the Six Counties.

The idea of a workers' defence force is based on the delusion that the trade unions are untouched by sectarianism. But this is not so: indeed, they are bulwarks of that same divisive poison.

The idea is also based on the implication that the Republican and Loyalist organisations are not mass organisations — another fallacy.

But worst of all it fails to distinguish between the oppressors and the oppressed. If it comes to a bloodbath it will be because the Loyalist workers have attempted to assert their ascendancy over the Catholic community. In such a situation the best form of defence would be the IRA — not some mythical formation based on the very conditions (working class unity) which are lacking.

'Militant's' trumpeting of this slogan is just their way of copping-out of taking sides in the struggle.

CONFERENCE ON THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT AND IRELAND:
Saturday 24th May 10 am to 5.30pm, at the Collegiate Theatre, Gordon St, London WC1
Credentials from TOM, 103 Hammersmith Rd, London W14. Make sure your LPYS sends delegates!

YOUNG SOCIALIST

THIS JUST CAN'T BE THE WAY

IN THE PAST YS members to the left of the 'Militant' have usually concentrated on three contentious issues, Ireland, women's rights, and racialism, where the right wing nature of the 'Militant' is most clear.

One amendment this year from Eston, however, raised the more central question of Militant's whole concept of what working class struggle is. Challenging the Militant notion of capitalism being killed peacefully through sheer weight of resolutions, it placed the emphasis on the rank and file self-reliant activity of the working class, of the sort seen in France 1968, but stifled then by the bureaucratic leaderships of the workers' movement.

The Militant-controlled platform was able to push that resolution aside with not much debate. One other attempt was made to challenge Militant's general perspectives, from Southall LPYS (The 'Socialist Action' tendency).

INSULAR

'Socialist Action' attacked the British-centred insular outlook of Militant and their passivity. But, despite those valid points, 'Socialist Action' actually has similar ideas about the working class and the Labour Party to Militant. The Labour Party is "the workers' party", the be-all and end-all of working class politics; the British working class has reached full

"You've now got three minutes to beat the clock (and state your case against 10 'Militant' speakers and a 20 minute speech from the platform"

One of the most often-heard remarks towards the end of the conference was this smug sanctimonious sentiment from the lips of leading 'Militant' supporters: "Andy Bevan was very fair in allowing tendencies other than the 'Militant' the time that he did — they got more time to speak than their numbers warranted".

A formal division of time in debate along the lines of a minority of 1 in 20 getting three minutes while the majority speaks for sixty minutes is as ridiculous as saying that in written debate one side can write a book and the other a page. The conference, rather than a lively forum for deciding action, becomes a passive performance where YS members simply sit and hear the magic 'Militant' slogans churned out again and again.

That's why "Young Socialist" is organising a day school on 26th April to open a real discussion on the way forward. For details see inside

organic growth, and its present organisations (trade unions and Labour Party) are adequate for the tasks of socialist revolution. In the end, the Labour Party is, for

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2p
special
LPYS
conference
report
Trotsky taken
to Toyland

ON DAY TWO OF THE 'MILITANT' jamboree which followed the conference we were treated to an exposition of the coming British Revolution.

Drawing on the twin traditions of Leon Trotsky and Hans Christian Anderson, we were told how, within a few years, a Labour government (with ranks full of Trotskyist MPs subject to immediate right of recall etc.) would be returned to Parliament to force through an Enabling Act demanding the nationalisation of 250 monopolies. We were told that this Act was devised "not by Lenin, comrades, but by Clem Attlee". Some debate took place over the precise form of this Act, but it was generally agreed that, using the guillotine, it could go through Parliament in about two hours.

Now came the coup de grace. Being 'Marxists', the 'Militant' comrades realised that the bosses could not be relied upon to allow such legislation to go through Parliament without a fight, and moreover they might resort to extra-parliamentary methods. Precisely to avert this extra-parliamentary attack of the bourgeoisie, a call would go out from the beleaguered Trotskyist garrison at Westminster to the masses to come onto the streets and occupy the factories, offices, schools, etc — so making this by now legal Act a fait accompli.

Self-evidently the British ruling class will not sleep soundly in their beds at night knowing that Clem Attlee's death potion for them has fallen into the hands of a certain sect of British Trotskyists. How relieved General Pinochet must be that poor Allende did not read the 'Militant'! Otherwise his troops, his aeroplanes, his machine guns, all might have been paralysed by... the Enabling Act!

To the concrete tasks of the class struggle and the realities of state power, the Militant pits its paper programme, and the result is a scenario of revolution worthy of Toyland.

PAUL HOGGETT
(Brighton Pavilion LPYS)

Racism and the Working Class

"Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded" 20p Workers' Fight pamphlet. 10p from 98 Gifford St., London N. 1.

A subtle way of siding with the scabs

THIS YEAR'S LPYS Conference debate of racism showed the 'Militant' blaming the racially oppressed for instigating their own racial oppression.

It was all started by a 'Chartist' supporter who while introducing an amendment on anti fascist work said that the LPYS had no right to criticise anti fascist activities if they did not take part themselves. As an example he pointed out that on the last anti fascist demonstration in Leicester last August hardly any LPYS banners were in attendance. This demonstration was doubly important because of the local Imperial Typewriters strike, where the National Front had been active among white workers who scabbed on a strike of black workers.

Replying for the LPYS NC, Tony Saunois said that he ought to enlighten comrades as to what happened at Imperial

Typewriters since he comes from the Leicester area. This was about as logical as Keith Joseph saying he qualified to talk about housing "having three very lovely houses of his own".

Strike plans were going ahead quite nicely, according to Tony Saunois, with black and white united over common minimal demands for more pay and a review of the bonus system. Then what happened... an Indian named Benny Bunsee from Nottingham came along and incited the Pakistani workers to go it alone - thus causing the white workers to go against them.

The lesson, according to Tony Saunois? If only the Pakistani workers had gone through "the labour movement"!

Not a word about the active discrimination already within the factory, and condoned by "the labour movement", against the Pakistani workers. Not a word about the "2 year rule" for shop stewards, the fiddling of the bonus system to the tune of four pounds a week, the monopoly of skilled grades and training by the white workers! Not a word about the racism of the T&G local official Bromley and the factory convenor Weaver! Not a word about the Pakistani workers' vain attempts to get the union moving!

Tony Saunois might as well have come from Timbuctoo - or else he is siding with the white workers who scabbed on the Pakistanis.

IVAN WELLS (S.E. Derbs. LPYS)



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these tendencies, a substitute for the class struggle.

The self-reliance of the working class is practically denied (Militant) or given lip service to (Socialist Action and also the Chartists). The creativity of the working class is denied, somehow the working class is incapable of throwing up new forms of struggle and organisation (like workers' councils) and the 'political struggle' has to be done for them in the Labour Party by the Marxists.

The Socialist Action and the Chartists fundamentally just replace one slogan - "Labour to power on a socialist program"

- with another - "Workers Government" - or "Labour Take the Power". They say that Militant just sits and waits (true!) and they are more active, but fundamentally it is the same scenario politics.

It is vital that left-wingers in the LPYS should recognise that the most important thing for socialists is the direct action of the working class, and its reflection in the Labour Party is fundamentally secondary, even though important. Otherwise we will be left paralysed in the major events of the class struggle, like the mass strikes of 1972 against the jailing of the five dockers.

CHEUNG SIU MING (Wokingham LPYS)
LOL DUFFY (Eston LPYS)

Briefly, briefly...

Among the overseas guests presented to the conference by 'Militant' was one from the Radical Party of Chile... introduced as the "mass party of the Chilean working class". So much for the millions of Chilean workers who follow the Communist Party or the Socialist Party, let alone the revolutionary workers of the MIR. But then the Radical Party's links with Golda Meir and our own Harold Wilson in the "Socialist International" are more than enough to make it the mass workers' party in the eyes of the 'Militant'

Resolution no. 148, on the Working Womens Charter, was actually passed: "Conference... welcomes the campaign being launched around the Working Womens Charter. It instructs the NC to do all in its power to ensure the maximum participation of LPYS members..."

Use this resolution now to insist that your local LPYS links up with the Working Womens Charter groups and their campaigns locally.

"The Tory party", proclaimed one Militant supporter, "is in such a bad state that they have to have a woman for a leader". And apparently the Labour Party is in such a bad state that the biggest professedly Marxist tendency within it has to have the most backward male chauvinists for its leaders.

During the debate on anti-fascist activity the 'Militant' were specially irate about one "ultra-left" exploit in Chester. The Merseyside anti-fascist committee had organised action against a National Front meeting "without even informing the labour movement". And where were the local 'Militant' stalwarts who, you might think, could have taken it on themselves to get information round the labour movement? They were sitting in the Labour club across the road, watching the clash between the National Front and the anti-fascists.

In the arguments over speaking rights for minorities, one delegate, at least, seems to have got a bit confused about exactly what the LPYS is. "This is Militant's conference", she said. "Would you let Militant speak at Workers Fight's conference?"

Over 100 delegates and visitors attended the "Young Socialist" readers' meeting on the Sunday evening. Andrew Hornung spoke on "Revolutionaries in the Labour Party", attacking the Militant's concept of "demands" as a sort of request to Santa Claus. In contrast to meetings controlled by 'Militant', opposing views were given a democratic hearing. Five Militant speakers (as well as speakers from other tendencies) spoke from the floor, and the meeting was actually extended beyond schedule so that John Throne of the Irish Militant could speak on Ireland.

In "Young Socialist" no.3, before the conference, we picked out the Worthing LPYS resolution on South Africa. This resolution deplored the armed struggle of the black liberation movements as "terrorism... a give away to the capitalist state that enables it to clamp down harder". In South Africa, mind you! And it went on to insist that the black workers wait for unity with the white workers before they enter struggle.

An amendment was sent in from Wokingham LPYS, advocating support for "the black workers' struggle, including their armed struggle". But at the conference the leaders of 'Militant' decided that their zealous followers in Worthing had gone a bit too far. The prospect of a debate which might be embarrassing for 'Militant' was avoided by a bit of discreet pressure on Worthing LPYS which persuaded them to withdraw their resolution.

EEC - IN OR OUT THE FIGHT GOES ON

A pamphlet outlining the case for socialists to abstain in the referendum on withdrawal from the EEC. Neither "in" nor "out" can offer any clear advantages to the working class, and socialists should say so plainly and clearly.

"YOUNG SOCIALIST".
Editor Naomi Wimbourne (Salford LPYS)
Assistant Editor Bas Hardy (Bermondsey LPYS)
Published and printed by voluntary labour at 98 Gifford St, London N1.

DAY SCHOOL APRIL 26th

The 1975 LPYS conference, with 2000 attending, was the biggest ever.

There was also the most vigorous opposition for many years to the dominant 'Militant' tendency.

Time after time, from the platform, 'Militant' speakers attacked the so-called "ultra left", distorting and even telling direct lies.

"Workers Fight do not believe in class unity", "Workers Fight do not believe in socialism" - such allegations were their only answer to those who pointed out that abstract rambling on about nationalisation was not a substitute for active support to the struggles of the working class, and specially of super-oppressed sections of

the working class like black workers or the nationalist workers of Ireland.

Obviously the 'Militant' think the ideas of "Workers Fight", "Young Socialist", and other left-wing tendencies in the LPYS important, otherwise they would not spend so much time attacking us.

We also believe our ideas are important. With the aim of discussing and clarifying those ideas, and of planning action to follow from them, we are organising a day school in Coventry on Saturday April 26th. All members of the LPYS are welcome.

This day school will be the start of building an active, fighting YS - not a passive, sterile YS dominated by the schoolmasters of the 'Militant'.

11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Sidney Stringer School, Coventry (Cox Street, near the bus station).

Speakers:

The history of the Left in the Labour Party ... Colin Lindsay, President of Coventry Trades Council (in personal capacity)

The struggle in Ireland and the Troops Out Movement ... Tom Cashman, Student Organiser, Troops Out Movement.

The Common Market ... Simon Temple, Vauxhall LPYS.

The Working Women's Charter ... Sue Leigh, Nottingham Working Women's Charter and North Nottingham LPYS.

Building the LPYS ... Dave Green, Northampton South CLP.

All members of the Labour Party Young Socialists welcome. For further details contact Bas Hardy (editor, 'Young Socialist') at 98 Gifford Street, London N1 0DF.

WORKERS' FIGHT

Revolutionary Marxist weekly. 5p from 98 Gifford St, London N1