

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

August 7, 1971

Convened: 8:35 p.m.

Chairman: Garza

Present: Regular: Alvin, Barnes, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Chertov, Coover, DeBerry, Dobbs, Garza, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Himmel, Horowitz, Jones, Lovell, Novack, Ring, Sharon, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Tussey, Waters, Weinstein

Alternates: C. Scheer, Bolduc, Boutelle, Jenness, Morrison, S. Lovell, Montauk, Styron, Leonard, Kirsch, Wulp, Sell, Vernon, Thomas, Evans, Roberts

Advisory: B. Chester, Harer, Kerry, Reed, Trainor

Control Commission: Ferguson, R. Hansen

AGENDA: 1. Organization of Convention

I. ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

Barnes reported for Political Committee.

Motion: To approve the convention agenda:

1. Organization of Convention
2. The International Situation
3. The Internal Discussion in the World Trotskyist Movement
4. Israel and the Arab Revolution
5. Political Resolution
6. Women's Liberation Movement Resolution
7. Chicano Liberation Movement Resolution
8. Black Liberation Struggle Report
9. Youth Report
10. Organization Report
11. '72 Election Campaign
12. Election of National Committee

Carried.

Motion: That the following time allotments be given to Political Committee reporters:

1. The International Situation: 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary
2. The Internal Discussion in the World Trotskyist Movement: 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary
3. Israel and the Arab Revolution: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary
4. Political Resolution: 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary
5. Women's Liberation Movement Resolution: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary
6. Chicano Liberation Movement Resolution: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary
7. Black Liberation Struggle Report: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary

8. Organization Report: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary
9. '72 Election Campaign: ¾ hour plus ¼ hour summary

Carried.

Motion: That the following time allotment be given to Youth reporter:

Youth Report: 1 hour plus ¼ hour summary

Carried.

Motion: That the minorities be given equal time to that of the Political Committee reporter under the Political Resolution point of 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary.

Discussion: Ring

Request by Ring: That all motions dealing with time allotments for minority reporters be presented at this time.

Agreed.

Motion: That the time for the minorities under the Political Resolution point be divided equally between the Proletarian Orientation Tendency and the Communist Tendency with 37½ minutes each and ¼ hour summary each.

Motion: That extended time be granted to Jon Rothschild, 25 minutes plus 10 minute summary under Israel and the Arab Revolution point to report on "Counter Draft Resolution on Israel and the Arab Revolution."

Motion: That extended time be granted to the Oakland-Berkeley minority, 25 minutes plus 10 minute summary under Women's Liberation Movement Resolution point to report on "Toward a Marxist Approach to the Women's Liberation Movement."

Motion: That extended time be granted to the Oakland-Berkeley minority, 25 minutes plus 10 minute summary under Chicano Liberation Movement Resolution point to report on "Third World Work and a Proletarian Orientation: Counter-draft Resolution to 'Struggle for Chicano Liberation,' Political Committee Draft Resolution."

Discussion: Trainor proposed the following be moved: That the reporter for the Proletarian Orientation Tendency be given equal time to that of the Political Committee reporter to present the Proletarian Orientation Tendency's counter Political Resolutions.

Further Discussion: Boutelle, Britton, Trainor, Barnes, Stone

Motion: That the minorities be given equal time to that of the Political Committee reporter under the Political Resolution point of 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary.

Carried.

2 consultative votes against
(Boutelle, Trainor)

Motion: That the time for the minorities under the Political Resolution point be divided equally between the Proletarian Orientation Tendency and the Communist Tendency with 37½ minutes each and ¼ hour summary each.

Carried.
2 consultative votes against
(Boutelle, Trainor)

Motion: That extended time be granted to Jon Rothschild, 25 minutes plus 10 minute summary under Israel and the Arab Revolution point to report on "Counter Draft Resolution on Israel and the Arab Revolution."

Carried.

Motion: That extended time be granted to the Oakland-Berkeley minority, 25 minutes plus 10 minute summary under Women's Liberation Movement Resolution point to report on "Toward a Marxist Approach to the Women's Liberation Movement."

Carried.

Motion: That extended time be granted to the Oakland-Berkeley minority, 25 minutes plus 10 minute summary under Chicano Liberation Movement Resolution point to report on "Third World Work and a Proletarian Orientation: Counter-draft Resolution to 'Struggle for Chicano Liberation,' Political Committee Draft Resolution."

Carried.

Motion: That there be the following panels:

1. Trade Union, led by F. Lovell
2. Pathfinder Sales Representatives, led by Matson
3. The Militant and ISR Sales and Sub Campaign, led by Hermes and Cabaniss
4. '72 Election Campaign, led by L. Seigle
5. Finances, led by White
6. Gay Liberation Movement Probe, led by Barry Sheppard
7. Palestine Defense, led by Horowitz
8. Latin American Political Prisoners, led by P. Camejo and Stapleton

Carried.

Motion: That the convention schedule the following national fraction meetings:

1. Women's Liberation Work, led by Lipman
2. Antiwar Work, led by Benson
3. La Raza Work, led by Vidal
4. Black Work, led by Oliver

Carried.

Motion: To approve the convention schedule (see attached).

Carried.

Motion: That Christie, Dork, Feigenberg and Lesnik serve as convention secretaries.

Carried.

Motion: That the Presiding Committee be composed of the Political Committee: Barnes, Boehm, Breitman, Britton, DeBerry, Dobbs, Halstead, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, Lovell, Novack, Ring, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Waters.

Carried.

Motion: To elect a Credentials Committee consisting of five delegates.

Carried.

Motion: To elect a Constitution Committee consisting of three delegates.

Carried.

Motion: To elect a Nominating Commission of 20 delegates consisting of one delegate from each branch.

Carried.

Motion: To seat as fraternal delegates the following: (1) National Committee members; (2) members of the National Control Commission; (3) heads of national departments; (4) members of the youth National Executive Committee; (5) special guests.

Carried.

Motion: That the convention be open to party members, youth members and sympathizers vouched for by the branches.

Carried.

Motion: That the official convention photographers be Petrick, Shannon and Weaver.

Carried.

Motion: That the following rules govern convention procedure:

1. In cases of procedural disputes, discussion shall be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
2. Discussion from the floor shall be limited to 7 minutes per speaker.
3. A speaker may have the floor only once in a given discussion until all those who wish the floor have had the opportunity to speak.
4. All voting, except for election of National Committee and National Control Commission, will be done by voice vote unless a division of the house is called for; then the vote will be taken by a show of delegates' cards. Election of the National Committee and National Control Commission

- shall take place by secret ballot.
5. Only delegates shall have voice and vote. Fraternal delegates shall have voice and consultative vote.
 6. Alternate delegates have voice and vote only when acting to replace a regularly-elected delegate.
 7. In all other cases, Roberts Rules of Order shall apply.

Discussion: A. Hansen, Barnes, Kerry, Sharon, Barnes

Carried.

Special point of information.

Barnes reported on Pierre Frank letter to convention.

Discussion: Sharon, Barnes, Tussey, Barnes, Tussey, Barnes

Sheppard reported on motion from Political Committee.

Motion: 1) To approve the memorandum on membership policy adopted by the Political Committee on November 13, 1971.

2) To reaffirm the party's position, stated in the Political Committee motion of May 25, 1971, of unconditional support to the struggles of homosexuals for full democratic rights, including full civil and human rights, and against all the forms of discrimination and oppression they suffer under capitalism.

3) To end the information gathering probe of the gay liberation movement initiated by the Political Committee on May 25, 1971.

4) To authorize the National Committee to organize following the convention, an internal party literary discussion of the gay liberation movement and the party's orientation to it, leading to a decision by a plenum of the National Committee.

Discussion: Ring, Sheppard, Tussey, Sheppard, Sharon, Himmel, Ring, Harer, Reed, Camejo, Weinstein, Evans, Wulp, Barnes, Sell, Boutelle, Sharon, Ring, Waters, Sharon, Waters, Sharon, Sheppard, Sharon, Barnes, Sheppard, Kerry, Alvin, Novack, Barnes, Kerry, Barnes, Ring, Sheppard, Stone, Styron, Vernon, Wulp, Boutelle, Weinstein, Kerry, Shaw, Jones, Britton, Dobbs

Counter-motion by Sharon: To substitute for the fourth part of the Political Committee motion an instruction to the incoming Political Committee to organize a commission to make a study of this question and prepare a document for discussion at the next plenum.

Discussion: Weinstein, Sell

Motion by Breitman: To call the question.

4 for, 0 abstentions,
all others against

Defeated.

Motion: To recess for 5 minutes.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Horowitz, Harer, Ring, Reed, Jones, Stone, Evans, Chertov, Tussey, DeBerry

Motion by Weinstein: To refer the question back to the Political Committee and to reconvene the plenum Saturday, August 8, for the purpose of trying to incorporate the objections raised.

Discussion: Barnes

Motion by Weinstein withdrawn.

Motion: To end discussion.

Carried.

Vote on motion by Sharon:

1 for (Sharon),
0 abstentions, all others
against

Defeated.

Political Committee motion divided.

Vote on first part.

Carried.

Vote on second part.

Carried.

Vote on third part.

1 not voting (Ring)

Carried.

Vote on fourth part.

1 against (Sharon),
0 abstentions, all
others for

Carried.

Plenum Adjourned.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 8, 1971

8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast (1½ hours)
10:00 Organization of Convention (½ hour)
10:30 The International Situation Report (1¼ hours)
11:45 Discussion (¾ hour)
12:30 PM Lunch (1½ hours)
2:00 Continue Discussion (1 hour)
3:00 Summary -- International Situation (½ hour)
3:30 The Internal Discussion in the World Trotskyist
Movement Report (1¼ hours)
4:45 Discussion (2¼ hours)
7:00 Recess

7:00 - 9:00 Dinner (2 hours)
9:00 - 11:00 Trade Union Panel
Gay Liberation Movement Probe Panel
Pathfinder Sales Representatives Panel
Finances Panel
'72 Election Campaign Panel (Ballot Perspectives)
11:00 - Midnight Cabaret

Monday, August 9, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast (1 hour)
9:00 Summary -- Internal Discussion in the World
Trotskyist Movement (½ hour)
9:30 Israel and the Arab Revolution
Political Committee Report (1 hour)
Extended Time for Minority Report (25 minutes)
10:55 Discussion (1 hour, 35 minutes)
12:30 PM Lunch (1½ hours)
2:00 Summaries
Minority Reporter (10 minutes)
Political Committee Reporter (½ hour)
2:40 Political Resolution
Political Committee Report (1¼ hours)
Proletarian Orientation Tendency Report (37½ min.)
Communist Tendency Report (37½ minutes)
5:10 Discussion (1 hour 50 minutes)
7:00 Recess

7:00 - 9:00 Dinner (2 hours)
9:00 - 10:00 Status of National Expansion Project Report
11:00 - Midnight⁴ Cabaret

Tuesday, August 10, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast (1 hour)
9:00 Continue Discussion (2½ hours)
11:30 Summaries
Communist Tendency Reporter (10 minutes)
Proletarian Orientation Tendency Reporter (10 min)
Political Committee Reporter (½ hour)
12:30 PM Lunch (1½ hours)
2:00 Women's Liberation Movement Resolution
Political Committee Report (1 hour)
Extended Time for Oakland-Berkeley Minority
(25 minutes)
3:25 Discussion (1½ hours)

4:55	Summaries Oakland-Berkeley Minority Reporter (10 minutes) Political Committee Reporter (½ hour)
5:35	Chicano Liberation Movement Resolution Political Committee Report (1 hour) Extended Time for Oakland-Berkeley Minority (25 minutes)
7:00	Recess

7:00 - 9:00	Dinner (2 hours)
9:00 - 11:00	Militant and ISR Panel Palestine Defense Panel Black Work Fraction Meeting La Raza Work Fraction Meeting
11:00 - Midnight	Cabaret

Wednesday, August 11, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast (1 hour)
9:00	Discussion (1 hour 50 minutes)
10:50	Summaries Oakland-Berkeley Minority Reporter (10 minutes) Political Committee Reporter (½ hour)
11:30	Black Liberation Struggle Report (1 hour)
12:30 PM	Lunch (1½ hours)
2:00	Discussion (2 hours)
4:00	Summary -- Black Liberation Struggle Report (½ hour)
4:30	Youth Report (1 hour)
5:30	Discussion (1¼ hours)
6:45	Summary -- Youth (¼ hour)
7:00	Dinner (2 hours)
9:00	Organization Report (1 hour)
10:00	Recess

10:00	Latin American Political Prisoners Panel
11:00 - Midnight	Cabaret

Thursday, August 12, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast (1 hour)
9:00	Discussion (3 hours)
12:00 noon	Summary -- Organization (½ hour)
12:30 PM	Lunch (1½ hours)
2:00	'72 Election Campaign Report (¾ hour)
2:45	Discussion (1 hour)
3:45	Summary -- '72 Election Campaign (¼ hour)
4:00	Election of National Committee

ADJOURN

5:00 - 6:30	Dinner
6:45	Leave for Cleveland for Campaign Rally