

MINUTES OF PC NO. 13, December 21, 1965.

Present: Regular: Dobbs, Chester, Halstead, Vernon,
Warde, Sheppard, Torres, Barnes,
Ring, Lavan, Weinstein.

Alternate: Graham, Leonard, Henderson, Betsey.

Advisory: Mayhew

Chairman: Henderson

AGENDA:

1. Plenum
2. Tour Report
3. Anti-war Campaign

1. PLENUM

Dobbs reported that shortly after the last meeting the Secretariat decided to recommend to the PC that a plenum be scheduled for February 11, 12 and 13. These dates are the earliest time at which it would be practical to hold the gathering for several compelling reasons, including the problems of preparing a plenum when the National Office is in the process of moving to new quarters. Then, a few days ago, a long letter came from Kirk requesting a special January plenum to take up his demand for a change in policy in the anti-war movement. For the reasons stated a January meeting is not practical and the Secretariat still recommends the February dates. (Copies of the Kirk letter of Dec. 13 will be distributed to the NC as soon as it can be mimeographed.)

Motion by Secretariat: To recommend that a plenum of the National Committee be held in New York City on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 11, 12 and 13, 1966.

Carried

Motion by Secretariat: To recommend as the plenum agenda:

1. World Movement
2. Political Report
3. Organizational Report
4. Matters referred by Convention
 - a. Economic study
 - b. Party constitution
 - c. Breitman proposals
5. Political Committee

Carried

2. TOUR REPORT

Dobbs: My tour extended from Cleveland through the party branches westward to the Pacific coast, except for St. Louis. Visits to eastern party branches are to be arranged later. The central aim of the tour was to facilitate our movement's anti-war campaign and to help mobilize attendance at the Washington convention which was reported on at the last PC meeting.

I found generally high morale among the comrades, especially with relation to the work going on around the anti-war campaign. Areas where there has been the most success in recruiting youth appeared to have good prospects for picking up new momentum around the war issue. Other localities where there had been a lag in recruiting youth are generally making a significant, but somewhat slower, start in that direction through the present campaign activities. It should be noted that gains such as those already made at Berkeley are now being registered more broadly in the Bay Area. The rising potential in the Bay Area is such that the National Office is making special efforts to reinforce the work in that locality.

The good work done by our comrades under difficult conditions at the Washington convention shows promise of new gains for us in an intensified anti-war campaign. The formation of a

national caucus looking toward establishment of a single-issue national organization around the demand "Bring the troops home now" -- while remaining prepared to cooperate with the anti-war movement as a whole within a broad coordinating framework -- should help to lend greater cohesion to our national campaign efforts. I noted, for example, that the mid-October demonstrations were national mainly in common timing. The actual demonstrations were different in character in the various localities, depending upon the given local situation, and in each instance our comrades had to do the best they could on that basis alone. Our general line of approach as it emerged from the Washington convention can better implement common tactical application of our strategic aims throughout the various local situations. This should facilitate our efforts to win over independent militants to our views, as against the views of opponent radical tendencies. Not the least of the matters in which tactical problems common to the movement as a whole assert themselves will be the question of independent political action. We should anticipate in the next period something of a rash of so-called "peace candidates" within the framework of Democratic party politics and our approach to the question must be highly coordinated on a clear, principled basis, explaining why it is a fundamental mistake to cross class lines in politics.

I got the impression that the branches generally are winning new contacts through the anti-war campaign and that -- although at a slower pace than the rate of increase in contacts -- we will win new recruits, particularly among young people. Experience is verifying the correctness of the party convention decision to give top priority to anti-war activity and it remains our number one task.

3. ANTI-WAR CAMPAIGN

Barnes reported on progress of campaign.

MEETING ADJOURNED.