

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 1, March 11, 1970

PC Present: B. Barnes, J. Barnes, Breitman, Britton, Dobbs, Halstead, A. Hansen, Horowitz, La Mont, F. Lovell, Novack, Ring, Shaw, Waters.

Visitors: Kerry, Roberts, Seigle

Chairman: Horowitz

AGENDA 1. New Magazine
 2. Publication of Plenum Material
 3. Active Workers' Conference

1. NEW MAGAZINE

Seigle reported.

Motion: That the Political Committee recommend that the magazine retain the same name, and that the youth NEC be consulted on the recommendation.

Carried.

Motion: That the staff of the magazine consist of: Seigle (Editor), Smith, Thomas, Roberts, M. Rudenstein (Business Manager); and that B. Barnes, Blackstock and Novack plus the staff be on the Editorial Board.

Carried.

2. PUBLICATION OF PLENUM MATERIAL

Barnes reported.

Report on plans to publish the Political Report, the Women's Liberation Report, the Antiwar Report, the Youth Report, and the Organization, Financial and supplementary organizational reports in the Internal Information Bulletin. Antiwar and Women's Liberation Reports to be published in the paper.

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. ACTIVE WORKERS' CONFERENCE

Britton reported.

Report on preliminary discussions in the Administrative Committee on plans for the Active Workers' Conference. Discussion.

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

February 27, 28, March 1, 1970

Friday, February 27, 1970

Convened: 10:01 AM

Chairman: Montauk

Roll Call:

Regular: Alvin, B. Barnes, J. Barnes, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Coover, DeBerry, Garza, J. Hansen, Horowitz, Johnson, Jones, F. Lovell, Novack, Ring, Sharon, Shaw, Sheppard, Tussey, Waters.
(Arrived after roll call: Chertov, Halstead, A. Hansen, Weinstein, Weissman)

Alternates: C. Scheer, Bolduc, Jenness, Morrison, S. Lovell, Montauk, Styron, Kirsch, Wulp, Sell, Thomas, Hill, Edwards, Evans, Roberts.
(Arrived after roll call: Henderson, Boutelle, Benson, Vernon)

Advisory: B. Chester, Kerry, Reed.

1. ORGANIZATION OF PLENUM

Shaw reported Administrative Committee recommendations:

- 1) That in cases of procedural disputes, discussion be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
- 2) That general discussion be limited to ten minutes per speaker and that no one speak twice until all who wish to do so have spoken.
- 3) That the Presiding Committee consist of the Administrative Committee (Dobbs, Shaw, J. Barnes, Horowitz, Britton).
- 4) To designate as plenum secretaries White and Lesnik.
- 5) To invite as observers: Control Commission members; co-thinkers; heads of rational departments (press, literature, finances); members of the youth NEC; branch organizers; and special guests.

Motion: To adopt the recommendations on procedure.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda:

1. Organization of Plenum
2. World Movement Report
3. Political Report
4. Report on Women's Liberation Movement
5. Organization Report
6. Finances Report
7. Antiwar Report
8. Youth Report
9. Election of Political Committee

Carried.

Motion: To adopt the proposed schedule (see attached).

Carried.

2. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORT

Sheppard reported.

Recess: 11:36 AM

Reconvened: 11:43 AM

Discussion: Evans, Weinstein, Camejo, Jenness, Garza, Hill, Roberts, Sharon, Edwards, Roberts, Joan, Boutelle.

Summary -- World Movement Report

Motion: To approve the general line of the World Movement Report.

Carried.

Recess for lunch: 12:47 PM

Reconvened: 2:01 PM

Motion from the Presiding Committee:

- 1) That branch organizers be given voice on Women's Liberation, Organization, Antiwar and Youth Reports.
- 2) That youth NEC be given voice on Women's Liberation, Youth and Antiwar Reports.
- 3) That department heads be given voice on organization points.
- 4) That SMC guests be given voice on Antiwar Report.

Carried.

3. POLITICAL REPORT

Barnes reported.

Recess: 3:25 PM

Reconvened: 3:35 PM

Discussion: Edwards, Weinstein, Halstead, B. Chester, DeBerry, Sell, Garza, Thomas, Britton, F. Lovell, Jones, Boutelle.

Motion: To limit remaining speakers on the list to eight minutes.

Carried.

Discussion: Camejo, Novack, Henderson, Breitman, Tussey, Weinstein.

Summary -- Political Report

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Report.

Carried. (Statement by Weinstein: My vote for the general line of the Political Report does not include agreement with the section on the independent Chicano party.)

Recess for dinner: 6:37 PM

Reconvened: 8:03 PM

4. INFORMATION REPORT

Barnes reported on Dobbs' absence due to illness.

5. REPORT ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

Waters reported.

Recess: 9:20 PM

Reconvened: 9:26 PM

Discussion: Camejo, Boutelle, Weinstein, Roberts, Reed, White.

Session adjourned: 9:55 PM

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Saturday, February 28, 1970

Convened: 10:08 AM

Chairman: Montauk

Discussion: Ring, S. Lovell, Sell, Lund, Henderson, Tussey, Sharon.

Summary -- Women's Liberation Report

Motion: To approve the general line of the Women's
Liberation Report.

Carried.

Recess: 11:09 AM

Reconvened: 11:14 AM

Chairman: S. Lovell

6. ORGANIZATION REPORT

Britton reported.

Supplementary Reports

REPORT ON NEW MAGAZINE

Seigle reported.

REPORT ON PUBLISHING PROGRAM

Breitman reported.

REPORT ON PRINTING PROGRAM

A. Hansen reported.

Recess for lunch: 1:41 PM

Reconvened: 2:34 PM

Discussion: Novack, Montauk, Johnson, Boutelle, Chertov, Evans,
Jones, Tussey, Thomas, Ring, Myers, Jenness.

Recess: 4:02 PM

Reconvened: 4:13 PM

Discussion: J. Barnes, Wulp, Prince, DeBerry, Hill, Boutelle,
Benson.

Summary -- Organization Report

Motion: To approve launching a new monthly magazine as outlined in Comrade Seigle's report.

Carried.

Motion: To call an active workers' conference to take place during the summer of 1970, and to refer to the Political Committee responsibility for its preparation and organization.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the Organization Report.

Carried.

7. FINANCES REPORT

White reported.

Discussion: Jenness, Sell, Novack, Wulp.

Summary -- Finances Report

Motion: To approve the Finances Report.

Carried.

Session adjourned: 6:22 PM

Sunday, March 1, 1970

Convened: 10:08 AM

Chairman: Henderson

8. ANTIWAR REPORT

Horowitz reported.

Recess: 11:05 AM

Reconvened: 11:12 AM

Discussion: Roberts, Alvin, Padilla, Sell, Morrison, Boutelle, Myers, Halstead, Lipman, Thomas, Gurewitz, Camejo.

Motion: To close the speaker's list.

Carried.

Discussion: Tussey, B. Chester.

Summary -- Antiwar Report

Motion: To approve the general line of the Antiwar Report.

Carried.

Recess for lunch: 12:40 PM

Reconvened: 1:35 PM

9. YOUTH REPORT

LaMont reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Stapleton, Boutelle, Quinn, Waters, Hill,
Henderson, Boutelle.

Recess: 3:05 PM

Reconvened: 3:17 PM

Summary -- Youth Report

Motion: To approve the Youth Report.

Carried.

10. SPECIAL POINT

Dobbs paid tribute to V.R. Dunne.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: That the plenum send the following message to the V.R. Dunne Memorial Meeting:

For forty-two years Comrade Vincent stood among the small team of cadres who bore on their shoulders the task of maintaining the continuity of revolutionary socialism in the United States and internationally. As one of the pioneers of American Trotskyism, he never flinched, not even in the darkest days of isolation and persecution. He served as a model of revolutionary integrity, of firmness in maintaining the principles of Marxism. This was his crowning achievement in a long life of service to the cause of the working man and woman in so many areas.

When anyone asks why we have such confidence in the capacity of the American working class to stand up against the foremost imperialist enemy of mankind and to go forward to socialism, our answer is expressed in three words: Vincent Raymond Dunne.

Carried.

11. ELECTION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Dobbs reported.

Motion: To recommend that the plenum designate a Political Committee of 17, composed of 16 members to be elected by the plenum plus a representative to be selected by the youth.

Carried.

Political Committee Nominations: B. Barnes, J. Barnes, Breitman, Britton, DeBerry, Dobbs, Halstead, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, F. Lovell, Novack, Ring, Shaw, Sheppard, Waters.

Motion: To close nominations.

Carried.

Motion: To accept the slate of nominees.

Carried.

12. SPECIAL POINT

Weinstein reported.

Motion: To transcribe and make available to the National Committee 1) the material in the discussion and summary on the Political Report concerning an independent Chicano party and 2) the remarks under this special point.

Discussion: J. Barnes.

Carried.

Plenum adjourned: 4:30 PM