

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 31, July 30, 1971

Dus

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

Visitors: Jones, Kerry, Morrison, Seigle

Chairman: Lovell

- AGENDA:
1. Administrative Committee Report
 2. Pre-Convention Plenum
 3. Convention Organization
 4. Proletarian Orientation Tendency Communication
 5. Gay Liberation Probe Motion
 6. Abortion Action Conference
 7. Israel and the Arab Revolution Report
 8. Black Liberation Struggle Report
 9. International Situation Report

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Barnes reported on Cagle correspondence (see attached).

2. PRE-CONVENTION PLENUM

Britton reported.

Motion: To schedule a plenum of the National Committee on Saturday, August 7, at 8:00 P.M. at the convention site.

To propose an agenda of one point.

- 1) Organization of Convention.

Carried.

3. CONVENTION ORGANIZATION

Britton reported.

Motion: To make the following preliminary recommendations to the National Committee (see attached) on convention organization.

Carried.

4. PROLETARIAN ORIENTATION TENDENCY COMMUNICATION

Barnes reported.

Motion: To send letter to Massey (see attached).

Carried.

5. GAY LIBERATION PROBE MOTION

Sheppard reported.

Motion: To propose the following motion to the pre-convention plenum. (see attached)

For motion: Barnes, Boehm, Breitman, Britton, Dobbs, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, Lovell, Novack, Sheppard, Stone, Waters

Against motion: None
Carried.

Consultative Vote

For motion: Jones

Against motion: Kerry

6. ABORTION ACTION CONFERENCE

Stone reported.

7. ISRAEL AND THE ARAB REVOLUTION REPORT

Horowitz reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

8. BLACK LIBERATION STRUGGLE REPORT

Morrison reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

9. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION REPORT

J. Hansen reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N. Y. 10014

August 1, 1971

TO ALL NC MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The Political Committee minutes, No. 31, July 30, 1971
and attachments should be corrected as follows:

- a) The Consultative Vote on the Gay Liberation Probe Motion should include Morrison and Seigle registered as voting for.
- b) The attached letter to Jack Barnes from Bill Massey was inadvertently left out.
- c) Paragraph five, page three of Jack Barnes letter to Bill Massey should read:

It is the responsibility of the delegates to insure that democratic procedures are followed throughout the convention. This includes, but is not limited to, guarding the democratic rights of the Proletarian Orientation Tendency. It also includes guarding the democratic rights of the Communist Tendency, the democratic rights of the majority, and the democratic rights of the convention delegates as a whole.

Comradely,

Jack Barnes
Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary

COPY

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Comrade Jack Barnes
National Organizational Secretary
Socialist Workers Party
14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 11014

Comrade Barnes,

Enclosed is a letter concerning the amount of time being allotted to the reporter for the Proletarian Orientation Tendency in presenting the position of the Tendency under the Political Resolution at the Convention. We would request that the Political Committee take up this matter immediately either thru a meeting or a poll of its members. We would request that if the information in our letter is accurate concerning the fact that our reporter (for the Tendency's counter-resolution) would only receive thirty-eight minutes to make a presentation of our position before the convention and not one hour or more (that is one hour and fifteen minutes) that the enclosed letter be then published as a contribution to the SWP Discussion Bulletins for the pre-convention discussion.

It is possible that there has been a misunderstanding and that the 38 minutes was not an accurate or serious proposal for the time we would be allotted in this matter, and that one hour or one hour and fifteen minutes is what our spokesperson will receive to give an adequate presentation of the position of our tendency. If this is the case then there would be no purpose served in publishing the enclosed letter in the Pre-Convention Discussion Bulletins and we would ask that you file it along with a copy of the letter telling us of the decision of the P.C. in granting our reporter the hour or hour and fifteen minutes for an adequate presentation of our views. However, we wish to make it clear, that unless this matter is cleared up prior to the end of the acceptance of contributions to the pre-convention discussion bulletins (and that we receive no less than one hour or one hour and fifteen minutes for our reporter's presentation) we want this printed as a contribution to the pre-convention discussion bulletins, for the information of the entire Party.

Let me restate the matter: If our spokesperson is denied the adequate time to present our views (the counter-resolution submitted by the Proletarian Orientation Tendency in opposition to the line of the N.C. Draft Political Resolution) to the Convention, and we consider anything less than one hour presentation time, to be inadequate; and if the decision on this matter, by the Political Committee, is to be delayed until after the close of the pre-convention discussion and the acceptance of contributions to the SWP Discussion Bulletins; then the attached letter is to be considered a contribution to the discussion and therefore printed in the SWP Discussion Bulletins for the information of the Party as a whole. In that event we would ask that this letter be also printed as an introduction to the attached (then constituted contribution to the pre-convention bulletin) letter. Thank you.

Comradely,
s/Bill Massey, Oakland-Berkeley Branch,
for the Proletarian Orientation Tendency

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PROPOSED MOTION ON GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO BE PLACED
BEFORE THE CONVENTION BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- 1) To approve the memorandum on membership policy adopted by the Political Committee on November 13, 1970.
- 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.

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO THE
PRE-CONVENTION NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ON ORGANIZATION OF THE
CONVENTION (July 30, 1971)

1. To adopt the following 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. Presidential Ticket
12. Election of National Committee

2. That the following time allotments be given to P.C. reporters:

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

3. That the following time allotment be given to Youth reporter:

Youth Report: 1 hour plus 1/4 hour summary

4. That the following time allotment be given to minority reporters:

1. Political Resolution: 1-1/4 hours plus 1/2 hour summary

5. 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 Cabannis
4. '72 Campaign, led by Seigle
5. Finances, led by White
6. Gay Liberation Movement Probe, led by Sheppard
7. Palestine Defense, led by Horowitz
8. Latin American Political Prisoners, led by P. Camejo and Stapleton

6. 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

7. To approve the convention schedule (see attached).
8. That Christie, Dork, Feigenberg and Lesnik serve as convention secretaries.
9. That the Presiding Committee be composed of the Political Committee: Barnes, Boehm, Breitman, Britton, DeBerry, Dobbs, Halstead, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, F. Lovell, Novack, Ring, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Waters.
10. To elect a Credentials Committee consisting of five delegates.
11. To elect a Constitution Committee consisting of three delegates.
12. To elect a Nominating Commission of 20 delegates consisting of one delegate from each branch.
13. 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.
14. That the convention be open to party members, youth members, and sympathizers vouched for by the branches.
15. That the official convention photographers be Shannon, Weaver, and Petrick.
16. 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 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.

PROPOSED PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 8, 1971

8:00 - 9:30 A.M.	Breakfast
10:00	Organization of Convention (1/2 hour)
10:30	The International Situation Report (1-1/4 hours)
11:45	Discussion (3/4 hour)
12:30 P.M.	Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00	Continued Discussion (1 hour)
3:00	Summary -- International Situation (1/2 hour)
3:30	The Internal Discussion in the World Trotskyist Movement Report (1-1/4 hours)
4:45	Discussion (2-1/4 hours)
7:00	Adjourn

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

Monday, August 9, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00	Summary -- Internal Discussion in the World Trotskyist Movement (1/2 hour)
9:30	Israel and the Arab Revolution Report (1 hour)
10:30	Discussion (2 hours)
12:30 P.M.	Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00	Summary -- Israel and the Arab Revolution (1/2 hour)
2:30	Political Resolution (1-1/4 hours) Political Committee Report (1-1/4 hours) Minority Reports (1-1/4 hours)
5:00	Discussion (2 hours)
7:00	Adjourn

7:00 - 9:00	Dinner (2 hours)
9:00 -11:00	<u>The Militant and ISR</u> Sales and Subs Panel Palestine Defense Panel Women's Liberation Work Fraction Meeting Latin American Political Prisoners Panel

Tuesday, August 10, 1971

7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast
9:00	Continue Discussion (2-1/2 hours)
11:30	Summary -- Minority reporters (1/2 hour)
Noon	Summary -- P.C. reporter (1/2 hour)
12:30 P.M.	Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00	Women's Liberation Movement Report (1 hour)
3:00	Discussion (2-1/2 hours)
5:30	Summary -- Women's Liberation Movement (1/2 hour)
6:00	Chicano Liberation Movement Report (1 hour)
7:00	Adjourn

7:00 - 9:00	Dinner (2 hours)

9:00 - 11:00 Black Work Fraction Meeting
 La Raza Work Fraction Meeting
 Antiwar Work Fraction Meeting

Wednesday, August 11, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 Discussion (2 hours)
11:00 Summary -- Chicano Liberation Movement (1/2 hour)
11:30 Black Liberation Struggle Report (1 hour)
12:30 P.M. Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00 Discussion (2 hours)
4:00 Summary -- Black Liberation Struggle (1/2 hour)
4:30 Youth Report (1 hour)
5:30 Discussion (1-1/4 hours)
6:45 Summary -- Youth (1/4 hour)
7:00 Dinner (2 hours)
9:00 Organization Report (1 hour)
10:00 Adjourn

10:00 '72 Campaign Panel

Thursday, August 12, 1971

7:30 - 8:30 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 Discussion (3 hours)
Noon Summary -- Organization (1/2 hour)
12:30 P.M. Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00 '72 Campaign Report (1/2 hour)
2:30 Discussion (1 hour)
3:30 Summary -- '72 Campaign (1/4 hour)
3:45 Election of National Committee

ADJOURN