

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONVENTION
OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Chicago, Illinois, December 26, 27, 28, 1973

CONVENED, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1973, at 6:40 PM

Convened by Barnes.

Proposal by Barnes for Presiding Committee: That B. David chair the first session.

Moved.

Carried.

1. ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

Following proposals by Jones for the National Committee:

Proposal: That the following rules govern convention procedure:

1. In cases of procedural disputes, discussion shall be limited to two speakers, one for and one against; and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
2. Discussion from the floor shall be limited to 7 minutes per speaker.
3. A speaker may have the floor only once in a given discussion until all those who wish the floor have had the opportunity to speak.
4. All voting will be done by voice vote unless a division of the house is called for; then the vote will be taken by a show of delegates' cards.
5. Only delegates shall have voice and vote. Fraternal delegates shall have voice and consultative vote.
6. Alternate delegates shall have voice and vote only when acting to replace a regularly elected delegate.
7. In all other cases, Robert Rules of Order shall apply.

Discussion: Barzman ruled out of order by chair.

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the Presiding Committee be composed of the Political Bureau: Barnes, Britton, A. Hansen, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Pulley, and Stone, plus Camejo, Horowitz, Shaw, Sheppard, and Waters.

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: To adopt the following agenda:

1. Bolivia and Argentina
2. European Perspectives
3. World Political Situation

Amendment by Massey: That an additional point be placed on the agenda concerning the membership of the National Committee.

Speaker For: Massey

Speaker Against: Barnes

For: 2
Against: 76
Abstentions: 0

Defeated.

National Committee proposal moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the following time allotments be given to Political Committee reporters:

1. Argentina and Bolivia: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
2. European Perspectives: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
3. World Political Situation: 1¼ hour plus ½-hour summary

Amendment by Massey: That minority reporters give the reports on their resolutions first and summaries second.

Speaker For: Massey

Speaker Against: Barnes

For: 2
Against: 76
Abstentions: 0

Defeated.

National Committee proposal moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the following time allotments be given to minority reporters:

1. Argentina and Bolivia: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
2. European Perspectives: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
3. World Political Situation: 1¼ hour plus ½-hour summary

Amendment by Massey: That the minority reporter for IEC Majority resolution on the World Political Situation speak first and summarize last.

Speaker For: Massey

Defeated.

National Committee proposal moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the minority may choose non-delegates as reporters.

Counter-motion by Massey: That the minority be given four (4) additional delegates.

Speaker For: Massey

Motion: To grant Massey a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Counter-motion ruled out of order by chair.

Motion by Massey: To overturn the ruling of the chair.

Defeated.

National Committee proposal moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the majority and the minority may choose two cothinkers each to have voice on each agenda point.

Discussion: Barzman, Barnes

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: To approve the convention schedule.

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That Feigenberg and Rupp serve as convention secretaries.

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: To elect a Credentials Committee consisting of five delegates.

Moved.

Carried.

Nominations: Jurenas, Jon Britton, Moriarty, Fraenzl, Archer

Motion: To elect the five nominees.

Carried.

Proposal: To seat as fraternal delegates the following: (1) National Committee members, (2) members of the National Control Commission, (3) heads of national departments, (4) members of the youth National Executive Committee, and (5) special guests.

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the convention be open to party members, youth members and sympathizers vouched for by the branches.

Moved.

Carried.

Proposal: That the official convention photographer be M. Baumann.

Moved.

Carriad.

Motion by Massey: That representatives of the Revolutionary Marxist Group of Canada be invited to the convention having the same status as the representatives of the Liga Socialista of Mexico.

Speaker For: Massey

Speaker Against: Barnes

For: 2
Against: 76
Abstentions: 0

Defeated.

Motion by Barzman: That the convention circulate to the delegates in written form the report made by Comrade Pat Quinn at the trade-union panel at the August 1973 convention.

Speaker For: Barzman

Defeated.

Motion by Massey: That the minority be given four (4) additional delegates.

Chair ruling that motivation given previously.

Motion by Massey: To overturn the ruling of the chair.

Defeated.

Speaker Against: Sheppard

For: 2
Against: 76
Abstentions: 0

Defeated.

2. ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA

Reporter for Political Committee: Camejo

Reporter for minority: H. Garza

Proposal by Waters for Presiding Committee: To grant extended time of 15 minutes to a representative of the Compass Tendency.

Moved.

Carried.

Discussion: Herb, Lund, Charles

Motion: To grant Charles a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Bloom, Stapleton, Gonzáles

Proposal by Sheppard for Presiding Committee: To recess immediately after reading statement by Charles and Lars.

Discussion: Barzman

Statement by Charles and Lars read by A. Hansen. (see attached)

recess 10:50 PM

RECONVENED, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1973, at 9:15 AM

Further Discussion: Barzman, Maisel, D. Garza, Novack

Motion: To grant Novack a 10-minute extension.

Carried.

Motion: To grant Novack a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Massey

Motion: To grant Massey a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Thomas, Maley, Ricardo

Motion: To grant Ricardo a 10-minute extension.

Carried.

Proposal by Shaw for Presiding Committee: To close the speakers list.

Moved.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Jon Britton

Motion: To grant Jon Britton a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: César

Summaries Argentina and Bolivia

Minority: H. Garza

Political Committee: Camejo

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Committee report on Argentina and Bolivia.

Counter-motion: To approve the line of the IEC Majority resolutions on Bolivia and Argentina and to approve the general line of Comrade Hedda Garza's report.

For counter-motion: 2

For motion: 76

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carried.

Proposal by Jones for Presiding Committee: That LaMont chair the next session.

Moved.

Carried.

3. EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

Reporter for Political Committee: Waters
Reporter for minority: Rothschild

recess for lunch 1:45 PM -- reconvene 3:00 PM

Proposal by Jones for Presiding Committee: To grant Herb extended time of 30 minutes as the first speaker.

Moved.

Carried.

Discussion: Herb

Motion: To grant Herb a 10-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Votava, J. Hansen, Mirelowitz, Archer, Gurewitz, Lars

Motion: To grant Lars a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Markey, McArthur, Aber, Charles

Motion: To grant Charles a 15-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Sojourner, Feldman, César, Halstead, Fraenzl, Massey

Summaries European Perspectives

Minority: Rothschild
Political Committee: Waters

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Committee report on European perspectives.

Counter-motion: To approve the IEC Majority resolution "The Building of Revolutionary Parties in Capitalist Europe" and the general line of the report given by Comrade Rothschild.

For counter-motion: 2
For motion: 76
Abstentions: 0

Motion Carried.

recess for dinner 6:55 PM -- reconvene 8:30 PM

Proposal by Jones for Presiding Committee: That Boehm chair the next session.

Moved.

Carried.

4. WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION

Reporter for Political Committee: Barnes
Reporter for minority: Barzman

recess 11:25 PM

RECONVENED, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1973, at 9:15 AM

Discussion: Evans, Henderson, Finch, G. Johnson, Roberts, Mackler

Motion: To grant Mackler a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Lars

Motion: To grant Lars a 9-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Frankel, Hillson, Tussey, Maisel, Savage, Scully

Proposal by Charles: To reopen discussion on the organization of the convention.

Motion by Barnes: To suspend the convention rules in order to hear the minority's motion to change the organization of the convention.

Carried.

Motion by Massey: That the minority may add a third cothinker to speak on this agenda point.

Counter-motion by Barnes: That current rules stand but any proportion of the existing speaking time or summary time of the minority may be granted to any cothinker they choose.

For counter-motion: 76
For motion: 2
Abstentions: 0

Counter-motion Carried.

Further Discussion: Charles

Motion: To grant Charles a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Morell, Herb

Motion: To grant Herb a 3-minute extension.

Carried.

Special Point.

Greetings given from the Japan Revolutionary Communist League (Japanese section of the Fourth International) by Nagai.

Summaries World Political Situation

Minority: Barzman and Ricardo
Political Committee: Barnes

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Committee report on the World Political Situation.

Counter-motion: To approve the IEC Majority Tendency Political Resolution and the general line of Comrade Barzman's report.

For counter-motion: 2
For motion: 76
Abstentions: 0

Motion Carried.

Proposal by Sheppard for Presiding Committee: To publish the Credentials Committee report. (see attached)

Moved.

Carried.

Singing of the Internationale.

CONVENTION ADJOURNED 1:35 PM

STATEMENT TO SWP CONVENTION BY CHARLES AND LARS

We, the representatives of the IEC majority tendency, protest the underrepresentation of the Internationalist tendency at the present convention of the SWP. Having received 92 votes for our platform they received only 2 delegates--the equivalent of 30 votes. The failure of the convention to correct this situation is contrary to the democratic traditions of our movement and more specifically, in the present context of the International debate, contrary to the interests of a democratic discussion and a threat to the maintenance of the unity of the Fourth International.

In sections where supporters of the IEC majority tendency are the majority we have scrupulously respected the rights of minorities. The practice of the LTF exposes the emptiness of their platform positions to guarantee a democratic debate and preserve the unity of our movement. We will be sure to inform the whole world movement of these actions.

Charles
Lars

CREDENTIALS REPORT

- I. Total Attending Convention: 728
- A. About one half the number attending the August 1973 Oberlin convention but more than the number that attended in 1969
- B. Areas represented by attendance
- | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----|
| Highest attendance: | New York | 222 |
| | California | 115 |
| | Illinois | 96 |
| Newest branches: | St. Louis | 26 |
| | Pittsburgh | 21 |
- C. International representation - representatives from 10 different countries.
- II. Delegates
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of all delegates: | 197 |
| Women: | 87 |
| Men: | 110 |
| Full and Alternate Delegates: | 144 |
| Women: | 54 |
| Men: | 90 |
| Fraternal Delegates: | 53 |
| Women: | 33 |
| Men: | 20 |
- III. Age of Full and Alternate Delegates
- | | |
|-------|----|
| 10-15 | 1 |
| 16-20 | 5 |
| 21-25 | 53 |
| 26-30 | 71 |
| 31-35 | 14 |
| 36-40 | 4 |
| 41-45 | 1 |
| 46-50 | 2 |
| 51-55 | 1 |
| 56-60 | 1 |
| 61-65 | |
| 65-70 | |
- Average age was 27 years
- Average Number of Years in the Movement
- | | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Full and Alternate Delegates | 6 |
| Fraternal Delegates | 13 |
- IV. Selected Characteristics of Delegates and Guests
- A. Total number of trade unions represented: 34
(36 in 1971: 55 in August, 1973)
165 trade unionists (157 in 1971; 273 in August, 1973)
- B. Total Number of States Represented: 29
(27 in August, 1973)

PROPOSED CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 26, 1973

6:30 - 7:00 PM Organization of Convention
7:00 - 8:00 Argentina and Bolivia, Political Committee
Report (1 hour)
8:00 - 9:00 Argentina and Bolivia, Minority Report
(1 hour)
9:00 - 10:30 Discussion (3 hours total)

Thursday, December 27, 1973

9:00 - 10:30 AM Discussion
10:30 - 10:50 Argentina and Bolivia, Minority Summary
(20 minutes)
10:50 - 11:10 Argentina and Bolivia, Political Committee
Summary (20 minutes)
11:10 - 12:10 European Perspectives, Political Committee
Report (1 hour)
12:10 - 1:10 PM European Perspectives, Minority Report
(1 hour)
1:10 - 2:30 Lunch
2:30 - 5:30 Discussion (3 hours)
5:30 - 5:50 European Perspectives, Minority Summary
(20 minutes)
5:50 - 6:10 European Perspectives, Political Committee
Summary (20 minutes)
6:10 - 8:00 Dinner
8:00 - 9:15 World Political Situation, Political
Committee Report (1½ hour)
9:15 - 10:30 World Political Situation, Minority
Report (1½ hour)

Friday, December 28, 1973

9:00 - 12:00 Discussion (3 hours)
12:00 - 12:30 World Political Situation, Minority
Summary (½ hour)
12:30 - 1:00 World Political Situation, Political
Committee Summary (½ hour)