

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 27, April 20, 1976

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Garza, Gersh, D. Jenness,
Jones, Lund, Seigle, Sheppard, Stapleton

Visitor: Morell

Chair: Gersh

AGENDA: 1. Campaign around Party Suit
2. Plenum Rules and Schedule
3. Convention Call
4. Party Growth and Financial Perspectives

1. CAMPAIGN AROUND PARTY SUIT

Stapleton reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the general line of the report for
presentation to the plenum.

Carried.

2. PLENUM RULES AND SCHEDULE

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To propose the following procedural rules for
organization of the plenum:

1. That in cases of procedural disputes, discussion
be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and
that each speaker be limited to two minutes.

2. That general discussion be limited to ten minutes
per speaker and that no one speak twice until all who wish
to speak have already done so.

3. That the Presiding Committee consist of Barnes,
Garza, Horowitz, D. Jenness, Jones, Miah, Rodriguez,
Sheppard, Stapleton, Waters.

4. To designate Bombaro, Eidsvik, and Rupp as
secretaries.

5. To invite as observers: Control Commission mem-
bers, heads of national departments, members of the youth
NEC, local and branch organizers, and special guests.

6. To give voice to organizers and department heads
who are not members of the National Committee during dis-
cussion of the Implementation of Party Turn Report.

Carried.

Motion: To propose the attached schedule for organization of the plenum.

Carried.

3. CONVENTION CALL

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To propose attached convention call for adoption by National Committee plenum.

Carried.

4. PARTY GROWTH AND FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

(Aspoy and Matson invited for this point.)

Sheppard reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the general line of the report for presentation to the plenum.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

PROPOSED PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 29

- 10:00 - 10:15 Organization of Plenum (1/4 hour)
10:15 - 11:30 World Political Situation Report (1-1/4 hours)
11:30 - 12:30 Discussion, World Political Situation (2 hrs. total)
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00 - 3:00 Discussion continued, World Political Situation
3:00 - 3:30 Summary, World Political Situation (1/2 hour)
3:30 - 4:00 Convention Perspectives Report (1/2 hour)
4:00 - 4:45 The Crisis of American Capitalism and the
Struggle for Chicano Liberation Report (3/4 hour)
4:45 - 6:45 Discussion, Chicano Liberation (2 hours)
6:45 - 7:00 Summary, Chicano Liberation (1/4 hour)

Friday, April 30

- 9:30 - 10:15 Draft Resolution on the Emerging Puerto Rican
Struggle in the United States and Its Perspectives
Report (3/4 hour)
10:15 - 12:15 Discussion, Puerto Rican Struggle (2 hours total)
12:15 - 1:45 Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
1:45 - 2:00 Summary, Puerto Rican Struggle (1/4 hour)
2:00 - 3:00 Party Campaign Against Government Harassment
Report (1 hour)
3:00 - 5:00 Discussion, Party Campaign (2 hours)
5:00 - 5:30 Summary, Party Campaign (1/2 hour)
5:30 - 7:00 Dinner (1-1/2 hours)
7:00 - 8:15 Implementation of Party Turn Report (1-1/4 hours)
8:15 - 9:30 Discussion, Party Turn (4 hours total)

Saturday, May 1

- 9:30 - 12:15 Discussion continued, Party Turn
12:15 - 1:45 Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
1:45 - 2:15 Summary, Party Turn (1/2 hour)
2:15 - 3:15 Youth Report (1 hour)
3:15 - 5:15 Discussion (2 hours)
5:15 - 5:45 Summary, Youth Report (1/2 hour)
5:45 - 7:15 Dinner (1-1/2 hours)
7:15 - 8:15 Party Growth and Financial Perspectives Report
(1 hour)

Saturday, May 1 continued

- 8:15 - 9:15 Discussion, Party Growth (1 hour)
- 9:15 - 9:30 Summary, Party Growth (1/4 hour)

Sunday, May 2

- 9:30 - 10:30 World Movement Report I (1 hour)
- 10:30 - 12:00 Discussion, World Movement I (1-1/2 hours)
- 12:00 - 12:30 Summary, World Movement I (1/2 hour)
- 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (1 hour) (YSA serving)
- 1:30 - 2:30 World Movement Report II (1 hour)
- 2:30 - 4:00 Discussion, World Movement II (1-1/2 hours)
- 4:00 - 4:30 Summary, World Movement II (1/2 hour)
- 4:30 - 5:00 Convention Call Report (1/2 hour)
- 5:00 - 5:30 Discussion, Convention Call (1/2 hour)
- 5:30 - 5:45 Summary, Convention Call (1/4 hour)

CALL FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHT NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

May 2, 1976

TO ALL LOCALS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Twenty-Eighth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Ohio at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 8 and continue through six days (August 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1976).

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Political Situation
World Movement Reports
Political Resolution and Reports
Black Liberation Report
Chicano Liberation Resolution
Puerto Ricans in the U.S. Resolution
Organizational Reports
Youth Report
Election of National Committee

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party pre-convention discussion is formally opened May 10, 1976. The Discussion Bulletin is open for all party members and provisional members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the party. As authorized by the party constitution, the Political Committee has set a deadline of the last business mail of July 23, 1976, for acceptance of pre-convention discussion articles for the bulletin.

Branch membership meetings shall be arranged for discussion of the various subjects on the agenda. Our traditional provisions and safeguards for the adequate and free presentation of all points of view shall govern all discussion.

CONVENTION ASSESSMENT

As authorized by the party constitution, a convention assessment of \$12.00 per member is hereby levied, the payment of which is obligatory for every member not totally unemployed.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. Representation from the branches shall be as follows: One delegate for the first 10 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 10 additional members or major fraction thereof (5 or more constituting a major fraction).
2. Delegates are to be elected by branches in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to May 10, 1976, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.
3. Branches organized after May 10, 1976, except for those constituted through a division of an existing branch, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.
4. Members admitted to the party after May 10, 1976, are entitled to voice in the party discussion but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.
5. Absentee votes on political resolutions and in the election of delegates shall not be permitted except in clearly established cases of occupational necessity, illness, or party assignment. In all such cases the votes must be submitted in writing and recognized by motion at the branch meeting at the time of the branch voting.
6. Members transferring from one branch to another within the same locality subsequent to May 10, 1976, must vote in the branch from which they transferred.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In case of political differences defined by conflicting resolutions, the election of delegates in the branches is to be on the basis of the vote on resolution or resolutions voted on at the meeting at which the delegates are to be elected. Members voting for a given resolution designate the delegate or delegates to which they are entitled on the basis of proportional representation laid down in this call, the designations to be ratified by the branch. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

1. If there are two counterposed political positions, the delegates are apportioned between the majority and the minority in proportion to the vote each receives. The percentage of the vote received by the majority, multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, is rounded off to the nearest whole number to give the number of delegates going to the majority. The remainder are assigned to the minority.

2. If there are three or more positions, those positions which received too few votes to possibly get a delegate are eliminated first, beginning with the smallest. That is, if the percentage of the vote received by a position is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, and the result is "0" when rounded off, this position is not considered and its votes are subtracted from the total vote. After such positions have been eliminated, the delegates are apportioned to the remaining positions, beginning with the one with the highest vote. Using the new vote total, the percentage received by the position with the highest vote is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to and the result is rounded off to the nearest whole number, to give the number of delegates going to this position. The same procedure is repeated with the position receiving the second highest vote, and so on, until all the delegates the branch is entitled to have been apportioned.

CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

The National Committee proposes that all party members in good standing may attend the convention as visitors, and that friends may be admitted to the sessions provided they have been invited by a branch.

Fraternally yours,

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY



Jack Barnes
National Secretary