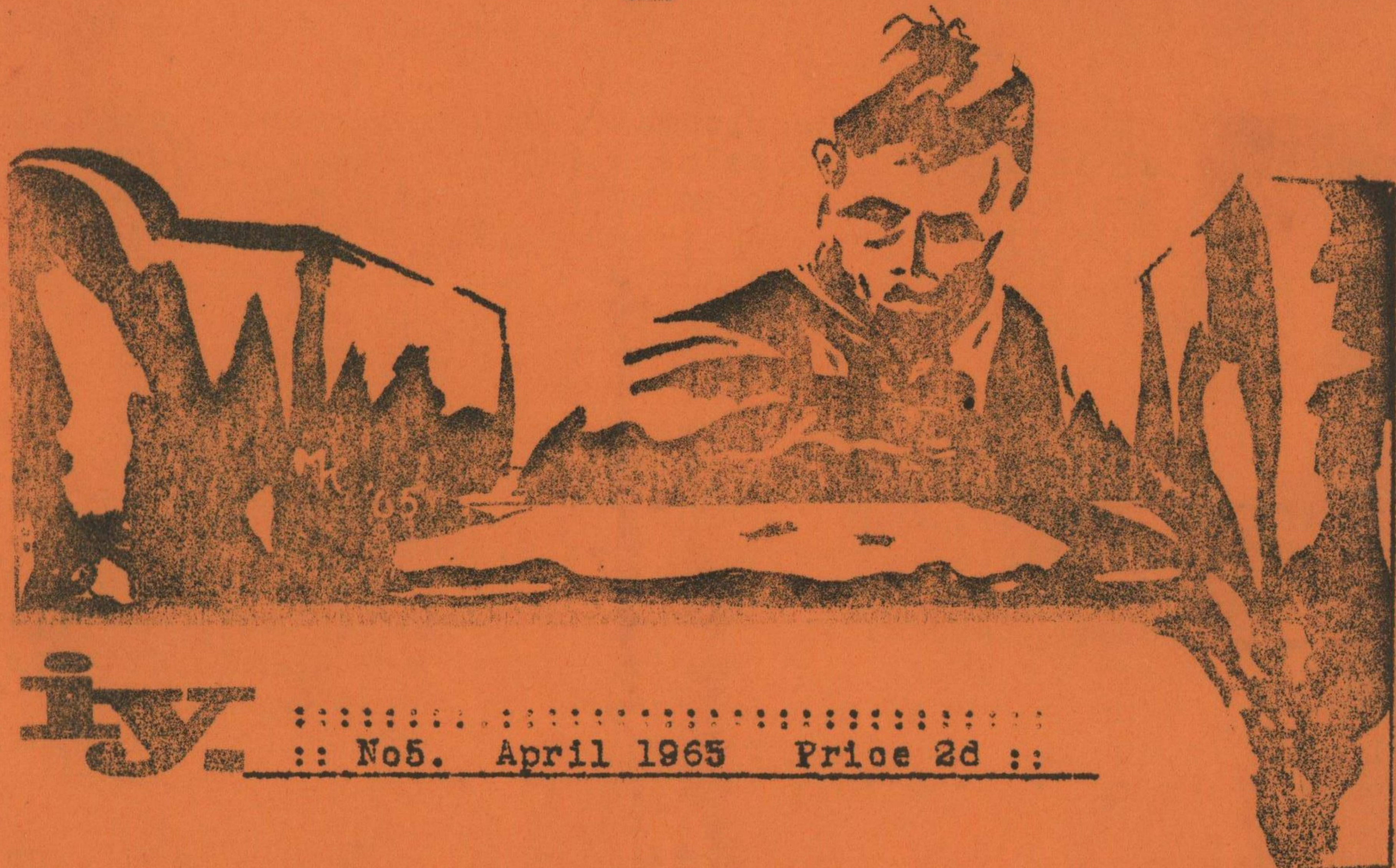


industrial youth



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APPRENTICE NEGOTIATING RIGHTS

Limited negotiating rights with the management, have at last been achieved by apprentices! Thanks to strike action taken by the lads last November. Though these rights are well short of what is required, we must admit that this is better than any other apprentice strike has ever achieved. Union officials and shop stewards will now be able to negotiate with managements on behalf of apprentices.

The employers also agreed that during strikes by adult workers apprentices will not be asked to act as blacklegs, nor will they be locked out with the strikers. But apprentices won't be "allowed" to come out on strike, either with adult workers or to support their own demands. Apprentices will be allowed to "negotiate", but will not be allowed to back it up with strike action.

Continued page 2.

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 :: Negotiating Rights Continued ::

Are They Pulling Our Legs?

Apart from the lack of the ultimate weapon of strike action, - which is vital in any effective negotiations with the bosses, what does this "generous" concession by the bosses really amount to? The lads will still not be able to negotiate directly with the boss at any level. It must be always done through an adult worker or at higher levels through an adult ex-worker (in some cases very ex). Apprentices know

Apprentices know what sort of representation they will get at national level, from their so-called representatives. The attitude of most Trade Union leaders was nearer to that of the boss during last November's strike, than to the lads. At local and factory and factory level, there are many good blokes acting as local officials and shop stewards. But, lets face it! their experience has been mostly of adult conditions. These are the conditions they know, because these are the conditions they work under. The only people who know what apprentices need and what their conditions are like are the apprentices themselves.

Apprentices need their own works apprentice committees (genuine committees- not yellow management controlled committees which exist at present) With apprentice stewards who can negotiate direct with the management. These stewards could negotiate on apprentice problems and conditions, while still allowing shop stewards to operate and sort out things for the lads in their shop, which are not of special interest to apprentices. These apprentice stewards could also sit on the works committee to ensure that a genuine apprentice viewpoint was always expressed at the meetings.

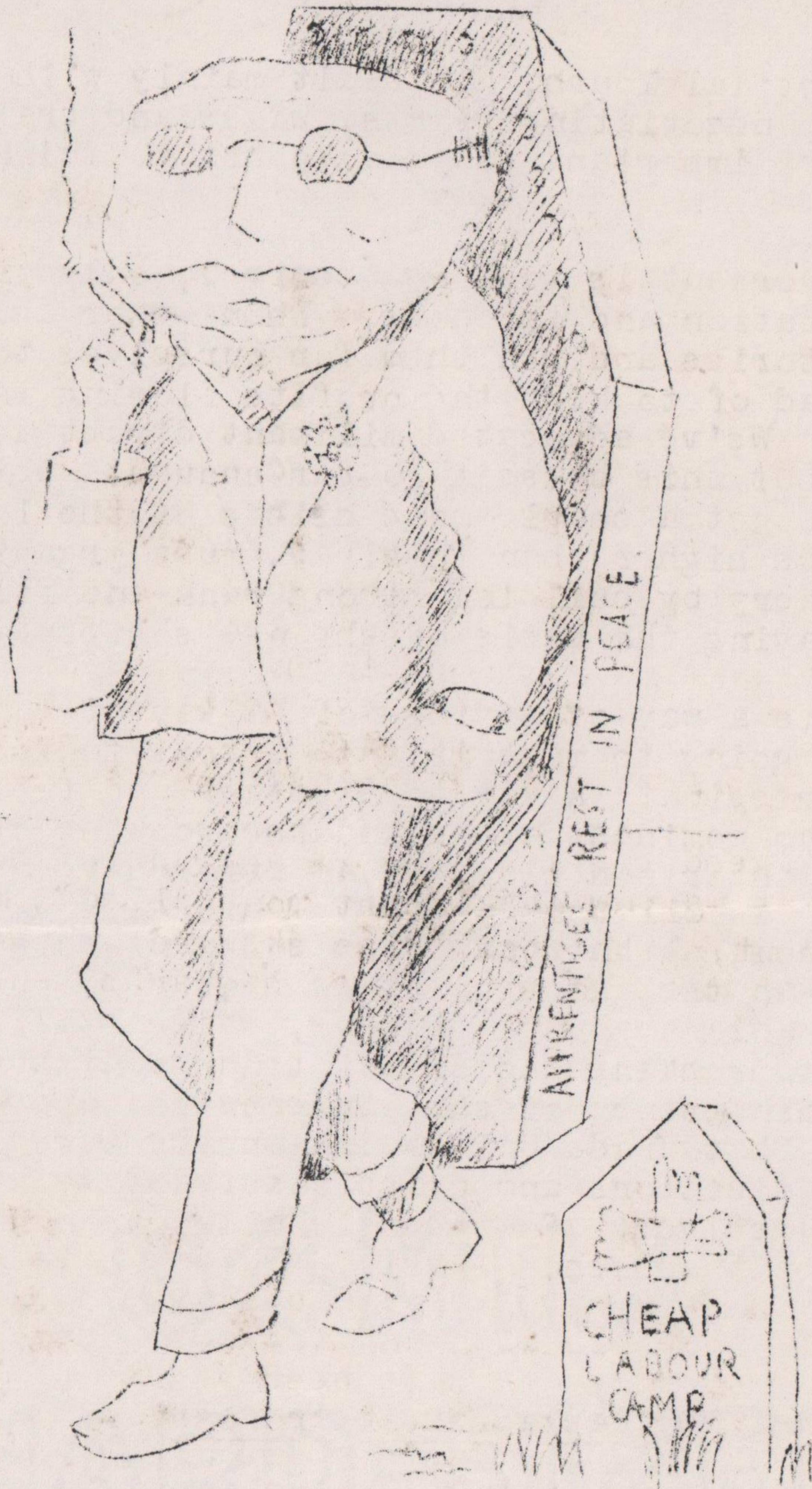
Apprentices should have a say in all negotiations on their conditions at all levels- up to and including national talks. The present concessions, which have been gained are only a start. There is a long way to go yet, before the lads have any real say in how their lives in the factory are run.

B. Dean.

-----ooOoo-----

Reflection on the Package Deal "Pay Rise".

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"Never Mind Lads, You Can't Take It With You!"

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WORKERS' CONTROL

So far Industrial Youth, has dealt mainly with questions of organisations negotiating rights, wages and training. While these are very important we've also got to think of more long term aims.

The most important is workers' control, only this can put an end to exploitation and the boss. When we organise to take over the factories and run them for ourselves to satisfy human needs, instead of to keep the profits flowing into the pockets of the rich. We've advocated militant direct action to gain our rights, but this doesn't go far enough! We've just been organising to get a couple more slices of the loaf, but why not set our sights higher than this! We must organise to possess the whole bakery by building strong rank and file groupings. Now we are laying the basis of the new society.

The strike is a way of saying No! A way of saying no to the boss, we are going to make it into a tool to free the workers from all oppression! A way to a better and freer life, where there'll be no dominant class, and the working class as a whole will control their own lives in an atmosphere of co-operation and liberty. In the rank and file committee which cuts across craft divisions, we have an embryo of a new class oriented unionism. Which will open the gates to a new era.

So let's get cracking and organise our own lives in our way! Without the hinderence of the bureaucrats, who have left us to Yes, the Big Shot Trade Union bureaucrats have gone to hobnob with the directors and politicians. Nobody will help us we don't help ourselves! So we must build our own rank and File organisations at workshop level.

R.M.

-----ooOoo-----

Package Deal Profits.

The employers Knew what they were doing when they brought out the Package Deal! Now they're on a good thing drawing the profits.

On March 31st, 'The Times' headline said "Order Leap in Engineering", And went on "The monthly engineering returns continue to spoil boom for the industry. New home orders rose by 20% and export orders by 40% in January compared with the previous year."

The unions dropped us right in the manure, by signing the Package Deal so that we can't put in for a rise. Now the bosses won't move a midge's dick on anything, and getting a bob or two extra is going to be like trying to get a frigid woman to do a turn.

-----ooOoo-----

FOUNDRY APPRENTICES'

During the last apprentices strike all parts of the engineering industry were well represented, except one, the foundry.

Foundry apprentices have the worst conditions in engineering! They have to put up with dust, dirt, extreme heat and cold, as well as the danger of metal burns. Yet the 'I'm all right Jack' still seems to prevail amongst them.

When are we foundry apprentices, going to realise that the youth struggle for better conditions and higher wages concerns us as well as the fitters and turners.

So in future remember 'Unity is Strength', join with your mates in the fight for better conditions and wages.

Organise in your own shops now! Make sure your representatives attend youth meetings and keep you informed of developments. The time is coming when we shall see all young workers united against capitalist exploiters, who have been running and ruining our lives too long.

Unite for better conditions, wages, and workers' control of industry, Now! Remember this is our fight too.

Mitch. (Foundry Apprentice)

HISTORY

Throughout history, the Apprenticeship has been an important means of training skilled craftsmen and remains so today. In the 12th century boys were apprenticed to crafts by men who were associated in Guilds. These Guilds, which were for the protection of the associated masters against low prices and inferior wares, regulated the time of apprenticeship, the training to be given, and the number of apprentices per master, etc. Clothing, food and lodgings were provided throughout the apprenticeship by the master. (this was known as a Guild or Domestic apprenticeship)

The power of the Guilds declined in the early 19th century and was replaced by the Industrial Apprenticeship. Whereby an apprentice received wages and lived with his parents. Contributing factors to this were the introduction of machinery and the rise of capitalism.

Continued Page 6

Apprentice History Continued

This might be said to be the beginning of the use of apprentices as a form of cheap labour. And by the end of the 19 century employers were even less willing to spend time and money on apprenticeship training, due to the greater specialization as industrial methods were speeded up.

The Trade Unions, realizing that protection was needed against the employment of cheap juvenile labour, used the methods of the Guilds and imposed limits on the numbers of apprentices per craftsman. And restrictions on their conditions of employment. The sad plight of apprentices today stems from this desire of employers to exploit them and the desire of the Unions to protect their adult members.

L.M.

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What Kind Of Man Are You ?

Are you over 17½ and 100% fed up ?

Do you want to get away from the insecurity of life in present-day Britain ?

Are you sick of slums and overcrowding ?

Do you want the chance to risk your life in battle ?

Are you prepared to become a professional murderer ?

Do you want to shoot some other poor sucker ?

If so! then your future will be well spent in the Army.

What the Army's Looking For !

Army life's no ordinary job for ordinary men; you must be fighting fit and keen to risk your neck. Don't think it isn't tough- it is, and whether you're crawling up a beach or firing bullets into some other man's stomach, there's always a chance that you may leave a leg or an eye at some turning point in history. You'll get plenty of spit and polish and probably a chance to blow the World up. So if your fed up with life, you're just the sort of man the army's looking for. So pack the wife and kids off to her mothers and join the Army! Serve your Rulers and Serve you Right!

Advert. (unpaid for) based on Independent Labour Party leaflet.

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Want to give a hand in running Industrial Youth ?

Come to one of our local pub meetings. Or tap up:-

B. Bamford (Rochdale Branch)

39, Alder Road., Rochdale, Lancs.

or the Sec., (Oldham Branch)

10, Austerberry Street., Oldham, Lancs.

And Fetch Your Own Beer Money!

MARCHING ORDERS

Strike marching orders, will go out to all apprentices' to come out on May 10th. It was agreed at a conference of apprentices and young workers to call a strike on this date.

We don't wish them no harm! but we hope this is not going to be another 'all wind and piss' dispute. That organising a strike takes more than belching and boasting to the newspaper reporters. It seems to us that we should get grafting to get a National Apprentice Movement set up before striking again.

We doubt if most lads want to have another do, right now! And one lad active on Clydeside tells us he "can't see any signs of apprentices being willing to take action at present." So we reckon it best for all apprentices to drop their political Mumbo-Jumbo, and muck-in together to form a real apprentice movement. So that the date and direction of the next strike can be decided by the lads themselves.

So we call on all apprentices', no matter if you believe in Labour, Liberal, Commie or Conservative, even if you believe in sodding Santa Claus, stand up and fight for :-

Decent pay.

The Rights Of Apprentices' to Negotiate.

Day School for All Apprentices.

& Better Training on the Bench.

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;: GOOD FOR A GIGGLE! ::
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That silly bugger Carron's (A.E.U. president) been at it again! He's always good for a giggle! I think his next appointment will be Court Jester! When apprentices at last months youth conference of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, called for action he threatened to close the conference. He's very democratic our Bill!

But he found himself, right up shits creek, when against his advice the lads carried by 28 votes to 16, a motion expressing concern at the poor wages being paid to apprentices and calling on the national committee to oppose all forms of wage restraint under any Government.

BANISH THE BOSS!

Congratulations, on your efforts to produce a journal which tries to get down to the problems which confront young workers today. A newspaper such as Industrial Youth, providing a nationwide platform for the views of all young workers is an overdue necessity.

I was, however, surprised to read the rather violently anti-political views expressed on occasions. I realise that this is probably due to some extent, to the political divisions which hindered the November strike. The people who called on the apprentices to go back are to all intents and purposes now outside the Young Socialists. The reason they did this is because they weren't leading the November strike and very few Young Socialists wish to be associated with them. (1)

Having said that, I think that it is important that all industrially militant apprentices ask themselves what the future holds. Do they intend to go on fighting purely for reforms and better working conditions within the present economic system, namely capitalism. It is my contention that it is the nature of the capitalist system itself, private ownership and control, competition for bigger profits leading to speed-up, unemployment, wage restraint, etc., which makes the fight necessary in the first place. I would submit that it is until the workers get rid of the root cause of their problems, i.e. the boss's right to be boss, then every reform or gain can be quashed come an economic crisis and unemployment.

This is not to say of course, that workers shouldn't fight for better working conditions, nor that socialists shouldn't support their fight. Apart from purely humanitarian reasons, workers are entitled to what they produced.

It is through struggle that workers become conscious of the fact that they have separate interests from the boss class. In fighting for better conditions workers have to unite and organise in their interests; they become confident of their ability to run things. In struggle black and white, Catholic and Protestant,

Continued page 10

(1) During the last apprentice strike, some so-called young socialists tried to break the strike and discourage lads from striking. The people in question were what's known as Trots (so-named because they are fans of Leon Trotsky a Russian politician, who lived in Mexico till a political opponent hit him with an ice axe). These trots along with the newspapers, the trade union gaffers, and the employers bullying, helped castrate the strike.

Getting Rid of the Boss Continued

forget their colour or religion, and unite against their common enemy, the boss.

The Young Socialists have never thought it part of their job to run the apprentice affairs or tell them what to do. We have offered to help in any struggles which emerge, not because we want to 'lead' them, but because we'll always support workers engaged in a just struggle with the bosses.

I hope that this has helped to clarify the position of the Young Socialists, and also given militant apprentices something to think about.

P.B. (Clydebank)

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editorial reply:- We print this article as received, and offer our columns to anyone else to comment on this or any other subject which is of interest to young workers.

We would point out that our views are not anti-party. We are anti-party and non-sectarian. We believe that until workers on the shop floor show 100% solidarity in their struggle against the bosses, we will come off worst. To this end our suggestion is for rank and file groups organisation based on locality and place of work, rather than political groupings. We also urge young workers to work for support among the older workers in any action they take.

Often it is lack of communication between the two groups (apprentices and adult workers) which prevents this.

Only with the widest support and maximum solidarity will apprentices get anywhere at all with their demands.

We see the apprentices present struggle as an attempt to control our own working lives (more and more).

We are not reformist, we wish to see the end of the boss's right to be boss. But we think this, will only come about when we organise ourselves, and cease to rely on the bureaucratic leaders, whether political or trade union, which has always acted as a break on action, rather than an initiator of action.

Our task now is to organise and work for solidarity which is the stuff that successful strikes are made of.

Let's get to it and spread the fighting spirit !

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Industrial Youth, the paper of the young worker and all apprentices'. It is here to be used! Not on your backside! But as a way of pushing the apprentices demands in industrial affairs. After all it is the answer to the working lads prayers!

I.Y. published 25a, Duffield Road., Salford, 6., Lanx.