

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 24-26, 1967

First Session, Friday, March 24, 1967, Convened at 12:50 p.m.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION

Presentation of National Committee motions on the organization of the convention by Lew J.

1. Motion: that the Presiding Committee consist of Betsey B., Janet D., Gus H., Doug J., Lew J., Caroline L., Eloise M., Derrick M., Larry S., Melissa S., Peer V., Mary-Alice W.

Motion Passed

2. Motion: that procedural questions be decided by majority vote with one speaker for and one against, each with one minute.

Motion Passed

3. Motion: that the National Committee recommends to the convention that it not consider the James Eyman document, "Red Guards and White Socialists," to be a counter political resolution for the YSA, and recommends that a point for the discussion of this document not be placed on the convention agenda.

Counter-motion by James E.: that a point for discussion of the Chinese Cultural Revolution be placed on the convention agenda.

Discussion: James E., Mary-Alice W.

Vote on counter-motion:

Delegates: 1 for, 40 opposed, no abstentions

Consultative: none for, 38 opposed, no abstentions

Motion Defeated

Vote on NC motion:

Delegates: 40 for, 1 opposed, no abstentions

Consultative: 38 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

4. Motion: to approve the agenda as written.

Discussion: Robin D., James E.

Motion Passed

5. Motion: to approve the schedule as written with one change, that the Northern report be scheduled prior to the antiwar report.

Motion Passed

6. Motion: that Steve C. be granted a 50 minute extension as the first speaker under the antiwar discussion to state his criticisms.

Motion Passed

7. Motion: that all substantive amendments to resolutions must be submitted to the presiding committee by the beginning of the session in which they are to be voted on, in order that they may be mimeographed and distributed to the entire convention so that delegates have the written amendments before them for discussion.

Motion Passed

8. Motion: to adopt the following rules for the convention:

- a. that all sessions be open, with the exception of the session electing the new NC, which shall be closed.
- b. that the NC shall be elected by secret ballot.
- c. that delegates and alternates seated in place of absent delegates have voice and vote. That fraternal delegates have voice and consultative vote.
- d. that discussion presentations be limited to ten minutes.
- e. that in any discussion period, no one may speak a second time before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.
- g. that only those delegates seated at the roll call of a particular session may vote.

Motion Passed

9. Motion: that there be three panels: Defense to be chaired by Janet D., Publications to be chaired by Melissa S., and Recruitment to be chaired by Paul L.

Motion Passed

10. Motion: that the fraternal delegates be the outgoing National Committee, Ed Shaw, Tom Kerry, George Novack, and Harry Ring of the SWP, and three representatives from the North.

Motion Passed

11. Motion: that there be a nominating commission made up of one delegate from each local.

Motion Passed

12. Motion: that John B. and Derrel M. be the co-chairmen of the nominating commission with voice and no vote.

Motion Passed

13. Motion: that the convention be open to YSAers and sympathizers vouched for by the locals.

Motion Passed

14. Motion: that the convention secretaries be Fred S. and Bill O.

Motion Passed

15. Motion: that Dennis S. chair a credentials committee of three people, the other two to be elected by the convention.

Motion Passed

Nominations: Peggy B., Robin D., Evelyn K.

Declinations: Robin D.

Motion: to elect Peggy B. and Evelyn K. to the credentials committee.

Motion Passed

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Wendy R. be chairman of the first session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

II. FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Presented by Tom K.

Motion by Mary-Alice W. for the Presiding Committee: that we send the following telegram to the first national convention of the Jeunesse Communiste Revolutionnaire, meeting this weekend in Paris:

The Sixth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance, meeting in Detroit, March 24-26, extends warm fraternal greetings to the First National Convention of the Jeunesse Communiste Revolutionnaire.

The founding of the JCR and the rapid growth you have experienced during your first year has been a source of great inspiration to the YSA.

Our generation of revolutionary youth has an important historical challenge to meet in the immediate period, working to bring an end to American imperialist aggression against the Vietnamese people. We join with you in pledging to continue our fight to accomplish this task.

We wish you the best possible success in your convention this weekend, and your work to build the JCR.

Motion Passed

III. PRESENTATION ON THE LOU DAVIS CASE

Reporter - Betsey B.

Motion from the National Committee: that the National Convention of the YSA uphold and commend the action of the Philadelphia local in expelling Lou Davis.

Discussion: James E.

Summary on Lou Davis Case - Betsey B.

Vote on motion by NC:

Delegates: 40 for, 1 opposed, no abstentions

Consultative: 38 for, none opposed, no abstentions

IV. NORTHERN REPORT

Reporter - Jackie H.

Questions and answers.

First Session adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Second Session, Friday, March 24, 1967, Convened at 3:30 p.m.

Recommendation from Presiding Committee that Norma L. be chairman of the Second Session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

I. ANTIWAR REPORT

Reporter - Lew J.

Discussion on Antiwar Report: Steve C., Derrel M., Linda S., Syd S., Fred S., Phil P., Robin M., Robin D., Charlie B.

Motion: to extend Charlie's time 5 minutes.

Substitute-motion by Duane W.: to eliminate scheduled dinner break and continue discussion until finished.

Substitute Motion Defeated

Motion Passed

Recessed for dinner 6:10 p.m. - reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to take a new speakers list, limiting it to four or five speakers at a time.

Discussion: Robin D., Lew J., Duane W.

Motion Passed

Discussion on Antiwar Report continued: Paul E., Kipp D., Carl F., Gus H., Irving K., Duane W., Dan S., Danny R., Wendy R., Mike T., Dave W., Paul Mc., Melissa S., Doug J., Eloise M., John Ben., John Barz.

Motion: to give Steve C. the floor briefly, even though there are first round speakers who have not yet spoken.

Motion Passed

Discussion on Antiwar Report continued: Steve C., Peer V., Evelyn K., Linda S.

Motion by Linda S.: to mandate incoming NEC to publish a pamphlet on "Imperialism and War."

Discussion on motion by Linda S.: Les E., Lew J.

Motion: to table Linda S.'s motion to the Organizational Report.

Motion Passed

Recessed at 10:15 p.m. - reconvened at 10:40 p.m.

Summary on Antiwar Report - Lew J.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to approve the general line of the NEC antiwar resolution and report.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 40 for, none opposed, one abstention

Consultative: 30 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

Second Session adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Third Session, Saturday, March 25, 1967, Convened at 10:05 a.m.

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Rich H. be chairman of the Third Session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

I. POLITICAL REPORT

Reporter - Mary-Alice W.

Discussion on Political Report: James E., Jan G., Paul E., Derrel M., Caroline L., Dave F., Dan S., Will R., Bill O., Les E., Robin M., Jaimey A., Doug J., Dick M., Syd S.

Recessed for lunch at 1:05 p.m. - reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Summary on Political Report - Mary-Alice W.

Motion from Presiding Committee: to approve the general line of the political resolution and report.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 40 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Consultative: 30 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

Motion by Betsey B. for the Presiding Committee: to send the following telegrams:

To President Fernando Belaunde Terry of Peru:

The Sixth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance protests the inhuman and anti-democratic jailing of Hugo Blanco. Hugo Blanco is a symbol of the aspirations of the oppressed masses of the world. The most elementary principles of civil liberties demand an immediate clemency for him and his immediate and unconditional release from prison.

To Hugo Blanco:

The Sixth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance extends its solidarity to you in your struggle. Support for your defense is growing in this country as part of a world wide protest against your jailing and inhuman treatment. Your revolutionary example has been an inspiration to us. Your struggle is our struggle.

Motion Passed

Third Session adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Fourth Session, Saturday, March 25, 1967, Convened at 2:45 p.m.

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Phil P. be chairman of the Fourth Session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

I. NEGRO STRUGGLE REPORT

Reporter - Derrick M.

Discussion on Negro Struggle Report: Judy H., Will R., Suzanne W., Bill M., Dave W., Carl F., Joel B., John Ben.

Motion from Presiding Committee: to continue discussion until 5:30, take a 15 minute recess, have the summary from 5:45 - 6:15; and schedule 15 minutes following the summary for a report on the Bloomington case.

Discussion: Robin D.

Motion Passed

Discussion on Negro Struggle Report continued: Jan G., Peer V., Danny R., Les E.

Recessed at 5:30 p.m. - reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

Summary on Negro Struggle Report - Derrick M.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to approve the general line of the Negro Struggle resolution and report.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 39 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Consultative: 29 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

II. BLOOMINGTON CASE REPORT

Reporter - Janet D.

Motion: to give the floor to Ralph L.

Motion Passed

Motion by Lew J. for the Presiding Committee: that the Convention designate tonight's party as the Bloomington Victory celebration.

Motion Passed

Fourth Session adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Fifth Session, Sunday, March 26, 1967, Convened at 11:00 a.m.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: that the first point on the agenda of the Fifth Session be a special point on the Milwaukee local.

Motion Passed

Motion from the Presiding Committee: that Danny R. be chairman of this point.

Motion Passed

I. SPECIAL POINT ON THE MILWAUKEE LOCAL

Reporter - Lew J.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to constitute the convention as a committee of the whole to hear charges against the six Milwaukee comrades present at the convention.

Motion Passed

Charges from the Presiding Committee: at 8:00 a.m. this morning, the six Milwaukee comrades present at the convention collaborated with members of Youth Against War and Fascism, an opponent tendency, in organizing and attending a meeting to which several co-thinkers were invited. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the position of the Milwaukee comrades and members of Youth Against War and Fascism on the Chinese Cultural Revolution. This constitutes a gross violation of our organizational norms.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to expell the six Milwaukee comrades present at the convention and to authorize the incoming National Committee to reconstruct the Milwaukee local.

Discussion: none

Motion by James E.: that he be given 10 minutes to read a statement of resignation for the Milwaukee local.

Motion Passed

James E. reads resignation statement of Milwaukee local.

Vote on motion to expell:

Delegates: 40 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Consultative: 39 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Steve C. be chairman of the Fifth Session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

II. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

Reporter - Doug J.

Discussion on Organizational Report: Ellis B., Jan G., John D., Melissa S., Jim K., Robin D., Mike H., Linda B., Jackie H., Julius S., Bill P., Eloise M., Richard H., Maureen J., Fred S., Wendy R., Paul L.

Recessed for lunch at 2:05 p.m. - reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

Summary of Organizational Report - Doug J.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to approve a spring fund drive quota of \$8,550.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 40 for, none opposed, no abstentions
Consultative: 38 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to approve the general line of the Organizational Report.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 40 for, none opposed, no abstentions
Consultative: 38 for, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion Passed

III. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Reporter - Dennis S.

Delegates: Present 42. 24% women and 76% men. Average age 22 years 11 months. Average length of time in YSA, 2 years 6 months. 22% students, 78% non-students.

Alternates: Present 39. 31% women, 69% men. Average age 22 years 1 month. Average length of time in YSA, 1 year 9 months. 41% students, 59% non-students.

Fraternal delegates: Present 41. 34% women and 66% men. Average age 23 years 6 months. Average length of time in YSA, 4 years 7 months. 10% students, 90% non-students.

Visitors: Present 143. 100 YSAers, 43 non-YSAers. Of those in YSA, 44% students, 56% non students.

General: 265 present, of which 217 are YSAers. 36% women, 64% men. Average age 22 years 5 months. Average length of time in YSA, 2 years 3 months. 17% from the West Coast, 47% from the Mid-west, and 36% from the East Coast.

36% students, 64% non-students. 30 campuses and 4 high schools represented. Of the non-students, 33% employed in production and basic industry, 67% employed in clerical, service and technical trades. Leading occupations: 19 on full time assignments, 17 teachers, 11 in computer field, 10 printers, 7 machinists.

74% of YSAers at convention are members of antiwar committees.

Average cost of attending the convention was \$37.00: West Coast, 35 @ \$109.00; Mid-west, 100 @ \$14.00; East Coast, 75 @ \$34.30.

Issues that motivated joining the YSA: 57 antiwar movement, 45 colonial revolution (40 specifically Cuba), 40 Negro struggle, 21 socialism in general, 11 independent electoral activity, 5 civil liberties.

Motion: to approve the credentials report.

Motion Passed

Motion from the Presiding Committee: to send the following telegram to comrades James P. Cannon and Rose Karsner:

The YSA extends our revolutionary greetings on this, the occasion of the Sixth National Convention, to comrades James P. Cannon and Rose Karsner, founders of the American Trotskyist movement. We look forward eagerly to the publication of comrade Cannon's Letters From Prison as a valuable addition to his other works which have played such an indispensable role in the education and training of the YSA.

Motion Passed

Appreciation expressed to comrades graduating from the YSA.

Appreciation and thanks expressed to the Detroit comrades for the excellent job done in hosting the convention.

Singing of the "Internationale" in tribute to comrade Leo Bernard, dedicating the convention to his memory.

Fifth Session adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Sixth Session, Sunday, March 26, 1967, Convened at 4:30 p.m.

Delegates and fraternal delegates only.

I. NOMINATING COMMISSION REPORT

Reporter - Derrel M.

Motion from the Nominating Commission: to set the number of full National Committee members at twenty.

Discussion: Bill M., Julius S.

Motion Passed

Proposed slate of 20 full National Committee members:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| John B. | Marilyn L. | Melissa S. |
| Charlie B. | Paul L. | Syd S. |
| Steve C. | Caroline L. | Dan S. |
| Kipp D. | Robin M. | Mary-Alice W. |
| Jan G. | Derrick M. | |
| Gus H. | Derrel M. | |
| Doug J. | Wendy R. | |
| Lew J. | Danny R. | |

Motion from the Nominating Commission: to accept the slate of 20 as a whole.

Motion Passed

Motion from the Nominating Commission: to set the number of alternate members of the National Committee at fifteen.

Motion Passed

Proposed slate of 15 alternate National Committee members:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Irving K. | 9. Paul Mc. |
| 2. Larry S. | 10. Walter L. |
| 3. Peer V. | 11. Jim K. |
| 4. Carol L. | 12. Carl F. |
| 5. Linda S. | 13. Bill O. |
| 6. Dennis S. | 14. Judy H. |
| 7. Eloise M. | 15. Peggy B. |
| 8. Bruce H. | |

Motion from the Nominating Commission: to accept the slate of 15 as ordered.

Motion Passed

CONVENTION ADJOURNED: 4:50 p.m.