

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 4, October 1, 1971

Present: Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Dobbs, Horowitz, Jenness,  
Lovell, Sheppard, Stone

Visitors: Benson, Kerry, Seigle

Chairman: Horowitz

AGENDA: 1. Administrative Committee Report  
2. Antiwar Report  
3. Abortion Action Report

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Britton reported on recommendation of Cleveland branch to readmit S.T. into membership.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Cleveland branch to readmit S.T. into membership.

Carried.

Britton reported on recommendation of Austin branch to readmit A.B. into membership.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Austin branch to readmit A.B. into membership.

Carried.

Sheppard reported on recommendation of Boston branch to extend critical support to the campaign of Pat Bonner-Lyons for school committee, who is running as a Young Workers Liberation League candidate.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Boston branch to extend critical support to the campaign of Pat Bonner-Lyons for school committee, who is running as a Young Workers Liberation League candidate.

Carried.

2. ANTIWAR REPORT

Benson reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

3. ABORTION ACTION REPORT

Stone reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

October 4, 1971

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The enclosed report by John Benson on developments in the antiwar movement was approved by the Political Committee at its meeting of October 1. We would like to call your attention to one aspect of the report, dealing with new opportunities for the antiwar movement to reach unionists.

There is only a little more than four weeks left to prepare for the November 6 actions, and a little more than a week before October 13. In this short time we should urge the antiwar movement to reach the membership of the union movement, and gain their support for the fall antiwar actions.

In every locality there will be hundreds of union meetings during the month of October.

Representatives of SMC and local antiwar coalitions should appear before these meetings, explain the antiwar actions, ask for local union endorsement of them, encourage the membership to join the actions, request organizational help (suggest that the local union elect an antiwar mobilization director to work with the antiwar coalition in your locality), and appeal for funds.

Representatives of the antiwar movement will not be able to get into all meetings they go to, but that should not discourage them -- they should go on to the next meeting on their list. Every Sunday there should be at least a dozen or so meetings to appear before. A short talk should be made, not more than ten minutes, and the members should be thanked for their attention and support.

The "open letter to trade unionists on the wage freeze and the war," signed by 160 prominent union leaders in all parts of the country is the entree -- a ticket of admission -- to most union meetings. This letter should be distributed at union meetings whether or not the representative of the antiwar movement is allowed to speak. (This means that SMC and local antiwar coalition representatives should make the rounds of union meetings in teams of two or three.)

All local union officers should be asked to join the list of endorsers of the "open letter" and actively participate in organizing the big November 6 demonstrations.

Wherever we know anyone in the local union, make sure that these union members attend union meetings between now and November 6 and speak on the importance of the antiwar demonstrations.

This is important work between now and November 6 in order

to build the action; it is also important to us for our future work in relation to the union movement. In the next few weeks you will make valuable contacts, acquire a vast amount of new experience and make some friends.

We have received reports from several areas about the success of building meetings on campus on the wage freeze and the war. In Cleveland the SMC organized a campus meeting where local union leaders were invited to speak to students about the wage freeze and the war. There is still time to organize such meetings locally.

In some instances symposiums have been organized on campus with an economics "expert" defending the Nixon edict, a local union leader presenting the position of the unions, and a YSA or SWP member presenting our socialist point of view against Nixon and in defense of the unions and the working class. In every locality you will find able union spokespeople who will welcome this opportunity to take their case to the students and appeal for their support.

Attached is a copy of a letter we have received from Minneapolis describing how an antiwar activist appeared before the executive committee of a local union and won endorsement of November 6. This experience can be multiplied a thousand times.

We are anxious to hear from you about what you are able to do, what your experiences are. The more meetings you hit, the greater your chances will be of getting out the word and bringing out the union membership to the demonstration on November 6.

Comradely,

*Frank Lovell* (R)

Frank Lovell  
National Trade Union Work Director

*Barry Sheppard* (R)

Barry Sheppard  
Administrative Committee

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SEPTEMBER 29, 1971

LABOR TASK FORCE REPORT, MINNEAPOLIS

First big news is the unanimous membership endorsement of OUT NOW and Nov. 6 of the Minneapolis Typographical Union No. 42 Mpls. It is the same as the one passed by Minnesota Federation of Teachers No. 59 with ITU substituted. The key person that spearheaded the endorsement was Tom Giles who motivated President Koloski to bring the resolution to the exec board of local 42. Giles couldn't attend the exec board because he was hospitalized. Giles name was obtained by virtue of SMC and YSA joint effort to assist ITU in their struggle to prevent the Daily from turning from union shop to a scab shop last Spring at the University of Minnesota. Koloski was reluctant to allow me to address the exec board, but he agreed to letting me wait outside the meeting in case the exec board chose to hear me. They decided to hear me, and after a 15 minute presentation the board voted to endorse with one opposing. The opposer felt the political content of the resolution reflected unfavorably on his having 3 sons in the service. Pres. Koloski presented the resolution to the membership meeting attended by over 150 printers, and after a short discussion of the war, inflation, etc., with comments being favorable: "It's time we did something about the war," the membership passed the resolution unanimously. Other recommendations by the exec board included: sending copies of the resolution with a cover letter to all 1,000 members, copies to all State and Congressional representatives, articles submitted to local paper and Mpls. Labor Review, and exec board member Lemar Kaldun that one should be sent to Mayor Stenvig "to give him something to think about." ITU will send copies to other ITU locals across the country. As a result of this endorsement, Ed Donahue, President of Lithographers Union No. 229 Mpls., endorsed, plans on introducing the resolution to his membership and expressed the desire to organize marshalls from his union for November 6.

Resolutions will be introduced to St. Paul Federation of Teachers exec board October 4; MFT 59 members Oct. 6th; Amalgamated Meatcutters P-4 Oct. 7; AFSCME council 6 Oct. 8; AFSCME local 8, Oct. 8; IBT 120 Oct. 10 (6,000 members); IBT 958, Oct. 12; Central Labor body Mpls. Oct. 13; UE 1139 Oct. 14; etc.

This week we'll be concentrating on individual endorsements and several key people are expected to endorse. Also effort will be made to reach out to the area for labor endorsement.

for the Labor Task Force  
s/Bill Peterson

## REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ANTIWAR MOVEMENT

John Benson

Our projections for the November 6 demonstrations were based on the opportunities coming out of April 24 -- an expected continuing rise in antiwar sentiment and the authority gained by NPAC through building April 24. NPAC held its convention and moved its national office to New York and made the New York demonstration its central national action this fall. NPAC proceeded to build the demonstration on the authority of its July 4 convention and through building this action we projected rebuilding the New York antiwar movement.

As the first step NPAC was able to reach agreement with PCPJ for the October 13 Moratorium and the November 6 demonstrations before its convention. Since that time there have been further agreements and statements worked out between NPAC and PCPJ, particularly the September 26 New York Times ad. However, not all elements within PCPJ have supported such common statements. PCPJ is an uneasy alliance of the Communist Party, ultra-left forces especially MAYDAY and a grouping of pacifists.

Dave Dellinger projected an October 25-29 repeat of the Maydays in Washington. This was an attempt to create an alternative to November 6 and block any agreement between NPAC and PCPJ to build November 6. But with the disintegration of MAYDAY there was no steam behind this type of action. Since the spring a number of the leaders have left MAYDAY, and their Atlanta convention was unable to project a fall program. As a result the October 25-29 proposal has not become an attractive alternative to November 6 for the ultralefts, and disagreements have developed within PCPJ over its character.

The Communist Party threw their main forces into October 13. PCPJ has established a New York Moratorium office, and Gil Green and Mike Zagarell have been working there on a day to day basis. The Daily World has been on a campaign to build the Moratorium. However, they have not been able to build it as their alternative to November 6.

NPAC has been trying to establish a united committee or meeting of the entire antiwar movement in New York to build October 13 and November 6. On September 30 a meeting of 300 was held at the District 65 offices. The meeting was considerably broader than any antiwar meeting we have participated in in New York for some time. More Communist Party members attended this meeting than attend Parade Committee meetings and they took an active part in the meeting. Many pacifists from around the Parade Committee and people from local peace organizations were at the meeting. It was not a decision making meeting, but it was a meeting to focus on the work being done to build October 13 and November 6. The meeting legitimized the building of November 6 by NPAC and the SMC. There now has been a united meeting to encourage everyone to proceed.

This gives NPAC the opportunity to take advantage of some major openings that are developing for the antiwar movement. Immediately after the wage freeze NPAC circulated a letter for labor endorsers of the fall actions. NPAC got more labor endorsers

at an earlier date, than for any previous action. This was an indication of openings created by the wage freeze. Since then sections of the labor movement itself have taken initiative in calling actions for an end to the war and the wage freeze.

The demonstration in Detroit called by the metropolitan AFL-CIO is the first example of this. The AFL-CIO called the demonstration and took responsibility for organizing it, preparing the signs and organizing the marshalls. They also appealed directly to the organized antiwar movement for support and to help build the demonstration. As a result of the union's initiative a proportionally larger number of workers wearing union jackets, caps and buttons came to this demonstration than previous ones. From this demonstration it is clear that there are new opportunities to involve unions officially in building November 6 and to attract larger numbers of workers to it.

In New York a garment center rally has been called for October 13 by District 65 of the Retail and Department Store Workers, Hospital Workers Local 1199, AFSCME District Council 37 and the Fur Workers Joint Board on the theme "End the War, End the Wage Freeze." They are projecting that this be a national action for labor on the Moratorium and have gotten Emil Mazey, Secretary Treasurer of the UAW, as a speaker. As with the Detroit demonstration they have asked that this rally be endorsed and built by the organized antiwar movement.

Most areas have more union officials endorsing than ever before. In New York, Atlanta and Chicago, NPAC and the SMC have been able to get unions to print materials for November 6. We now may be able to get more union locals to build the demonstrations and should begin trying to involve union officials more closely. SMCs can organize people to go to every union meeting in the area to explain what November 6 is and ask for the union to build it. The letter circulated by NPAC with all the union signers will make it possible to talk to many more unions. The SMCers can take leaflets and posters on inflation and the war, ask for official union endorsement of the demonstration and that someone from the union be designated to work on it. Each local should be asked to contribute to NPAC.

There are other openings for building November 6. The fight around the city council endorsement in Minneapolis is another indication of the depth of antiwar sentiment. November 6 became an important question in Minneapolis politics for a few days. While the mayor was red-baiting the demonstration, the antiwar movement was able to get the governor and Senator Mondale to endorse it. Every city council should be approached to pass similar resolutions. The city governments can be approached to provide materials and facilities for the demonstrations. Already throughout the country many bourgeois politicians have endorsed November 6 who have never supported actions before.

As schools are opening the SMC is beginning to grow. The meetings held so far have been larger than meetings in the pre-April 24 period. The Columbia SMC recently held a meeting

of 100 and Brooklyn College SMC had a meeting of 50. A New York city-wide meeting was 170 with representatives from 24 high schools and 13 college campuses. All of this represents a significant growth for the SMC in New York over the recent past. As the antiwar movement involves more new forces the SMC becomes more important. Local areas should make sure that the SMC is strong enough to take advantage of the openings on the campuses and high schools.