

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 30, July 7, 1971

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Britton, Dobbs, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, F. Lovell, Novack, Sheppard, Stone, Waters

Visitors: Benson, Jones, Kerry, S. Lovell, Seigle

Chairman: Horowitz

- AGENDA:
1. Administrative Committee Report
 2. Membership
 3. World Movement
 4. Convention Preparations
 - a. Reporters
 - b. Labor and Antiwar Panels
 5. NPAC Convention
 6. National Abortion Action Conference
 7. Chicano Denver Conference

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

- a) Madison correspondence (see attached).

Barnes reported.

- b) Protest on Security Editing

Sheppard reported.

Motion: To concur with security editing of Administrative Committee on "On the Method of Marxism and the Proletarian Orientation" and reject the appeal of the authors Liz M., Mary-Jane H., Norman H., and Pepe M. (see attached).

Carried.

- c) Graumann, Wald and Levitt request.

Sheppard reported.

Motion: To send letter to Graumann, Wald and Levitt (see attached).

Carried.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Britton reported recommendation by the Denver branch that K.P. be readmitted to party membership.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Denver branch.

Carried.

3. WORLD MOVEMENT

Sheppard and Hansen reported. (See attached materials.)

Motion: To send draft statement to United Secretariat.
(see attached).

Carried.

4. CONVENTION PREPARATIONS

Barnes and Lovell reported for Administrative Committee.

Motion: To assign the following convention reporters.

The International Situation - J. Hansen
The Internal Discussion in the World Trotskyist
Movement - Waters
Israel and the Arab Revolution - Horowitz
Political Resolution - Barnes
Women's Liberation Movement Resolution - Stone
Chicano Liberation Movement Resolution - A. Camejo
Black Liberation Struggle Report - D. Morrison
Organization Report - Sheppard
Presidential Ticket - Seigle
Youth Report - To be assigned by NEC

Carried.

Motion: To organize special panels on the trade union
and antiwar questions.

Carried.

5. NPAC CONVENTION

Benson reported.

Motion: To approve the report. (Report to follow)

Carried.

6. NATIONAL ABORTION ACTION CONFERENCE

Stone reported.

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

7. DENVER CHICANO CONFERENCE

Britton reported.

Motion: To approve the report. (Report to follow)

Meeting adjourned.

Carried.

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Madison YSA
202 W. Gilman Street
Madison, Wis. 53703

SWP National Office
14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 10014

Dear Comrades,

In conjunction with our informal pre-convention discussion, we would appreciate it very much if the SWP could send us two speakers on the pre-convention discussion bulletins: One on the political resolution by Jack Barnes and one on the Gregorich-Passen document.

We do not intend a debate but rather two separate presentations on the two above-mentioned documents. We would appreciate it if someone could speak coming from Minneapolis or Chicago since we would pay travel expenses.

Thank you, and we look forward to the convention.

Sincerely,

the Madison YSA

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N. Y. 10014
June 17, 1971

MADISON YSA

Dear Comrades,

This is in response to your letter we received on June 14.

As you know, YSA discussions on disputed political questions are carried on during its pre-convention period as determined by the constitution and elected leading bodies of your independent organization. For your information the party does not introduce oral aspects of its own pre-convention discussion into the units of the YSA.

Because of the unique fraternal political relationship between the YSA and the SWP the party does make available to all YSA members, as a fraternal courtesy, all of its pre-convention discussion bulletins. We also invite and encourage all YSA comrades to attend the party convention.

I noticed in the minutes of the Chicago SWP branch that it has invited the YSA members in its vicinity to attend its pre-convention discussion. If through some oversight you have not been informed of this you could call the organizer, Pearl Chertov at 312/321-9661, or the acting organizer, Linda Sheppard at 312/379-3918, and find out the schedule for their branch pre-convention discussion. Speakers for both the political resolution submitted by the National Committee and the Gregorich grouping's counter-document will be making presentations in Chicago.

We hope to see you all at the convention.

Comradely,
s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

cc: Frank Boehm - YSA N.O.
Linda Sheppard - Chicago
Pearl Chertov - Chicago

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

July 7, 1971

BROOKLYN

Liz M.
Mary-Jane H.
Norman H.
Pepe M.

Dear Comrades,

The Political Committee passed the following motion at its meeting today:

"To concur with security editing of Administrative Committee on 'On the Method of Marxism and the Proletarian Orientation' and to reject the appeal of the authors Liz M., Mary-Jane H., Norman H., and Pepe M."

Comradely,
s/Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

July 2, 1971

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ONLY

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a copy of a protest by Comrades Liz M., Mary-Jane H., Norman H., and Pepe M., from the Brooklyn branch, New York local, concerning the security editing of their document. Also attached is a copy of their original document, showing the deletions and additions made for security purposes. Such security editing was made on pages 9, 22, 23, 48, 54, 55 and 56.

Comradely,

s/Barry Sheppard

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COPY OF PROTEST TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE BY LIZ M., MARY-JANE H., NORMAN H., AND PEPE M., OF THE BROOKLYN BRANCH, NEW YORK LOCAL, MADE JULY 2.

The authors wish to protest the editing of this document in a way which deletes basic criticism and examples of the errors of the party leadership under the pretense of security editing by the Administrative Committee.

Peter Graumann
Oakland/Berkeley SWP
Oakland, California
[received July 2, 1971]

To the:
Administrative and Political
Committees of the Socialist
Workers Party

Comrades,

I am making the following request on behalf of the members of the Oakland/Berkeley SWP executive committee who voted against the majority position in the executive committee on the SWP intervention in the UAW strike in September 1970. These are myself, and comrades Alan W. and Ralph L.

The Political Committee decided to release for the pre-convention discussion a transcript of "REPORT TO OAKLAND-BERKELEY BRANCH ON 1970 UAW STRIKE, DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY, Tom Kerry." In the introduction it is stated that this was done "in response to Comrade Cagle's request."

The comrades stated above who were the minority during that time now request that a transcript of the entire discussion be released. This would include the majority and minority reports from the executive committee and all discussion following until the report by comrade Kerry.

We feel that to limit the membership's knowledge of the entire discussion would be confusing since the portion of the discussion released was not either comprehensive or representative.

I would appreciate as immediate a response as possible.

Comradely,
s/Peter Graumann

14 Charles Lane
New York, N. Y. 10014
July 7, 1971

OAKLAND-BERKELEY

Peter Graumann

Dear Comrade Graumann,

This is in response to your request, made on behalf of yourself, Alan Wald and Ralph Levitt to print the transcript of the majority and minority reports and discussion held in the Oakland-Berkeley branch, on the tactics to be followed by the branch at the Fremont GM plant during the 1970 UAW strike. You state, "We feel that to limit the membership's knowledge of the entire discussion would be confusing since the portion of the discussion released was not either comprehensive or representative."

The transcript of the report to the Oakland-Berkeley Branch on the UAW strike given by Tom Kerry, and the discussion and summary of that report, which was printed in Vol. 29, No. 8 in the discussion bulletin, was not a "portion of the discussion" of the branch on the branch tactics concerning the UAW strike at Fremont. As Tom Kerry explained in his opening remarks, the branch discussion had already taken place, and the branch had made a decision, before Comrade Kerry gave his report. Kerry stated: "the branch has had its discussion and made its decision; I don't propose to attempt to alter that decision."

The transcript of Kerry's report and the discussion by branch members on it was prepared for the information of National Committee members only, because the issues discussed were of national importance.

Comrade Cagle, in his discussion article "On Trade Union Work" charged that the "n.O. has secretly circulated copies of the transcript of that branch meeting that Kerry spoke out against me, to all N.C. members and branch organizers. I request that this transcript be made available to everyone who requested it and it not be privileged information." To correct any possible confusion caused by Comrade Cagle's charges, the transcript was made available to all members, in the discussion bulletin, together with an introduction by Frank Lovell which explained that it had not been sent to UAW members or branch organizers but only to National Committee members.

Your request is to have printed the branch discussions which occurred before Tom Kerry's visit. You can make such a request concerning your own reports, but not concerning the reports or contributions of the majority of the executive committee, who must themselves decide if they wish to submit their reports or remarks to the discussion bulletin.

The national office cannot accept tape recordings as contributions to the discussion bulletin. You may submit a type-written transcript of your reports and remarks and they will be published.

Comradely,
s/Barry Sheppard
for the Political Committee

cc: Alan Wald, Ralph Levitt, Nelson Blackstock - Oakland-Berkeley Branch Organizer, Clifton Deberry, Richard Hill, Paul Montauk