

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 48, June 8, 1967

Present: Barnes, DeBerry, Dobbs, Halstead, Hansen, Novack, Shaw, Sheppard.

Chairman: DeBerry.

AGENDA:

1. Convention.
2. Presidential Campaign.
3. Denver.
4. Middle East.

1. CONVENTION

Shaw reported.

Discussion: Novack, Dobbs.

Motion: To issue call for Twenty-second National Convention to take place October 26, 27, 28, and 29 in New York as decided by the recent plenum. (See attached.)

Carried.

2. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Dobbs reported.

The Administrative Committee recommends the Political Committee postpone discussion of nominations pending further consultation with individuals and departments likely to be affected.

Discussion: Novack.

General agreement.

Motion: To designate Jack Barnes as National Campaign Director.

Carried.

3. DENVER

Shaw reported:

Charges were filed within the Denver branch on May 3 against Comrade N. The main charge was violation of discipline resulting from N.'s refusal to withdraw from activity and a position of leadership in the New Hispano Party (also called the New Hispano Movement). A Denver branch request for permission to give critical support to the New Hispano Party candidates in state elections had earlier been rejected by the Political Committee (P.C. Minutes, No. 28, October 20, 1966).

The charges were heard, discussed and voted on at the same meeting. A motion to find N. guilty as charged and suspended from membership failed by a tie vote of 3 to 3. Subsequently the organizer and 2 members who voted to uphold the charges appealed for a decision on the matter by the Political Committee.

The material accompanying the charges and the replies of Comrade N. indicate that the substance of the charges are correct though the branch minutes and other correspondence indicate that for a long while there has been ill feeling and a large degree of personal incompatibility on almost every issue in the branch and that the division is invariably the same -- 3 to 3.

A few months ago, when the matter of N.'s participation in the New Hispano Movement was raised as a serious matter, and after we had noted the definite hardening of the 3-to-3 relationship in the branch, we asked Comrade Himmel to make a visit to Denver to give the N.O. a report on the situation and to see if he could help resolve the differences. Himmel reported that in his opinion, Comrade N. has in fact circumvented the P.C. decision by playing a leading role in the New Hispano Party. He also reported that the 3-to-3 division in the branch had become hardened to the extent that discussion among the members was virtually impossible. "Everything is said and done for the record, rather than for purposes of clarification and persuasion."

Not one of the six members has ever functioned in another branch and thus all have had little experience with the party on a national level. Himmel also reported that at least three Denver members had expressed a desire or willingness to transfer to another branch. It was his opinion that the best alternative would be the transfer of these comrades, giving them the opportunity for the first time of working in a larger branch with more experienced comrades.

Subsequent to Himmel's report, we learned that two other members wanted to move to another area. If these transfers take place, the result will be the temporary dissolution of the Denver branch with only one member-at-large remaining in the city. But it is our opinion that the overall result would be a positive gain for the party in as much as the individual comrades involved will be able to play a more fruitful and active role if freed from the atmosphere of personal antagonism and recrimination which pervade the branch.

A further indication of personal animosities is the action of one of the three supporters of N.'s position. This comrade has filed charges against each of the three members who voted to suspend N. It is our distinct impression that these charges are made in response to the charges against N. and would not have been cited otherwise.

N. does not deny participation in the New Hispano Party. His main line of defense is an appeal to the technicality that E.C. motions and organizer's directives regarding his activity have never been carried in branch membership meetings because of the invariable 3 to 3 vote.

Motion: The Political Committee finds that there has been an obvious violation of the party's organizational and procedural norms by Comrade N. In this case, however, we take into account the internal atmosphere of the Denver branch and the obvious personal incompatibilities which have made it impossible for the branch to function normally. We therefore limit action to a warning that further violations of this nature will require disciplinary action. The Political Committee also approves the recommendations of the Administrative Committee that the possibility of transferring Denver comrades to other branches be further explored.

Discussion: Novack.

Carried.

4. MIDDLE EAST

Hansen reported on outline of article for press on Middle Eastern situation.

Discussion: Dobbs, Sheppard, Novack, Halstead, Barnes, DeBerry, Shaw, Hansen.

Meeting adjourned.

Attachment to Political Committee Minutes, No. 48, June 8, 1967

CALL FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

June 8, 1967

TO ALL LOCALS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS:

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Twenty-second National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in New York City at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, October 26 and continue through four days (October 26, 27, 28, and 29, 1967).

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Movement
Political Resolution
Presidential Campaign
Independent Black Political Action
Youth Report
Organization Report
Election of National Committee

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party preconvention discussion will be formally opened July 1, 1967. The Discussion Bulletin is open for all party members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the party. As authorized by the party constitution, the Political Committee has set a deadline of October 1, 1967, for acceptance of preconvention discussion articles for the bulletin.

Branch membership meetings shall be arranged for discussion of the various subjects on the agenda. Our traditional provisions and safeguards for the adequate and free presentation of all points of view shall govern all discussion.

CONVENTION ASSESSMENT

As authorized by the party constitution, a convention assessment of \$6.00 per member is hereby levied, the payment of which is obligatory for every employed member.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. Representation from the branches shall be as follows: One delegate for the first 7 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 7 additional members or major fraction thereof (4 or more constituting a major fraction).

2. Each branch having 4 or more members is entitled to a voting delegate.

3. Delegates are to be elected by branches in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to June 8, 1967, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.

4. Branches organized after June 8, 1967, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

5. Members admitted to the party after June 8, 1967, are entitled to voice in the party discussion but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

6. Absentee votes on political resolutions and in the election of delegates shall not be permitted except in clearly established cases of occupational necessity (for example, regular night workers, etc.). In all such cases the votes must be submitted in writing and recognized by motion at the branch meeting at the time of the branch voting.

7. Members transferring from one branch to another within the same locality subsequent to June 8, 1967, must vote in the branch from which they transferred.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In case of political differences defined by conflicting resolutions, the election of delegates in the branches is to be on the basis of the vote on resolution or resolutions voted on at the meeting at which the delegates are elected. Members voting for a given resolution are entitled to designate the delegate or delegates to which they are entitled on the basis of proportional representation laid down in this call, the designations to be ratified by the branch. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

1. If a branch is entitled to one delegate, the delegate goes to the majority of those present and voting at the time of the election.

2. If two delegates, a minority with 40 percent gets one.

3. If three delegates, a minority with $33 \frac{1}{3}$ percent gets one.

4. If four delegates, a minority with 25 percent gets one delegate, but a minority with 40 percent is entitled to two delegates.

5. If five delegates, a minority with 20 percent gets one.

6. If six delegates, a minority with $16 \frac{2}{3}$ percent gets one delegate, a minority with $33 \frac{1}{3}$ percent, two delegates, but a minority with 40 percent gets one half the delegates, etc.

CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

The National Committee proposes that all party members in good standing may attend the convention as visitors, and that friends may be admitted to the sessions provided they have been invited by a branch.

Fraternally yours,

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY



Farrell Dobbs
National Secretary