

Not to be published
before 3 p.m.

REGISTRATION WILL HELP TO SOLVE
THE "AIMLESS YOUTH" PROBLEM

says Chuter Ede

Speaking in London, today, (Saturday) to a conference of Education Committees of Co-operative Societies in Southern England, Mr. J. Chuter Ede, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education and Chairman of the National Youth Committee, said that in every town we could see numbers of young people wandering aimlessly about and at the worst, embarking on forms of horse play degenerating into potty crime, without being able to ask who they are, where they lived or what their occupation might be.

By registration we were at last able to know these things and this information would shortly be in the hands of the local education authorities. It would then be their duty to advise these young people to take up some form of national service. "It will be a real test for the authorities," said Mr. Ede, "but they feel confident that they can survive."

Mr. Ede expressed the hope that young people of 16-18 who were still at school would find opportunities of co-operating with others in some form of service. He thought they would benefit by being brought into contact with the social necessities around them. Young people already fully employed would not be asked to undertake more but he considered that they should be given social and recreational facilities in order to balance their lives.

Referring to the interviews which would be starting shortly, Mr. Ede said that the individual tastes, aptitudes and opportunities of each young person should be carefully considered by sympathetic interviewers.

Mr. Ede asked members of the Conference to consider what they had to offer the unattached youth of their districts. Where social, educational and recreational facilities had been provided, details should be given to the local authorities.

Every genuine offer to help would be a welcome help to the solution of the problems confronting the authorities now that registration had commenced.