

POLITICAL BUREAU

Number 4

July 3, 1973

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Present: Barnes, Britton, A. Hansen, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Stone

Visitors: Finkel, Scott, Seigle, Sheppard

Chair: Jenness

Agenda: 1. Banning of Communist League  
2. Critical Support

1. BANNING OF COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Barnes reported that Intercontinental Press is coming out a day early with 13 pages on France: all the facts, press conferences, statements of support, the SWP Political Bureau statement, etc. Caroline Lund is in Paris to cover the fight against the ban on the scene for The Militant. This week's Militant will have coverage of the big July 4 Socialist Party/Communist Party-sponsored protest rally. We want to organize emergency demonstrations in every city Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday with the broadest endorsement possible by groups such as the Communist Party, ACLU, campus groups, union locals, etc., and individuals and organizations protesting the ban and the arrest of Krivine. Protest cables to Pompidou with list of endorsers from each city. We will send Intercontinental Press airmail special delivery to all branches and NCers and call all organizers to discuss plan.

Discussion

Motion: To adopt the proposed statement (see attached) and plan of action.

Carried.

2. CRITICAL SUPPORT

Stone reported on the recommendation of the Boston branch to extend critical support to the Communist Party campaign of Pat Bonner-Lyons for school board (see attached).

Discussion

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Boston branch to extend critical support to the Communist Party campaign of Pat Bonner-Lyons for school board.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

## POLITICAL BUREAU STATEMENT ON BANNING OF COMMUNIST LEAGUE

On June 28 the Council of Ministers acceded to the demand of Minister of the Interior Raymond Marcellin to outlaw the Ligue Communiste, French section of the Fourth International.

This blow against the French Trotskyists is a blow against the entire left in France, including the trade unions. By beginning with what appears to him to be an isolated sector, de Gaulle's heir, President Pompidou, hopes to dampen the growing militancy of the entire workers and students movement. If he can get away with it in the case of the Ligue Communiste, he will proceed with similar moves against other sectors.

To make it appear that the Ligue Communiste was not being singled out, the council also ordered dissolution of the fascist organization Ordre Nouveau. This has not fooled anyone. The Ordre Nouveau has enjoyed special relations with Marcellin's police and will continue to be shielded and protected as a fascist reserve.

Thus the most diverse organizations and personalities -- including the Communist and Socialist parties -- have issued declarations denouncing the banning of the Ligue Communiste despite deep political differences, in some instances, with the French Trotskyists.

Outside of France, expressions of opposition to the banning of the Ligue Communiste and of solidarity in the defense of its democratic rights have already begun to mount. Particularly in Western Europe, even demonstrations have already been organized by the far left with sympathetic support from a broad spectrum of political tendencies.

Already sufficient evidence has come to light to inspire demands that the role of the police in connection with the provocative racist meeting staged by the Ordre Nouveau June 21 be investigated. One of the questions being asked is why the Pompidou government decided to grant permission to the fascists to hold such a meeting.

In Paris, with its bitter memories of the Nazis and of a previous generation of French fascists, the inflammatory slogans suggesting racist violence that were used to publicize the meeting inevitably caused a big reaction.

At the meeting itself, members of the Ordre Nouveau arrived armed with such "persuaders" as molotov cocktails, iron bars, chains, and similar weapons, which they have used in setting upon members of the labor movement in the streets in the recent period. They were protected by a large mobilization of police, who made no effort whatsoever to disarm or to arrest fascists illegally armed in this fashion.

The Ligue Communiste called for a counterdemonstration in the area of the meeting. The call was well received. Crowds many times the size of the assemblage of fascists arrived.

They did not hesitate to show what they thought of this brazen attempt to give momentum to a new fascist movement in France. Scuffling broke out in various places, being conducted in many instances outside the control of the Ligue Communiste. Here and there members of the police force, caught between the two sides, were badly injured.

## Banning of Communist League/2

In a broader context, the outlawing of the Ligue Communiste is another ominous step in an international campaign waged against the Fourth International by the most reactionary forces, particularly the political police, in various countries. Among previous moves it is sufficient to recall the bans issued by the French, the U.S., the Swiss, the Australian, and the West German governments against Ernest Mandel entering those countries to lecture on economics.

The Socialist Workers Party appeals for international solidarity with the Ligue Communiste of France.

It asks that protests against the outlawing of the Ligue Communiste be lodged on as wide a scale as possible with diplomatic representatives of the French government in other countries.

Let the Pompidou regime know that the arbitrary actions of its political police do not escape notice internationally.

Rescind the ban on the Ligue Communiste!

Let's act on the slogan of the international working class: An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!

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655 Atlantic Ave.  
Boston, Mass.  
June 11, 1973

SWP Political Committee  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Jack,

As you know, the YWLL is planning to make the Pat Bonner-Lyons campaign for School Committee in Boston a major national campaign. They project a win perspective. In 1971, Bonner-Lyons formed a bloc with four Black Democratic candidates and received 54,000 votes for Boston School Committee. The following is information that we have on her '73 campaign, and on the basis of this information, the Boston Branch recommends to the PC giving Bonner-Lyons critical support in 1973.

We have 2 pieces of literature from the campaign. The fund raising letter lists Bonner-Lyons as Chairperson of the Mass. YWLL. Both discuss the busing issue in relation to the racist Boston School Committee. She calls for community control of the schools, Not Black control. Strongly attacks the school committee's decision to give the new high school (the first built in 36 years) to the predominately white Girl's Latin and not to the 90% Black, boys English High for which it was built. The major slogan on all literature is -- the right to learn, to earn, and to live.

The coverage of the press conference announcing her campaign was very good: the Boston Globe, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Bay State Banner, a local Black weekly.

She was involved in a court suit with other Black parents against the school committee's leafleting students to build the racist demonstrations against busing. She has been speaking in the community and at School Committee and City Council meetings.

Our conclusions were:

- 1) Bonner-Lyons is running as a well known open member of the YWLL, the youth arm of the CP.
- 2) Her campaign represents a form of independent political action against the capitalist parties in the Black community.
- 3) We think the tactic of critical support is the best way to reach those young people attracted to her campaign.
- 4) In giving their campaign critical support, we will ask them to give critical support to the SWP candidates for Boston School Committee and City Council for the same reasons that we support her campaign. We disagree with her program and will state our differences in our propaganda and in meetings, but will urge voters to vote for her for the reasons listed above. We want the young people around her campaign to hear their reasons for not giving us critical support and keep raising the issues with them.

On the critical side:

- 1) If she makes a bloc with Black Democrats as in '71, we will expose her for crossing class lines.

Critical Support Letter/2

2) We will force them to discuss Black control of all institutions in the Black community and our entire program.

3) We will offer to help them petition and ask them to help us, in that way be able to talk to their periphery. We could put out a leaflet later in the campaign calling for a vote for the three Socialist candidates for School Committee in Boston.

If further clarification is needed in making your decision, we are available at all times to discuss the question of critical support with you.

Comradely,

s/Mary Lipman  
Boston/Cambridge SWP  
Campaigns