

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES No. 23, August 25, 1966

Present: Barnes, DeBerry, Kerry, Novack, Shaw, Sheppard, Jones.

Visitor: Ring.

Chairman: Barnes.

AGENDA:

1. New York Election Campaign.
2. Antiwar Report.
3. Novack Tour Report.

1. NEW YORK ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Barnes reported that the New York branch voted to give critical support to Herbert Aptheker who is running for Congress in the 12th Congressional District in Brooklyn. The New York branch asks Political Committee approval of this decision.

Motion by Barnes: To approve the decision of the New York branch to give critical support to Herbert Aptheker's campaign.

Carried.

2. ANTIWAR REPORT

Jones and Ring reported on the latest developments within the Parade Committee and the Fort Hood Three Defense Committee.

Discussion: Kerry, Barnes.

Barnes reported on a meeting called for September 10 and 11 in Cleveland by the Inter University Committee for Debate on Foreign Policy. All groups and organizations interested in planning a national action opposing the war in Vietnam have been invited. Muste has been asked to be permanent chairman. Comrades who have been active in the antiwar movement will be mobilized to attend.

Discussion: Kerry, Barnes, Ring, Sheppard, Novack.

General agreement that we will push for some action to take place after the November elections. Coalitionists are already pushing for some earlier action that could be side tracked into support for their "peace candidates." Further discussion and the question of our intervention will take place at the next Political Committee meeting.

3. NOVACK TOUR REPORT

Novack reported on his speaking trip to summer schools in Madison, Cleveland, and the Twin Cities.

a. While in Madison he made an agreement with the Wisconsin State Historical Society for them to be the official depository of the SWP archives. (See minutes for July 14, 1966 No. 20.)

Discussion: Kerry, Novack, Barnes.

General agreement.

b. Comments on the summer schools visited. Nearly all of the contacts which the youth have around them are coming from the antiwar movement. The schools have been used successfully to solidify and draw these people closer.

c. Attention called to an editorial in the August issue of the French magazine, Les Temps Modernes (of which Sartre is a director) condemning the stand of the Soviet Union on the war in Vietnam. This has provoked a controversy in France between Sartre's views and the views of the French Communist paper, L'Humanité and the left wing Nouvel Observateur.

Discussion: Barnes, Shaw.

d. Socialist Scholars Conference.

Despite many letters of protest from various individuals, the organizers of the Socialist Scholars Conference persist in excluding a Trotskyist speaker from the panels and presentations.

Discussion: Kerry, Sheppard, Shaw, DeBerry.

Meeting adjourned.