

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 8, June 3, 1969

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Kerry, Hansen, Bolduc, Dobbs, Ring, Shaw.

Visitors: B. Barnes

Chairman: Bolduc

AGENDA: 1. Convention Call
 2. Boston Youth Membership
 3. Afro-American Resolution

1. CONVENTION CALL

Barnes reported.

Motion: To issue call for the Twenty-third National Convention to take place August 29, 30, 31 and September 1 in New York as decided by the February 1969 plenum. (See attached).

Carried.

2. BOSTON YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

Barnes and Bolduc reported. (See May 27 letter from Linda Sheppard attached).

Political Committee motion: The May 30 letter from the Administrative Committee /attached/ expresses the view of the Political Committee and, in consultation with the YSA national office, the Political Committee proposes that Comrade Linda Sheppard remain a member of the YSA through the June 1969 plenum so there can be adequate discussion with the YSA national leadership on the question of her YSA membership.

Carried.

3. AFRO-AMERICAN RESOLUTION

Discussion on the edited draft of A Transitional Program for Black Liberation.

Motion: To approve the general line of the resolution.

Carried.

Motion: To print the resolution in the paper for public discussion to aid the development of a transitional program for black liberation, and to send a letter to the branches motivating and explaining the proposed procedure. (Letter attached).

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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Boston
May 27, 1969

To SWP NO

Dear Comrades,

Would you please clarify the procedure on waiving the 27 age limit on party members in the youth. The question has come up as I have turned 27 on May 11 and am still a national committee member of the youth. It was my understanding that the 27 age limit was a norm that the party has set but that there is a certain amount of flexibility in applying this rule. I had planned to leave the YSA at the next convention. However it was Steve's opinion that it is automatic that one leaves at 27 and that any extension of a youth comrade's assignment in the YSA must be given by the political committee of the party.

It is my understanding that the decision is usually left up to the branch but since there is the question of my assignment to the national committee of the YSA I feel that the YSA N.O. should also be consulted in this matter.

The Boston branch has already discussed this matter and voted not to extend my assignment in the YSA without any consultation with the YSA N.O. I feel that it is important that I not be relieved of my youth assignment at least until after the youth plenum so that I can participate in the discussions on our Fort Jackson defense work and help to clarify the differences that were expressed at the last youth convention by some of the Boston comrades on our orientation towards SDS. Also the opinion was expressed at the branch meeting at which my assignment was discussed that I had been a disruptive influence in the YSA. I feel that if this is a motivating factor in preventing me from attending the coming youth plenum that this should be clarified.

A prompt reply would be appreciated.

Comradely,

s/Linda Sheppard

cc: Larry Trainor
Steve Chase
Chris Hildebrand
Charlie Bolduc

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873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003

June 5, 1969

Steve Chase
Larry Trainor

BOSTON

Dear Comrades,

Comrade Bolduc reported your request for formal Political Committee action on Comrade Linda Sheppard's YSA membership.

The following motion was passed by the Political Committee at its June 3 meeting:

"The May 30 letter from the Administrative Committee expresses the view of the Political Committee and, in consultation with the YSA national office, the Political Committee proposes that Comrade Linda Sheppard remain a member of the YSA through the June 1969 plenum so there can be adequate discussion with the YSA national leadership on the question of her YSA membership."

Enclosed for your convenience are copies of Comrade Sheppard's May 27 letter to the party national office and the Administrative Committee's May 30 letter to you outlining party policy and practice in this area.

Comradely,

s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

2 enc.

cc: Linda Sheppard
Chris Hildebrand
Charlie Bolduc

873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003

June 5, 1969

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The idea that the black community needs an independent political instrument of struggle has found growing interest and acceptance in the vanguard of the black movement. Some of the most intensely debated questions among Afro-American militants are: how do we create an effective political organization, can it be a mass party, through what program? In the 1963 "Freedom Now" resolution the party outlined as one of its tasks in connection with the black liberation struggle: "To develop, in collaboration with other Negro militants, a series of demands and proposals which will connect the needs of the struggle at its present stage with its ultimate aims."

The Political Committee has prepared a draft resolution for convention discussion and decision entitled "A Transitional Program for Black Liberation." We hope it will stimulate discussion not only in the party but among Afro-American militants not in our ranks.

To facilitate such discussion the Political Committee has taken the unusual step of submitting this resolution for publication in the June 20 issue of the Militant and opening up the Militant's columns for public discussion on the draft prior to our convention.

Although this is an unusual step, it is not unprecedented. In an earlier period the party several times published pre-convention draft resolutions and discussion articles about them in the Militant. The Political Committee will regulate the discussion on the transitional program for black liberation and will decide which contributions will appear in the Militant and which will be printed in the internal bulletin.

It is not only because of the current discussion about program in the black liberation movement and the anticipation of meaningful discussion around our draft that we publish it in the Militant. It is also because our views on the independent black political party are an established party position over which there has been no indication of any serious dispute.

The public printing of the draft transitional program for black liberation does not mean that the internal pre-convention discussion will be limited in any way. Any written contribution on questions relating to party policy or perspectives toward the

black struggle as a whole will be printed in the internal bulletin. For example, one of the items appearing in the first internal pre-convention discussion bulletin is a transcript of a Chicago branch discussion on various tactical, organizational and policy questions relating to the black struggle and the perspectives of the Socialist Workers Party.

Please read this to all comrades and post on the branch's internal bulletin board.

Comradely,

Jack Barnes
Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003

June 4, 1969

TO ALL SWP MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Preconvention Discussion Articles

As you know from the enclosed Convention Call, the party has scheduled its twenty-third national convention for August 29, 30, 31 and September 1.

Any comrade who wishes to submit contributions to the preconvention discussion should keep these points in mind:

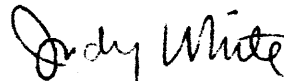
(1) The deadline for submission of any contribution to the preconvention discussion bulletin is August 8.

(2) All contributions must be submitted typewritten and triple spaced.

(3) The name(s) of the author(s) of each contribution must accompany each article.

(4) The title to be used with each contribution should be indicated on the article.

Comradely,



Judy White
National Office