

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, No. 29, July 6, 1972

Present: Breitman, Camejo, Horowitz, Jenness, Jones, Morrison,
Sheppard, Stone

Consultative: Dobbs, Kerry Novack

Visitors: Scott, Seigle

Chairman: Sheppard

AGENDA: 1. Socialist Activist and Educational Conference
2. Administrative Committee Report

1. SOCIALIST ACTIVIST AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Horowitz reported on educational aspect of conference.

Jones reported on activist aspect of conference.
Discussion

2. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Jones reported the assignment of Morrison as Black Work Director.

Discussion

b. Sheppard reported on the world movement.

Discussion

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

July 6, 1972

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

A previous communication described the arrangements for the August 13-20 Socialist Activists and Educational Conference. This letter will describe the preliminary program for the conference.

The main lecture series, which will be scheduled so that everyone can attend, will revolve around the theme, "Progress of the World Revolution Today." Included in this series will be talks on "National Liberation and International Revolution," by George Breitman; "Guevaratism vs. Trotskyism in Latin America," by Peter Camejo; "The Political Revolution in Eastern Europe Today," by Gus Horowitz; "The Marxist Movement and Women's Liberation," by Mary-Alice Waters; "The Permanent Revolution in Asia, Africa and Latin America," by Tony Thomas; "The International Youth Radicalization," by Caroline Lund; "The Decisive Battles to Come in the Advanced Capitalist Countries," by Jack Barnes; and "Building the Revolutionary Party in the United States Today," by Barry Sheppard.

In addition, over 15 separate class series are being arranged, of which everyone will be able to choose 2. A listing of these classes and the main lecture series is enclosed.

During the activist aspect of the conference, in addition to a trade-union panel, reports will be given on our activities in the antiwar, women's liberation and Black movements.

Workshops and panel discussions are being arranged to cover all aspects of our activity. Included, subject to some modification, are Militant and ISR sales, the fall subscription drive, Militant correspondents, education, Pathfinder promotion, bookstores, forums, Latin American defense activity, regional activity, campuses, high schools, and others. A full range of workshops and panels will occur around our campaign activities.

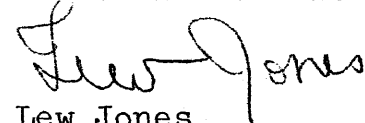
A national election campaign rally is scheduled for Friday evening, August 18, in Cleveland.

Further communication will follow on other aspects of the conference.

Comradely,



Gus Horowitz
National Education Director



Lew Jones
Administrative Committee

MAIN LECTURE SERIES

These talks will be scheduled so that everyone can attend. This is not necessarily the final order in which the talks will be given.

Part I. Progress of the World Revolution Today

1. National Liberation and International Revolution -- George Breitman
2. The Marxist Movement and Women's Liberation -- Mary-Alice Waters
3. The International Youth Radicalization -- Caroline Lund
4. Guevaraism vs. Trotskyism in Latin America -- Peter Camejo
5. The Political Revolution in Eastern Europe Today -- Gus Horowitz
6. The Permanent Revolution in Asia, Africa and Latin America -- Tony Thomas
7. The Decisive Battles to Come in the Advanced Capitalist Countries -- Jack Barnes

Part II. Dynamics of the American Socialist Revolution

8. Building the Revolutionary Party in the United States -- Barry Sheppard

CLASS SERIES

The following classes are arranged in two groups. The classes in each group will be held simultaneously. Thus, everyone will be able to attend one class from Group A and one class from Group B. The groups are subject to re-arrangement and final schedules will be distributed at Oberlin.

- A-1. Origins of the Fourth International in the Fight Against Stalinism -- three talks by Harry Ring
 - A-2. The Class Character of the USSR -- three talks by Dick Roberts
 - A-3. A History of the CP Position on the Black Struggle -- three talks by John Hawkins
 - A-4. A History of the First and Second Internationals -- four talks by George Novack
 - A-5. The Cuban Revolution -- two talks by Ed Shaw
Chile Today -- one talk by Judy White
 - A-6. A Brief History of the American CP -- two talks by Doug Jenness
The First Five Years of the Communist International -- one talk by Fred Feldman
 - A-7. Further Discussion on "Is Biology Women's Destiny?" -- one talk by Evelyn Reed
Marxism and Anthropology -- two talks by Bob Vernon
 - A-8. Introduction to Marxist Economics -- one or two talks by Lynn Henderson
-- one talk by Dan Styron
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Class Series (continued)

- B-1. The Chinese Revolution -- three talks by Les Evans
- B-2. Origins of the Deformed Workers States in Eastern Europe --
three talks by Theodore Edwards
- B-3. The African Revolution -- three talks by Tony Thomas
- B-4. The History of the YSA -- one talk by Gus Horowitz
-- two talks by Larry Seigle
-- one talk to be arranged
- B-5. The Irish Question -- two talks by Gerry Foley
The Quebecois Revolution -- one talk to be arranged
- B-6. The Trade Union Policy of the SWP -- one talk to be arranged
The International Struggle for Women's Liberation -- one talk
by Cindy Jaquith
-- one talk
to be arranged
- B-7. The Permanent Revolution in Indochina -- two talks by Fred
Halstead
The Forging of an Oppressed Nationality -- one talk by
Antonio Camejo

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

July 6, 1972

TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND
ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Labor for Peace Conference, held June 23-24 in St. Louis

Dear Comrades,

A report on the Labor for Peace Conference appeared in the July 7 issue of The Militant. The Conference passed two proposals, one on policy and one on structure (attached, together with the Conference agenda and list of Steering Committee members).

At this point, it is unclear what will become of Labor for Peace, or what direction it will take. The only concrete activity projected for Labor for Peace on a national level is to set up a staff, issue educational material on the war and distribute a monthly newsletter. If these projections are actually carried out, this would be a big step forward in helping to build the antiwar movement in the unions, and to build union support for the antiwar movement.

In any case, the fact that such a Conference was held, that it had significant union support, that it took a clear position for immediate and total withdrawal of all U.S. troops and materiel from Indochina, represents an important break with the Meany line on the war and will create new openings for the antiwar movement in the unions.

We should urge the antiwar movement to utilize the results of the Conference when reaching out to union officials and union locals to endorse the upcoming antiwar actions. Antiwar activists in the unions can also utilize the Conference to strengthen existing antiwar committees in the unions, and probe possibilities of establishing antiwar committees in their unions if they don't exist.

The structure proposal contains a provision for the establishment of local units of Labor for Peace. However, it is not yet clear whether this will actually be carried out. Such local groups would have to be approved by the national steering committee, and be organized by the unions involved along the lines of the national Labor for Peace. The party national office should be kept closely informed of any developments in this regard in the local areas.

Comradely,

Wendy Reissner

Wendy Reissner
SWP Antiwar Director

LABOR FOR PEACE

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF POLICY

We, _____ representatives of organized labor, who count in our ranks millions of members, have been brought together in St. Louis, Missouri, out of our common concern and a sense of frustration and anger over the failure of our government to end the war in Vietnam.

We hold these facts to be self-evident:

*It is self-evident that this nightmare of killing and destruction has gone on far too long, and that this war is illegal and not in our national interest.

*It is self-evident that this war has exacted an intolerable toll in the divisions among our people, in the alienation of our youth, the blighting of our cities and the distortion of our national priorities--and that it has triggered unprecedented strife, racism and violence.

*It is self-evident that this war has undermined the economy of our country, lengthened the rolls of the unemployed and placed greater hardships on the backs of the working poor. It has created tremendous inflationary pressures, increased our tax burdens, and robbed working people of the value of their paychecks. Wage controls have made a mockery of collective bargaining and threaten to become a permanent straitjacket on the labor movement.

*It is self-evident that this war has severely tarnished the good name and moral leadership of our country in the arena of world opinion.

And finally,

*It is self-evident that the overwhelming majority of Americans agree that this war is not worth one more life, one more prisoner, one more hard-earned tax dollar, or one more devastated city, whether here or in Indo-China.

We are therefore resolved that the voice of American labor, which has been raised in every struggle for justice and decency in our nation's history, shall not remain silent during this critical period. As men and women of labor, who treasure our country's heritage and future, we proclaim our responsibility to harness every effort to end the war NOW.

We demand the immediate withdrawal from Indo-China of every American soldier, every gun, every plane, every tank, every warship and every dollar. This would end the fighting and bring about the return of our prisoners of war. It would also free our energies and our resources for the tremendous task of repairing the ravages of this war, both in Vietnam and in our own land.

We accept our responsibility for the crucial task of reconvertng to an economy of peace. Our swords must be converted into ploughshares--our immense industrial technology must be directed into peaceful, constructive channels--our people must be put to work to fulfill the pressing social and economic needs of our nation.

To achieve this goal, and to insure that there will be no more Vietnams, we here today establish LABOR FOR PEACE as a national organi-

zation. We declare our intention to bring into our midst ever-broader sections of the trade union movement in this effort to turn our country from the path of killing and destruction to the path of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness through peace, dignity and full employment.

We dedicate ourselves to this purpose in the interests of American labor and the human family.

LABOR FOR PEACE
PROPOSED STRUCTURE

Our Conference Call declares:

"We are determined that the voice of American labor, which has been raised in every struggle for justice and decency shall not remain silent during this critical period. We invite representatives of all labor organizations--international unions, state and city central labor bodies and local unions--to join us in harnessing the conscience and will of American labor in a powerful organization--LABOR FOR PEACE--to bring an end to this war NOW!"

To carry out this objective, the following steps are proposed:

1. The establishment of a national steering committee. The committee shall include at least one representative from each international union or, where the international itself is not affiliated, a representative of such subdivision of an international as may be participating. As additional organizations become associated with Labor for Peace, they shall be entitled to representation by the same formula. The Committee shall designate its Chairman, Secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary.

2. In a special order of business, at a time determined by the Sponsors, the Conference shall ratify the composition of the Committee.

3. Promptly after the Conference, the Steering Committee shall designate the location of a permanent headquarters. (The Steering Committee may find it suitable to establish more than one such headquarters--the West Coast may be appropriate.)

It shall be authorized to:

- a. Retain staff.
- b. Take steps to prepare and distribute a monthly newsletter and other educational material dealing with the special impact of the war on working people.
- c. Set up a Speakers Bureau.
- d. Take such other measures it deems necessary to further the statement of policy.

4. The Steering Committee shall authorize the establishment of Labor for Peace bodies in localities, regions and organizations. Such subordinate bodies shall carry on the work of Labor for Peace in accordance with the policy statement adopted at the Conference. Membership in such bodies shall follow the pattern of National Labor for Peace and shall be open to local and regional organizations where such organizations have approved participation. The aim of local Labor for Peace shall be to inform, educate and arouse the membership to act to end the war now.

5. The Steering Committee shall take steps to acquire the funds necessary. The simplest method of raising funds shall be followed--each participating group shall be asked to make an annual contribution in relationship to its capacity. Where the activities of local Labor for Peace Committees require funds, they shall seek similar contributions from local unions, districts or regional bodies.

AGENDA
FOUNDING CONFERENCE LABOR FOR PEACE

Friday, June 23rd

- 5:00 P.M. Registration of Delegates
- 7:30 P.M. Opening Session, Chairman: Harold J. Gibbons, Vice President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Director, Central Conference of Teamsters

SPEAKERS

Jerry Wurf, International President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO)
 Frank Rosenblum, Secretary-Treasurer, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (AFL-CIO)
 Patrick E. Gorman, Secretary-Treasurer, Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen of North America (AFL-CIO)
 Leonard Woodcock, President, United Automobile and Aircraft Workers of America

FILM

"You Don't Have to Buy War, Mrs. Smith"

Saturday, June 24th

- 9:00 A.M.. Chairman: Emil Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer, United Automobile and Aircraft Workers of America

SPEAKERS

United States Senator Mike Gravel
 Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.

REPORTS

"Program of Labor for Peace," Moe Foner, Executive Secretary, National Union of Hospital and Nursing Home Employees, RWDSU (AFL-CIO)

12:00-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

- 1:30 P.M. Chairman: Emil Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer, United Automobile and Aircraft Workers of America

REPORTS

"Structure of Labor for Peace," David Livingston, Secretary-Treasurer, Distributive Workers of America

- 4:00 P.M. Closing Remarks

Labor for Peace Conference Sponsors

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District 65, Distributive
Workers of America

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Butcher Workmen of North
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International Union of America
(AFL-CIO)

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(AFL-CIO)

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National Union of Hospital &
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(AFL-CIO)

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Butcher Workmen of North
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VICTOR GOTBAUM, Vice President
American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees;
President, District Council 37

PAT GREATHOUSE, Vice-President
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Workers of America

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International Union (AFL-CIO)

LEONARD WOODCOCK, President
United Automobile & Aircraft
Workers of America

JERRY WURF, International Presi-
dent; American Federation of
State, County and Municipal
Employees (AFL-CIO)

CHARLES HAYES, Vice-President
Amalgamated Meat Cutters &
Butcher Workmen of North
America (AFL-CIO)

All of the above except Frank Rosenblum are on the Labor for
Peace steering committee. Four more were added to the committee,
for a total of 46. They are:

Ken Bannon, UAW; William Lucy, AFSCME; Ken Brown and Ed Donahue,
both Lithographers.