

POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING No. 1, September 28, 1978

Present: Barnes, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Hawkins, D. Jenness,
Lyons, Seigle, Stone, Waters

Chair: D. Jenness

AGENDA: 1. CP Critical Support Proposal
2. Iron Range Branch
3. Political Committee Discussion on Cuba
4. Philadelphia Referendum
5. American Federation of Teachers Convention
6. Robb Wright
7. Rail Strike
8. Gary Branch and Chicago-Gary District
9. Plenum Dates

1. CP CRITICAL SUPPORT PROPOSAL

(L. Jenness and Schwarz invited for this point.)

L. Jenness reported on proposal of New York Local Executive Committee to extend critical support to Victor Perlo, the Communist Party's candidate for state comptroller.

Discussion

Discussion centered on the generally negative balance sheet of our experience with this tactic with regard to CP in recent years, and a reevaluation of our general use of this tactic toward CP nationally.

Motion: To recommend to the LEC that they reconsider their proposal; and that D. Jenness report to the LEC on our thinking, and that his report then be made available to the membership nationally.

Carried.

2. IRON RANGE BRANCH

Lyons reported on proposal from the Iron Range organizing committee to constitute a party branch on the Iron Range in Minnesota.

Discussion

Motion: To constitute a branch on the Iron Range.

Carried.

(over)

3. POLITICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON CUBA

Barnes proposed that the minutes of the two PC meetings (Nos. 30 and 32) at which Cuba was discussed be distributed to organizers and other guests who were invited to the first part of the discussion held at Oberlin in addition to the National Committee.

Carried.

4. PHILADELPHIA REFERENDUM

(Schwarz and Stapleton invited for this point.)

Stapleton reported on referendum on the ballot in Philadelphia for the November elections initiated by Mayor Rizzo which would amend city charter to make it possible for him to run for a third term.

He reported on the plans of the Philadelphia branch in response to this development, including plans to advocate a vote against this amendment.

Discussion

Motion: That Syd meet with the Philadelphia comrades and recommend that they launch aggressive campaign around this issue including advocating abstention on the amendment. This report will be made available to membership nationally.

Carried.

5. AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS CONVENTION

(Garza invited for this point.)

Garza reported on the AFT convention held in Washington, D.C., in August and on suggestions from some comrades in the fraction regarding our work in the AFT.

Discussion

6. ROBB WRIGHT

Dixon reported that NC alternate Robb Wright has transferred to at-large status in Connecticut and requests a six-month leave of absence for personal reasons.

Discussion

Motion: That Robb Wright be granted a six-month leave of absence.

Carried.

7. RAIL STRIKE

Hawkins reported on the rail strike, the proposed Militant coverage, and the excellent response on picket lines to the Militant.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the general line of the coverage for the Militant.

Carried.

8. GARY BRANCH AND CHICAGO-GARY DISTRICT

Lyons reported on proposal to constitute a party branch in Gary, Indiana.

Motion: To constitute a party branch in Gary, Indiana.

Carried.

Lyons reported on the following proposals:

That the Political Bureau call a convention October 15 of the Chicago local and Gary branch to establish a Chicago-Gary District.

That the delegate ratio be 1 delegate for every 3 members.

That the proposed agenda be the following:

1. Informational Report on Establishment of Gary Branch
2. Proposal on Establishment of Chicago-Gary District
3. Adoption of District Bylaws
4. Election of District Executive Committee

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

9. PLENUM DATES

D. Jenness reported on proposal to hold a National Committee plenum December 16-19 in New York City, and that all organizers be invited to attend.

Discussion

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.