

Minutes of the Plenum of the National Committee, March 24, 1967

Present: Full: Betsey, John, Joel, Daniels, Kipp, Les, Jan, Gus, Doug, Lew, Marilyn, Paul, Caroline, Derrick, Derrel, Danny R., Melissa, Syd, Dan S., Mary-Alice

Alternates: Robin, Charlie, Linda, Ernie, Dick, Irving, Eloise, John C., Joe, Larry, Suzanne, Walter, Peer

Convened: 10:40 a.m.

Chairman: Lew

Agenda: 1. Plenum Guests
2. Milwaukee
3. Convention Procedures
4. Lou Davis Case

Motion: to approve the agenda.

Motion Passed

1. Plenum Guests - Lew

Motion: to seat three Northern representatives and Ed Shaw as plenum guests.

Motion Passed

2. Milwaukee - Lew

- a. Correspondence between Walter L. and Lew J., and between James E. and Lew J. was read. The letters concerned the refusal of the Milwaukee local to transfer comrade Sharon of the Milwaukee local to the Madison local, even though she lives in Madison, is going to school there, and is politically active on the Madison campus.
- b. A member of YAWF in New York informed one of the New York comrades that he had attended a meeting of Workers World where a letter from James Bolton was discussed, concerning a possible merger between the Milwaukee SWP branch and Workers World.
- c. When Mary-Alice was on tour she attended a meeting of the Milwaukee branch of the SWP at which a possible merger with Workers World was mentioned.

The post-convention plenum will have to discuss the Milwaukee situation and decide what action should be taken.

Motion: that the National Committee recommends to the Convention that it not consider the James Eyman document, "Red Guards and White Socialists," to be a counter political resolution for the YSA, and recommends that a point for the discussion of this document not be placed on the convention agenda.

Discussion: Walter, Dan, Lew

Motion Passed

3. Convention Procedures - Lew

- a. Motion: that the Presiding Committee be the NEC, plus Derrick, who is giving a report, plus one representative from the East, the Mid-west, and the West.

Motion Passed

- b. Motion: that procedural questions be decided by majority vote with one speaker for and one against, each with one minute.

Motion Passed

- c. Motion: to approve the following agenda:

- 1) Lou Davis Case
- 2) Antiwar Report
- 3) Political Report
- 4) Negro Struggle Report
- 5) Organizational Report
- 6) Election of the National Committee

Motion Passed

- d. Motion: to approve the schedule as written.

Motion Passed

- e. Motion: to recommend to the convention that Steve C. be granted a 50 minute extension during the discussion period, as the first speaker.

Motion Passed

- f. Motion: to adopt the following rules to be proposed by the plenum to the convention:

- 1) that all sessions be open, with the exception of the session electing the new NC, which shall be closed.
- 2) that the NC shall be elected by secret ballot.
- 3) that delegates and alternates seated in place of absent delegates have voice and vote. That fraternal delegates have voice and consultative vote.
- 4) that discussion presentations be limited to ten minutes.
- 5) that in any discussion period, no one may speak a second time before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.

- 6) that only those delegates seated at the roll call of a particular session may vote.

Motion Passed

- g. Motion: that all substantive amendments to resolutions must be submitted to the presiding committee of the convention by the beginning of the session in which they are to be voted on, in order that they may be mimeographed and distributed to the entire convention so that delegates may have the written amendments before them for discussion.

Motion Passed

- h. Motion: that fraternal delegates be NCers, three Northern representatives, and Tom Kerry, Ed Shaw, and George Novack of the SWP.
- i. Motion: that the convention be open to YSAers and sympathizers vouched for by the locals.
- j. Motion: that we have three panels: Defense to be chaired by Daniels, Press to be chaired by Melissa, and Recruitment to be chaired by Paul L.
- k. Motion: that there be a nominating commission made up of one delegate from each local.
- l. Motion: that the nominating commission be chaired by John B. and Derrel M., with voice and no vote.
- m. Motion: that Fred S. and Bill O. be convention secretaries.
- n. Motion: that Dennis S. chair a credentials committee of three people, the other two to be elected by the convention.

All Motions Passed

4. Lou Davis Case - Betsey

Motion: that the National Committee present the following motion to the convention: that the National Convention of the YSA upholds and commends the action of the Philadelphia local in expelling Lou Davis.

Discussion: John C., Doug, Derrel, Betsey

Motion Passed

Adjourned: 11:25 a.m.