

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 6, December 3, 1969

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Halstead, Hansen, Ring, Seigle

Visitors: Horowitz, Kerry, Waters

Chairman: Ring

AGENDA: 1. World Movement
 2. Mandel Case
 3. Antiwar

1. WORLD MOVEMENT

Hansen reported.

2. MANDEL CASE

Novack reported. Weekly press to follow defense campaign closely.

3. ANTIWAR

Horowitz reported (report attached).

Meeting adjourned.

ANTIWAR REPORT, by Gus Horowitz, December 3, 1969

In the next few weeks antiwar activities will proceed at a less intense pace than before. The Moratorium has called for decentralized actions on Dec. 12, 13 & 24. The New Mobe and Student Mobe are supporting these actions and they will occur in many areas, although they are not expected to be comparable in size to the Oct. 15 and Nov. 15 actions.

The SMC national interim working committee has called for a three-pronged emphasis in the next few weeks:

1. Drafting a "Bill of Rights" for high school students, emphasizing rights to oppose the war, and launching a high school campaign around it;
2. Calling for campus-organized anti complicity campaigns;
3. Expansion of antiwar activities aimed at GIs. This will include expansion of the GI Press Service and probably; another GI petition campaign.

This threefold emphasis should be the central focus of our antiwar activity for the next period.

In addition the SMC has initiated probes towards mobilizing student support for the GE strike on the basis of its tie-in with war-induced inflation. The first step in this direction is getting the facts out to the students, explaining the importance of the strike. Campus actions against GE recruiters and in support of the boycott against GE products are possible developments.

As part of its efforts to expand international contacts, the SMC is sending Allen Myers, editor of the GI Press Service, on a tour of the far east. This will begin in mid-December.

Next Major National Action

So far, no concrete proposals have been put forward for the next major national antiwar action, although there is talk about coordinated mass actions in the major cities. Within the next few weeks there should be some specific proposals under discussion.

Whatever is to be called, it is clear that we will want a democratic national antiwar conference, called by New Mobilization Committee, to make the decision. It is just as clear that the officers of the NMC and others will strongly object to a democratic decision-making conference. Their aim is to utilize the publicity and authority they received through Nov. 15 to project themselves as the sole decision-making power in the NMC. A meeting of the NMC steering committee has been set for Cleveland, Dec. 13-14, where this question will be fought out. We must make a concerted effort in the next week

to make sure that the NMC steering committee meeting is large and representative, both politically and regionally. We should make sure that the local antiwar coalitions send representatives to the meeting. Branches should inform the national office of who is coming from their area.

The SMC is also planning to hold a national conference. An SMC steering committee meeting Dec. 7 will set the date, most likely sometime at the end of January or beginning of February. Because of the tremendous growth of the SMC, it is likely that the SMC conference will be quite large and reflective of the SMC's expansion.