

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, No. 57, April 21, 1973

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Britton, A. Hansen, Jenness,
Jones, Lovell, Rose, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone

Consultative: Dobbs, Kerry

Visitors: Scott, Seigle

Chair: Breitman

AGENDA: 1. Election of Political Committee
2. Organization of National Committee
Plenum
3. Convention Call

1. ELECTION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Barnes reported.

Discussion

Motion: To propose the re-election of the present Political Committee consisting of 16 regular members (Barnes, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Waters and a representative chosen by the youth) and 3 consultative members (Dobbs, Kerry, and Novack).

Carried.

Motion: To approve the report for presentation to the National Committee plenum.

Carried.

2. ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To propose the following agenda to the National Committee plenum (see attached).

Carried.

Motion: To recommend the following schedule for the National Committee plenum (see attached).

Carried.

Motion: To propose the following procedural recommendations to the National Committee 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 the Administrative Committee (Jones, Scott, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone) plus Political Committee reporters (Barnes and Waters).
4. To designate Feigenberg and Lesnik as plenum secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, cothinkers, heads of national departments, members of the youth NEC, branch organizers and special guests.
6. To give voice to organizers and department heads who are not members of the National Committee during discussion of the Organization and Tasks Report.

Carried.

3. CONVENTION CALL

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To propose the following Convention Call to the National Committee plenum (see attached).

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

PLENUM AGENDA

1. World Political Situation Report
2. World Movement Reports
3. Political Perspectives Report
4. Organization and Tasks Report
5. Youth Report
6. Gay Liberation Movement Report
7. Election of Political Committee
8. Convention Call

PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 26

10:00 - 10:30 Organization of Plenum (½ hour)
10:30 - 12:00 World Political Situation Report (1½ hours) --
 Barnes
12:00 - 1:00 Discussion (2 hours)
1:00 - 2:00 Lunch
2:00 - 3:00 Discussion
3:00 - 3:30 Summary (½ hour)
3:30 - 5:00 World Movement Report (1½ hours) -- Waters
5:00 - 6:30 World Movement Report (1½ hours) -- Woolf
6:30 Recess

Friday, April 27

10:00 - 12:00 Discussion (2 hours)
12:00 - 12:30 Summary (½ hour) -- Woolf
12:30 - 1:00 Summary (½ hour) -- Waters
1:00 - 2:00 Lunch
2:00 - 3:30 World Movement Report (1½ hours) -- Shaw
3:30 - 5:30 Discussion (2 hours)
5:30 - 6:00 Summary (½ hour)
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner
7:00 - 8:30 Political Perspectives Report (1 ½ hours) --
 Jones
8:30 - 10:00 Discussion (3 hours)
10:00 Recess

Saturday, April 28

10:00 - 11:30 Discussion
11:30 - 12:00 Summary (½ hour)
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 Organization and Tasks Report (1 ½ hours) --
 Stone
2:30 - 5:30 Discussion (3 hours)
5:30 - 6:00 Summary (½ hour)
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner
7:00 - 8:15 Youth Report (1¼ hours) -- Rose
8:15 - 9:30 Discussion (2 hours)
9:30 Recess

Sunday, April 29

10:00 - 10:45 Discussion
10:45 - 11:15 Summary (½ hour)
11:15 - 11:45 Gay Liberation Movement Report (½ hour) --
 Sheppard
11:45 - 1:15 Discussion (1½ hours)
1:15 - 1:30 Summary (¼ hour)
1:30 - 2:30 Lunch
2:30 - 3:15 Election of Political Committee Report
 (¾ hour) -- Barnes
3:15 - 4:45 Discussion (1½ hours)
4:45 - 5:00 Summary (¼ hour)
5:00 - 5:30 Convention Call (½ hour)
5:30 ADJOURN

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

April 29, 1973

TO ALL LOCALS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Twenty-Fifth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Ohio at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 5 and continue through five days (August 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1973).

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Political Situation Report
World Movement Reports
Political Resolution
Political Reports
Organization Reports
Youth Report
Election of National Committee

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party preconvention discussion is formally opened May 7, 1973. The Discussion Bulletin is open for all party 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 July 28, 1973, for acceptance of preconvention 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 \$10.00 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 15 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 15 additional members or major fraction thereof (8 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 April 29, 1973, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.

3. Branches organized after April 29, 1973, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

4. Members admitted to the party after April 29, 1973, 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 (for example, regular night workers, etc.). 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 April 29, 1973, 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 elected. Members voting for a given resolution are entitled to 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 a branch is entitled to one delegate, the delegate goes to the majority of those present and voting at the time of the election.

2. If two delegates, a minority with 40 percent gets one.

3. If three delegates, a minority with $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent gets one.

4. If four delegates, a minority with 25 percent gets one delegate, but a minority with 40 percent is entitled to two delegates.

5. If five delegates, a minority with 20 percent gets one.

6. If six delegates, a minority with $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent gets one delegate, a minority with $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent, two delegates, but a minority with 40 percent gets one-half the delegates.

In general, if a branch is entitled to n delegates, then a minority is entitled to x delegates if it receives at least x/n of the votes, with the one exception that if n is even, a minority receiving at least 40 percent of the vote is entitled to half of the delegates.

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

ON THE MEMBERSHIP/DELEGATES QUESTION FOR THE CONVENTION CALL:

I. Number of Delegates at Previous Conventions:

XXX 1959 -- 57 full, 22 alternate
1961 -- 59 full, 33 alternate
1963 -- 63 full, 37 alternate
1965 -- 60 full, 39 alternate
1967 -- 55 full, 39 alternate
1969 -- 71 full, 52 alternate
1971 -- 113 full, 99 alternate *

All based on a 7 members to 1 delegate ratio.

There are 60+ fraternal delegates.

*-- less than half of the full delegates spoke at any time during the 1971 convention.

II. Table of ratios based on 1125 members. (This is approximately the number of members we will have as of the Convention Call cutoff date.)

If the ratio is one delegate for XXX	The total number of delegates will be:
7 Members	160
9	125
11	102
13	87
14	80
15	75
16	70
17	66
18	63
19	59
20	56
21	54
22	51
23	49
24	47
25	45