

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Camejo, A. Hansen, Horowitz,
Jenness, Lovell, Seigle, Sheppard, Thomas

Consultative: Kerry, Novack

Visitors: Boehm, Clark, Hildebrand, Lyons, Miah, Scott

AGENDA: 1. National March on Boston against Racism
2. NC Presidential Ticket Poll Results
3. Plenum Perspectives
4. PC Perspectives
5. Personnel

1. NATIONAL MARCH ON BOSTON AGAINST RACISM

Sheppard reported on the call for a national mobilization against racism in Boston and the party's participation (see attached).

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. NC PRESIDENTIAL TICKET POLL RESULTS

Jenness reported on the results of the National Committee poll nominating the party presidential ticket and on initial plans for launching the election campaign.

The results of the National Committee referendum are that the Committee unanimously approves the nomination of Peter Camejo and Willie Mae Reid as the party's 1976 candidates for president and vice-president.

28 votes were cast for the PC recommendation; 31 consultative votes were cast for the PC recommendation. 2 consultative votes have not yet been received.

Jeff Mackler, Clifton DeBerry, Judy White, Dave Wulp, and Pearl Chertov added brief comments expressing their enthusiasm for the ticket. Pearl added: "Am in agreement with the motivation given by Jenness; in addition had the opportunity to work with Reid and watch her determination in presenting our ideas publicly. Sun Times calls her fiery candidate."

Evelyn Reed and Harry Ring expressed concern that Reid's first name is not unambiguously female. Since the referendum was mailed to the NC, we've learned that Willie prefers using her full name, Willie Mae, and this will be used on all literature, etc.

Peter Seidman urged that Camejo be given a thorough medical checkup. Both Willie Mae and Peter have told their doctors that they might be engaged in a long,

rigorous campaign, have had thorough check-ups, and have gotten the green light.

Susan LaMont, Helen Scheer, and Jean Tussey added more extensive comments.

Susan writes: "I agree with the nominations for president and vice-president. However, I think that it will seem odd to people to have our candidate for vice-president running for mayor of Chicago while she is also an announced candidate for vice president. The advantages of running Willie for mayor of Chicago are clear, and I agree with the proposal to make a national effort to try to get on the ballot for the mayoralty race. Being on the ballot --if we are successful--will enhance the seriousness of our campaign and open up all sorts of opportunities. I expect that many more people will see us as a viable alternative to Daley or his successor. It's true that we have no illusions about winning when we run candidates, and we answer questions and explain to people why we run even though we don't expect to win. Nevertheless, we seek to appear as serious candidates, and I think that running for two offices simultaneously cuts across that."

This could be a problem that we should be conscious of. Our assumption is it will be minimized since the overlap between the time when we announce our presidential ticket and the Chicago election is only about three months. During this time the Chicago mayoralty campaign will take priority. The comrades have launched an aggressive campaign and a serious drive to obtain ballot status. This should help project the Reid campaign as a serious alternative in the Chicago elections.

Also, the national attention we give to Willie Mae's mayoralty campaign will be useful in building her up for her vice-presidential campaign tours, etc., that will begin later.

Jean writes: "While I concur in the proposal for the party presidential ticket and the criteria considered in the selection, I believe there is another consideration which should be kept in mind in selecting party representatives both nationally and locally: continuity, stability, reliability.

"The party invested a major part of its resources in the last election campaigns. The reputation of comrades like Halstead and Jenness is extremely valuable capital--particularly in relating to the stirring working class and organized women's movement. By constantly changing candidates we lose the advantages that accrue from building on top of past achievements."

This was one of our considerations in including Jenness among the national officers of the campaign. If we utilize Fred and Linda in the way we hope we should be

able to take advantage of the "capital investment" Jean points out and over the campaign's course do the same thing with Peter and Willie Mae.

Helen Scheer wrote: "I would like to underline the importance of meeting the legal-age requirement, not only to assure ballot status in as many states as possible and at least equal to all other minority parties, but for the general impact of our campaign as a serious campaign, which legally-qualified candidates implies.

"This decision by the National Campaign Committee should be an example for all branches to make legal-age a major consideration in deciding on candidates. Along with this go a legal name and a legal address. We should dispense with the legal questions as much as possible in order to deal with the political issues which are common to the campaign, itself, and which all candidates must deal with. In this way, we will be in the "mainstream" of the electoral campaign and not involved in an issue which is secondary and peculiar to the SWP.

"The SWP owes it to all the oppressed national minorities, owes it to our youth supporters and women to put forward a ticket equal to and better than anything the other parties come up with. This includes "equal to" in age and minimum qualifications.

"Also, strongly endorse full-time campaign spokespeople who can move in and speak for the Party in special struggles that are inherent and pending in the mass movement, with special attention to the organized labor movement."

We rethought the campaign launching rally at St. Louis after getting Helen's comments. The rally and our initial platform piece or literature should reflect the balance that Helen noted.

Discussion

3. PLENUM PERSPECTIVES

Barnes reported on the Political Bureau proposals to:

1. schedule an April National Committee plenum and August convention;
2. to prepare drafts of programmatic documents on Black liberation and perspectives for the American revolution; and
3. to assign Thomas to organize preparation of the draft Black liberation document and Barnes to organize preparation of the draft American perspectives document.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. POLITICAL COMMITTEE PERSPECTIVES

Barnes reported on initial thinking on election of Political Committee at April Plenum.

Discussion

5. PERSONNEL

Sheppard reported:

Comrade Derrick M. will be transferring to the Philadelphia branch. Philadelphia, in addition to being an important industrial city with a large Black population, is a stronghold of the Stalinist movement. The Philadelphia branch is a very young one, and there are presently no members of the National Committee in the branch. This transfer of a party leader will help strengthen the branch and aid us in moving forward there.

Comrade Andrew Pulley, presently the YSA national chairman, will be transferring to Chicago after the YSA convention, in agreement with the YSA national office. This transfer will help in the moves we have already taken of transferring Joel B. and Betsey S. to Chicago.

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

November 15, 1974

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

A national march on Boston to counter the racist mobilization there has been called for December 14 (see The Militant dated November 22, 1974). This is the first major attempt in Boston to mobilize against the racists, and the first attempt at building a national response to the racist offensive there. A large turnout by the Black community and white supporters in Boston and nationwide can focus attention on the Boston struggle as a national issue. This is the kind of response we have been urging since the racist mobilizations against busing began this fall, and we want to throw ourselves into building it.

The struggle in Boston is the focus of a nation-wide attempt to limit and roll back gains made by Black people in the past 20 years. The Supreme Court decision limiting busing to achieve school integration in Michigan, which prohibited such busing across county lines, has emboldened the racist and reactionary forces opposed to school integration across the country. In Boston, the racists are demanding in effect that this ruling be extended to prohibit busing within the city, and have succeeded in mobilizing considerable support. The outcome of the struggle in Boston will affect the rest of the country. Already, courts in New York have provided loopholes through which busing can be limited and greatly reduced in effect within the city.

Racists across the country see the issue in Boston as directly affecting their own fight against school desegregation locally. What has been lacking up until now has been a major response from the Black community and white supporters. The December 14 action can help turn this situation around, and we want to mobilize ourselves in a national campaign to make it as successful as possible.

The march was initiated by Bill Owens, a Black Democrat. Apparently, he contacted members of the Youth Against War and Fascism in Boston, who had earlier organized a smaller march, consisting mostly of radicals. They then sought to obtain sponsors for the action, and came up with a fairly impressive initial list of sponsors, including Black and trade union figures.

The CP had projected the need for a national mobilization, but wants to control it through their "National Alliance Against Racism and Repression" front. Together with some Black Democrats opposed to Owen's initiative, the CP has attempted to block the December 14 action.

But the willingness of various Black figures, radicals, unionists, some church groups, etc., to endorse the march shows its potential. It will be very difficult for the CP to

maintain their opposition to the march, or if they do, they will not be able to prevent it from occurring. The Marcyites, who have been in on the ground floor of the action, have a narrow conception of how to build the march. But the sponsors are willing to open up the building of the action to others. Vigorous participation on our part in building the action should help overcome these obstacles. We, of course, will build the action along the lines of non-exclusion, and work to bring all anti-racist forces into it. We should be working immediately to involve the YWLL, and putting pressure on the CP to support the action.

In those areas where we can expect contingents to go to Boston, we have begun to push ahead to set up broad meetings to plan ways to build the march, arrange transportation, etc. On campuses, we should go right ahead and set up broad ad hoc formations to build the action. Another area of work will be to secure more endorsers of the march, among Black, trade union, church, campus, and other figures. Support from Black groups, trade unions, churches is also important in terms of arranging transportation and financing of the march-building activities. CLUW chapters should be urged to support the march.

The YSA reports that it is reorienting its convention-building work through its tours, etc., to focus the organization's efforts on building the march. By mobilizing their entire membership in this effort, the YSA can become known as one of the best builders of the action, and help mobilize campus participation in it, including in the regions where the YSA tours are already scheduled.

The paper is taking steps to ensure continued coverage of the situation in Boston, and the march-building activities. The party nationally will be taking steps to aid the Boston branch in the building of the action and participating in the work of the national office of the National Mobilization Against Racism. Carol Lipman will be heading up the party's work on this in Boston, and Maceo Dixon will be doing the same for the YSA. Bev Scott will be coordinating the branches on this work for the national office.

We will be contacting the cities which cannot be expected to send contingents about organizing sympathy actions on December 14. This would emphasize the national character of the action, and of the national importance of the Boston struggle. It would also aid our branches in developing deeper relations with organizations in the Black community, with trade unionists, etc.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
for the Political Committee

Come to Boston

Freedom march for Human dignity



“The eyes of the nation and the world are now focused on Boston. The December 14 demonstration against racist violence will show that the vast majority of Bostonians, black, brown, yellow, and white, stand on the side of human rights and justice and oppose mob violence against all school children.

“WE ALSO CALL ON JUSTICE LOVING PEOPLE FROM ALL FIFTY STATES TO COME TO BOSTON AND JOIN OUR FREEDOM MARCH.

“We must link our arms, black and white, and march together for the right of all school children to go to any school in safety. Let our voices and our presence say: ‘NO TO INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM, NO TO RACIST MOB VIOLENCE, NO TO RACISM IN EDUCATION.’ Our message will be heard around the world.”

— State Senator-elect
William Owens

Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus

The forces of racism are continuing to organize in Boston. Now, all who are for justice must respond.

National March and Rally Against Racism

Saturday
December 14

For a complete list of sponsors, information on transportation from your area, or on how you can help organize in your locality, clip below and send to the **Emergency Committee**

- I would like to help organize in my area
- Please send me information on transportation
- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ to help fight racism

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism

634 Massachusetts Ave., Room 207
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
tel: (617) 876-9295

1182 Broadway, Room 701 (nr. 28 St.)
New York, N.Y. 10001
tel: (212) 532-6980-1

Vengan a Boston

Marcha de liberación para la dignidad humana



“Los ojos de la nación y del mundo se enfocan en Boston. La manifestación del 14 de diciembre en contra de la violencia racista demostrará que la gran mayoría de los ciudadanos de Boston—negros, morenos, amarillos y blancos—hacen frente para con la justicia y los derechos humanos y se oponen a la violencia canalla dirigida a niños escolares.

“TAMBIEN LE PEDIMOS A TODO AMANTE DE LA JUSTICIA EN LOS CINCUENTA ESTADOS QUE VENGAN A BOSTON Y SE UNAN CON NUESTRA MARCHA DE LIBERACIÓN.

“Tenemos que enlazar nuestros brazos—blanco y negro—y marchar juntos para con el derecho de todo niño escolar de ir a cualquier escuela en seguridad completa. Que nuestra voces y nuestra presencia diga: ¡No! al racismo institucionalizado, ¡No! a la violencia canalla, ¡No! al racismo en la educación. El mundo entero oirá nuestro mensaje.”

El elegido Senador de Estado

William Owens

Conventículo Negro Legislativo de Mass.

Las fuerzas del racismo continúan organizando en Boston. Es ahora que todo el que apoya la justicia tiene que responder.

Sábado,
14 de diciembre

MARCHA Y REUNION NACIONAL EN CONTRA DEL RACISMO

Para una lista completa de los fiadores, información para transportación desde su area o como puede ayudar a organizar in su localidad recorte abajo y mandelo al comite de Emergencia.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiero ayudar a organizar en mi area | Nombre _____ teléfono _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiero información acerca de transportación | dirección _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Incluso esta mi contribución de \$ _____ para ayudar en la lucha en contra del racismo | ciudad _____ estado _____ |

**Comite de Emergencia para una
Mobilización Nacional en Contra del Racismo**

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