

IN STRUGGLE'S RULES OF ORDER



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PRESENTATION

The rules of order which follow are a tool of proletarian democracy designed to allow the widest expression possible of democracy in meetings, conventions and congresses. Based on voluntary and conscious discipline, they seek to enable workers to express their just ideas in spite of and against all forms of censorship.

We speak of **democracy** and **discipline**, for they go hand in hand. For example, how can correct ideas on the best strategy in a strike have a concrete effect if the meeting where they are to be adopted is undisciplined, run in such a way that the motions as well as the best ways to apply them concretely cannot really be debated or adopted? On the other hand, how many times have we seen labour bosses turn democracy into a joke by invoking a formal and legalistic discipline to prevent debate and discussion on the pretext that time is short, that the agenda they so consciously devised contains too many points? The practical result of such bureaucratic procedures is the same as anarchy: they both succeed in discouraging workers from participating in meetings. It leads to cliques controlling meetings and making important decisions that serve their interests and not those of the majority. And the favorite weapon of these bureaucrats remains the "rules of order" that they are often the only ones to know.

That is why the "rules of order" that we propose are based on the following criteria:

- allowing the widest possible expression of all points of view during meetings;
- ensuring conscious discipline and the struggle against liberalism and anarchism;
- making democracy possible for everyone by simplifying the procedural rules as much as possible;
- making the procedure as a whole cohesive so that the rules complement one another and that meetings be easy to follow.

We believe that rules of order must not be a secret weapon, known only to the small number of initiators. On the contrary, they must be an open weapon against liberalism and indiscipline and against authoritarian methods, a weapon known to all. That is why we recommend that study sessions of the rules of order be organized in unions and mass organizations. This can be done by stages, during meetings themselves, so that little by little everyone can grasp them.

* * *

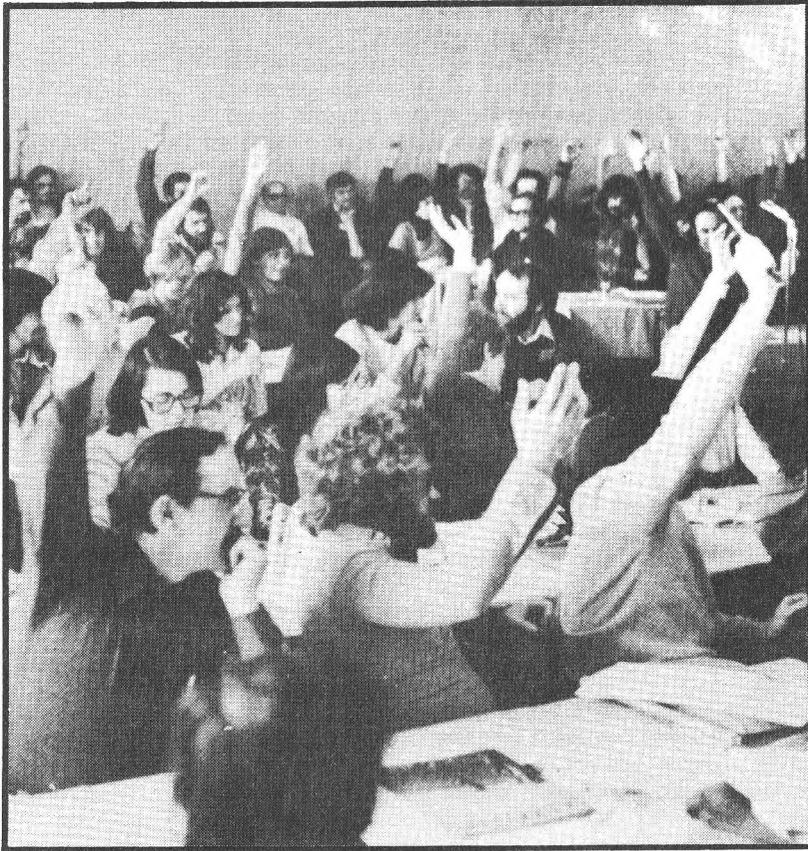


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1- GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR CONVENING A MEETING

Before looking at the procedure of a meeting, convention or congress, we must examine the preliminary rules, that is, the rules which guarantee the validity and the good organization of the meeting, convention or congress in question. The rules which we propose are, of course, subject to the internal rules of each organization. What follows is a series of suggestions on how to organize the work. For example, the required quorum can vary depending on the size of the organization, its tradition and past experience, the degree of mobilization of its members, and so on. Likewise, some constitutions allow for a particular procedure when convening a special meeting. So, what must be kept in mind here is the general procedure to be followed to guarantee the validity of the meeting and, consequently, of its decisions and good order.

Article 1: OPENING PROCEDURES

- 1- Verification of the right of those present to attend
- 2- Verification of the quorum if necessary
- 3- Election of the chairperson and secretary
- 4- Confirmation of the good order and the nature of the meeting, in accordance with the constitution of the organization: read the notice of meeting and give proof of its publication if necessary.
- 5- Reading and adoption of the order of business:
 - a) **regular meeting:** any modification (addition, withdrawal or alteration in the order of items) of the agenda requires a simple majority vote.
 - b) **special meeting:** deals with the item(s) mentioned in the notice of meeting. Other items can be added to the agenda with the approval of 2/3 of those present.
- 6- Comments:
 - a) the length of the debate on any item of the agenda can be set, either by setting a maximum time or by setting a limit to the number of speakers on a motion, for example, 3 in favor and 3 against. In this case the vote requires a 2/3 majority.
 - b) a seconder is not needed to adopt the order of business. A simple majority is sufficient.

* * *

2- PROPOSAL OF MOTIONS

Article 2:

The meeting is asked to decide on a question by means of a motion. The **vote**, positive or negative, indicates **the resolution**, the decision taken by the meeting.

Article 3:

Normally, a motion is considered to be in order when it has been **moved** and **seconded**, **read by the secretary**, and when the chairperson has ruled that it does not contravene any rule of order.

Article 4:

If the chairperson rules it is in order, he submits the motion to the meeting. The motion then comes under consideration and becomes the property of the meeting which alone can dispose of it. **It cannot be withdrawn without the unanimous approval of the meeting.**

Article 5:

There then follows a **question period** whose purpose is to clarify the meaning of the motion when necessary; and next, a **discussion period**. The time allotted to each speaker is limited to 3 minutes. Then the **vote** is taken on the motion. (see the section dealing with the question of votes).

Article 6:

No motion is receivable after the vote has been called for.

Article 7:

The **mover** and the **second**er of a motion have precedence on the speakers' list. The mover of the main motion has the right to a 3 minute reply, unless his motion has been amended.

Article 8:

Before taking the vote, the motion must be reread.

Article 9:

The mover and second

er of the motion or of the amendment cannot move or second a sub-amendment, an amendment to the amendment.

Article 10:

The meeting disposes of various motions which are defined as follows:

- 1- Ordinary motions:
- 2- Auxiliary motions:

I: Ordinary Motions

Article 11:

DEFINITION OF AN ORDINARY MOTION

Ordinary motions are those normally submitted to the meeting according to the order of business when no motion is on the floor. These include main motions along with their amendments and sub-amendments, if there are any. They raise essential as well as routine matters.

Article 12:

THE MAIN MOTION

The main motion poses the question the meeting must decide upon.

Article 13:

THE AMENDMENT

The amendment must be related to the question posed by the main motion. The amendment must not deal with a new question, but it is in order and receivable by the chairperson even if it completely alters the nature or the orientation of the main motion, as long as it does not stray from the question. In fact, without altering the nature of the main motion, the amendment can be used merely to drop, add, or replace certain words. A main motion of congratulations can be followed by an amendment of censure. The subject of the motion, in this case, is the appreciation of the behaviour or of the acts of a person or of an institution.

Comments:

- 1- The meeting must pronounce on an amendment before another can be presented.
- 2- Nothing prevents the presentation of several amendments to a motion, but each must be disposed of in turn, according to the order in which they were presented.

- 3- An amendment can be sub-amended but a sub-amendment cannot be amended.
- 4- The sub-amendment must be disposed of before another one can be presented and before going back to the amendment.

Article 14: THE SUB-AMENDMENT

The sub-amendment can only deal with the **terms** of the amendment. It must only serve to drop, add, or replace certain words in the amendment. It must not attempt to re-introduce the parts of the main motion modified by the amendment.

Article 15: ORDER IN WHICH MOTIONS ARE PUT TO THE VOTE

The chairperson puts to the vote first the sub-amendment, then the amendment, and finally the main motion, regardless of whether the vote was positive or negative on the sub-amendment and on the amendment.

Article 16: EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE

- a) **In some cases**, the adoption of an amendment may render the vote on the main motion unnecessary and the adoption of a sub-amendment can render the vote on the amendment and on the main motion unnecessary.
- b) when it is proposed that a meeting examine a report paragraph by paragraph, the rules mentioned above do not apply. By virtue of article 27, the chairman asks the question, "adopted?" after reading each paragraph. If no objection is raised, the paragraph is adopted. If there is an objection, the usual rules of order apply and the meeting proceeds with motions and the possibility of amendments and sub-amendments.
- c) these rules of order concern only ordinary motions not auxiliary motions, which cannot be amended, nor election procedures (see chapter 5).

Article 17: THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION

A delegate can, while speaking on a motion, an amendment, or a sub-amendment announce that he is laying a motion, an amendment or a sub-amendment on the table with the intention of proposing an alter-

native to what is under consideration by the meeting. He then reads it and turns it over to the secretary. The meeting is thus informed of the existence of an alternative motion to the one before it. However, the meeting will first vote on the motion which is on the table before passing on to the debate and then to the vote on the alternative motion.

II. Auxiliary motions

Article 18: THE DEFINITION OF AN AUXILIARY MOTION

Auxiliary motions are used to suspend the debate, either to enable a committee to examine the question in greater detail, or to have a related document provided or read, or to have the meeting deal with an urgent matter, or to organize the discussion in a systematic way. **Auxiliary motions are motions which cannot be amended.** With certain exceptions they are adopted by a majority vote. The auxiliary motions are:

Article 19: THE REFERAL OF A QUESTION TO A COMMITTEE

The purpose of this motion is to refer the question under debate to a committee of the particular organization holding the meeting, convention or congress, or to refer the question to a committee of the meeting, convention or congress which will have to report during the course of the convention or congress. Discussion and vote.

Article 20: TO PRODUCE A DOCUMENT

This motion is aimed at allowing a document to be produced and read to the meeting, inasmuch as the document is pertinent to the question being considered. Discussion and vote.

Article 21: OBJECTION TO A QUESTION BEING CONSIDERED

When a member considers that a question raised is inopportune, detrimental or useless, he can object to it being considered, even if another member has the floor. The vote is taken without previous dis-

cussion, and a majority of 2/3 of the voting members present is required to sustain the objection.

Article 22: ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting, purely and simply, and to reopen it at some later moment. After a brief explanation by the mover the vote is taken without further discussion.

Article 23: TABLING A MOTION

To table a motion or to reopen debate on a motion already tabled. This procedure allows the meeting to suspend debate on a motion, to proceed with another or several others, as the case may be, and to come back to the tabled motion if it is still relevant to do so. Often, this procedure is a way of abandoning a badly-worded motion, or a motion that it is not pertinent to consider at a specific moment in the discussion — for example, a motion proposing means of action that is presented before the discussion on the heart of the matter has been finished. The vote is taken without discussion.

Article 24: RECONSIDERING A VOTE

This motion is only valid during a congress or convention, and is used to reconsider a vote previously taken in the same congress or convention. This motion must be preceded by a **notice of motion** given to the chairperson at the session preceding that in which the congress or convention will be asked to decide on the reconsideration.

Procedure:

The congress or convention first decides as to the reconsideration itself: a majority must be in favour of the principle of reconsidering the vote on the question under dispute. If this majority exists, the vote is taken over on the question that the congress or convention had already decided, **but without resuming the discussion.**

Only one notice of motion on a given question can be signified during a congress or convention. There is neither a vote nor discussion on the notice of motion; at the beginning of the session the chairperson submits the motion of reconsideration, which must be seconded, to a vote by the congress or convention.

Article 25: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Used to transform the congress, or convention meeting into a com-

mittee of the whole. Sometimes, the congress, convention or meeting reaches a dead-lock and it is necessary to temporarily suspend the procedure in order to permit a free and open discussion on the question at hand. Generally, the time period of the committee of the whole is indicated at the very beginning as well as the rules concerning the time limit for each speaker, that is, the maximum time allotted for each speaker, the number of times each speaker can take the floor, etc. Discussion and vote.

Article 26: SUSPENDING A RULE OF ORDER

In certain circumstances, a procedural rule can become a handicap to productive debate. A delegate can then propose to suspend its application for the duration of the debate at hand, or for the duration of the whole congress, convention or meeting. The mover specifies the rule he wants suspended and a discussion precedes the vote. It is passed by a simple majority vote, a 2/3 vote or unanimously, depending on what the rule of procedure to be suspended specifies.

Article 27: TO STUDY A REPORT PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH

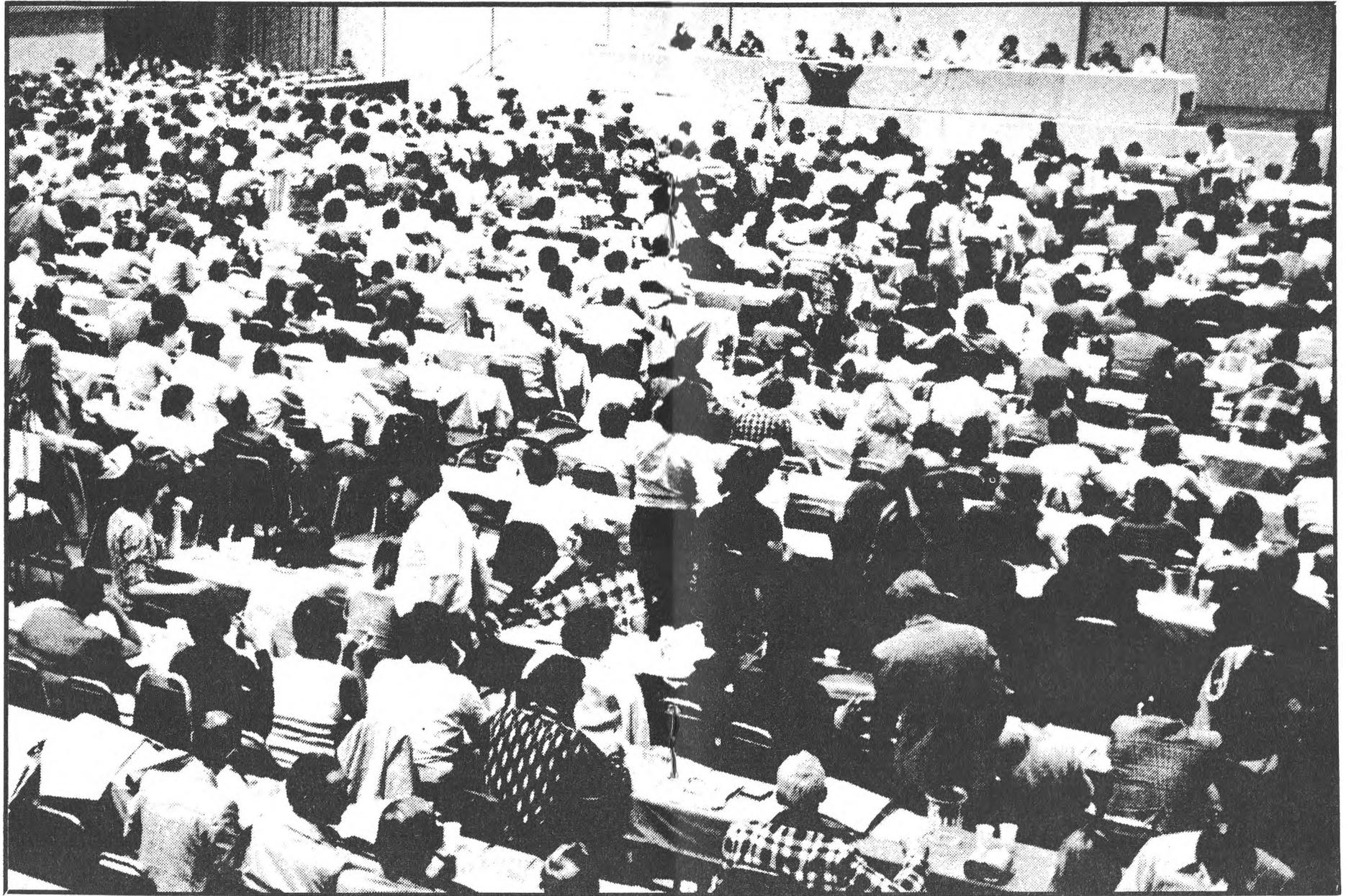
When a committee presents a report of activities during a congress, convention or meeting, it can be studied paragraph by paragraph, chapter by chapter etc... such a motion of procedure must be moved, seconded and voted on after discussion. If the motion is adopted, the chairperson then asks the question "adopted?" after each paragraph. If there are no objections, the paragraph is adopted. This eliminates the taking of unnecessary votes for each paragraph. But if an objection is raised, the ordinary rules of procedure are applied and the meeting proceeds with ordinary motions (see chapter 6, resumé).

Article 28: TO DIVIDE A COMPLEX MOTION

This motion allows for the division of an ordinary complex motion into several separate motions that are then debated one at a time. Discussion and vote.

Article 29: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

A question of privilege can be invoked when there is violation of the



rights or an attack on the prerogatives of the congress, convention or meeting or a particular delegate. A question of privilege can also be invoked on any important subject whose discussion is deemed urgent. If possible, delegates should invoke questions of privilege at the beginning of the session so as not to interrupt a discussion. If after explanation of the meaning of the question of privilege the chairperson accepts it, the delegate can then present a **privileged motion** that cannot be amended and on which the congress, convention or meeting must pronounce after discussion. Thus, there are two separate stages:

- 1- presentation of the question to be considered privileged. The chairperson accepts or rejects the status of privilege;
- 2- if the chairperson accepts it, a motion is presented, discussion and voted on. If rejected, there is no second stage.

Article 30: TO PROCEED WITH THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

To propose "to proceed with the order of business" during a discussion is equivalent to proposing the adjournment on the question under consideration; this motion doesn't need a seconder and cannot be debated.

Article 31: TO CALL FOR THE VOTE

This motion aims at preventing, avoiding or putting an end to the discussion on a question. Its abuse, that is, using this motion to avoid all fundamental debate, is evidently anti-democratic. On the other hand, its correct use can counter "ultra-democratism", a tendency to discuss every detail before taking position. This motion does not require a seconder. **Calling for the vote supposes that the congress, convention or meeting is sufficiently informed on a question and is ready to vote without further discussion.** A delegate who has not yet taken part in the debate can at all times, except during a speech, call for the vote. From that moment on, the discussion is finished. The secretary notes the mover's name and, unless the previous question is asked, the chairperson proceeds directly to the vote on the question being considered.

Article 32: PREVIOUS QUESTION

As its name indicates, it is the only question that can be received after the vote has been called for **It is based on the assumption that the congress, convention or meeting is not ready to vote on the question being debated;** for this reason, this question is in order. It doesn't need a

seconder and is put directly to a vote. The motion is read in the following manner: "The meeting is ready to vote."

If it is accepted, discussion is immediately ended and the vote taken on the main motion, the amendment or the sub-amendment. If it is rejected, the discussion continues. The previous question is decided by a 2/3 majority vote. This is a way of recognizing the minority's right to express its position, even if the vote has been called for; to demand 2/3 is a way of determining if a substantial majority is ready to vote. If such is the case, it would be ultra-democratic to continue debating forever. A final detail: the previous question, like calling for the vote, is applicable only to the sub-amendment, the amendment or the motion being debated at the time, unless the mover indicates otherwise by, for example, specifically stating that he is asking the previous question, or calling for the vote, on the whole of the amendments and the motion being debated.

* * *

3- THE VOTE

Article 33: RIGHT TO VOTE

All official delegates present in the room or, in the case of a general meeting, all members in good standing present in the room have the right to vote. A delegate or a member has the right to one vote.

Article 34: VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS

The vote is taken by a show of hands.

Article 35: VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT

If the majority so decides, the vote is taken by secret ballot. Any delegate or member can move that a vote be taken by secret ballot; if the motion is seconded, the meeting, convention or congress then votes on this motion.

Article 36: THE CHAIRPERSON'S VOTE

The chairperson votes in the case of a tie. Before voting, he can explain his vote briefly.

Article 37: MOTION DECIDED FORTHWITH

When no one else intervenes on a motion and no one raises an objection, the motion is considered to be unanimously accepted. If it is clear there are objections, one of the persons opposed to the motion must ask for the vote. It is useless for someone who agrees with the motion to ask for the vote if no one raises any further objections, unless it is necessary so as to put an end to a discussion that is dragging on uselessly.

Article 38: REQUIRED MAJORITY

- a) **Simple majority:** implies a majority of votes in favour of the motion compared with those against it; in other words, it is a question of having more "in favour" than "against", without taking into account those who abstain.
- b) **Absolute majority:** implies a much stronger majority, since the number "in favour" must equal 50% + 1 of the members who have the right to vote and are present in the room. Thus, in order that a proposal be adopted, there must be 51 out of 100 votes "in favour"; "abstentions" are thus automatically counted with the votes "against". If there are 40 "in favour" but 5 "against" and 46 "abstentions", the motion is rejected. This rule is therefore a very strong incentive to vote, and usually has the effect of eliminating or reducing the abstentions to a minimum. Its use is particularly recommended for ordinary motions and during elections.
- c) **"2/3":** this majority of voting members is only required for the previous question (Art. 32), an objection to a question being considered (Art. 21) or to a candidate's nomination (Art. 44), or for the suspending of one or the other of these articles (Art. 26).
- d) **Unanimity:** a unanimous vote is required only to withdraw a motion already accepted by the chairperson (Art. 4).

* * *

4- PROCEDURES

Article 39: CHAIRPERSON'S ROLE

The chairperson must see that the meeting runs smoothly. This

implies ensuring that the adopted rules or procedure and agenda are respected and also that the rights of everyone, including the minority, are respected. The chairperson is the interpreter of the rules or order; he very rarely participates directly in the discussions in order to better control the whole situation and concentrate on his task. As specified above (Art. 36), the chairperson only votes when there is a tie. This general role of the chairperson can be applied in different ways depending on the situation (for example, a large public meeting, a general meeting of the members of an organization, a committee meeting, a convention or a congress).

Article 40: APPEALING THE CHAIRPERSON'S DECISION

In cases in which the chairperson's decision can be appealed (when a motion is judged receivable or not, on a point of order, a question of privilege, a decision concerning procedures taken by the president), this is the procedure to follow:

- 1- a member appeals the decision just taken;
- 2- another member seconds this appeal;
- 3- the chairperson then proceeds with the vote on the appeal without discussion or amendment, and the question is decided by a simple majority vote;
- 4- if there is a tie, the chairperson's decision stands.

Article 41: POINT OF ORDER

The chairperson can call to order any member or participant who is not orderly or who does not respect the rules of order or the agenda. Any voting member can raise a point of order to set the facts straight, to protest against insults or to demand that order be maintained or that the speaker stick to the subject of discussion. A point of order does not need to be seconded. This is the procedure to follow:

- 1- a member rises and says, "point of order";
- 2- the interrupted speaker must wait for the chairperson's decision before proceeding;
- 3- the member explains the point of order;
- 4- the chairperson gives his decision;
- 5- if the point of order is sustained — for example, ask that the speaker stick to the discussion of the motion being considered — the speaker concerned must take it into account, as must all other interested persons;
- 6- if the point of order is not sustained, the speaker takes up where he left off;

7- it is possible for a member to appeal the decision of the chairperson, following the procedure mentioned in article 40.

* * *

5- ELECTIONS

Article 42: NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

The meeting, convention or congress first proceeds to nominate candidates in the following manner: any delegates can nominate as many candidates as he wishes. He does not need a seconder. He justifies his proposals by underlining the qualities of the proposed candidate. The secretary takes note of the candidates in the order that they are proposed by the delegates, until there are no more proposals.

Article 43: CANDIDATES' AGREEMENT TO RUN

The chairperson then asks each delegate whose name has been proposed if he or she accepts the nomination or not. This is done in the inverse order of their nomination: the chairperson begins with the last person nominated and continues until the first. Each person can justify his or her decision to accept or refuse the nomination.

Article 44: SERIOUS OBJECTION TO A CANDIDATE'S NOMINATION

Should a member have a serious objection to another member even agreeing to stand as a candidate, he can take the floor and ask for a vote after having explained the nature of his/her objection. It is, however, recommended that delegates debate the candidates only when all the official candidates are known. A 2/3 majority vote is required to reject a nomination of candidate.

Article 45: DISCUSSION OF THE CANDIDATES

After the candidates have been clearly identified, there follows a period of debate during which the members can intervene to question the candidates, criticize them and indicate their preferences. This debate should be held systematically on each candidate in the inverse order of their nomination.

Article 46: THE ELECTION ITSELF

The vote is secret.

Each delegate registers on a ballot as many names of candidates as there are posts to fill.

In order to allow delegates to take different factors (for example, regional representativity) into account, it can be decided that only half of the total number of posts to be filled will be immediately elected by deciding to retain a previously-determined proportion (for example, 5 out of 10) of those who obtain the most votes. On the other hand, to guarantee that those elected have the majority's complete confidence, each candidate should obtain an absolute majority, that is a number of votes equal to 50% + 1 of the total number of delegates present, or 51 votes out of a 100, to be elected.

The vote continues until all the posts are filled. A candidate can always withdraw between two ballots. Likewise, the candidate with the fewest votes is automatically excluded from the following ballot.

* * *

6- RESUME

A few examples will help illustrate how to use these rules of order. Suppose that we are in a meeting that has to adopt a union president's report at the end of his term in office.

The vice-president moves that the meeting **adopt the report paragraph by paragraph** (Art. 27); this motion must be seconded. Once this is done, there is a discussion during which those for and against the motion present their arguments. Someone who has not yet spoken on the question **calls for the vote**. (Art. 31). Since the main arguments have been heard and all are ready to vote, nobody moves the **previous question** (Art. 32). The secretary of the meeting **rereads the motion** (Art. 8) and the **vote** is held (Art. 5, and chapter 3, Art. 33 to 38). If a simple majority (Art. 38) is in favour of the motion, the meeting proceeds with the adoption of the report.

As set out in Article 27, this method allows a report to be discussed paragraph by paragraph, article by article or chapter by chapter, depending on the particular structure of the document being considered by the delegates. Thus, if the report contains a mistake or an erroneous position, the delegates can correct the mistake or defeat the erroneous position without rejecting the entire report. If from the start delegates want to adopt or reject the report as a whole, they should simply defeat

the preceding motion to adopt the report paragraph by paragraph. Moreover, it is obvious that voting on each paragraph can be a lengthy and unnecessary procedure. Therefore, this procedure allows a paragraph to be adopted, after being read by the chairperson, if nobody voices any objections. In this case, the paragraph is adopted unanimously and the meeting continues with the reading of the next paragraph. If someone objects to the adoption of the paragraph in question, the normal procedure is followed, with discussion of a motion, possibility of amendments and sub-amendments, etc., and a formal vote at the end.

The chairperson reads the first paragraph. Somebody raises an objection, and so the ordinary procedure is used. The motion then on the floor reads, "Moved, that the following paragraph be adopted..." Speakers defend or denounce the paragraph in question. Then a speaker proposes an **amendment** (Art. 13). The chairperson asks if someone seconds this amendment, and if so the discussion on the amendment to the paragraph begins. Speakers defend or attack the amendment before the meeting. Someone who has not yet spoken on the amendment **calls for the vote** (Art. 31). Another speaker, who like to see further debate on the amendment, **moves the previous question** (Art. 32). Without further discussion, the chairperson asks the delegates to vote on the previous question, which reads as follows: "The meeting is ready to vote." If 2/3 of those voting are in favour of this motion, the vote on the amendment is held. If not, debate on the amendment continues. Why demand that 2/3 of those voting by ready to vote on a motion, at the simple request of a delegate? The reason is obvious: what is a vote worth is fewer than 2/3 of the delegates are **ready** to decide? Furthermore, it's a matter of respecting the minority's right to express itself.

If the amendment is adopted, it becomes an integral part of the motion, and the debate continues on the motion. However, if an amendment is contrary to the sense of the motion, it is of course **useless to vote on the motion** (Art. 16a), since the majority of the delegates have opted for another formulation. In this case, the meeting continues with the reading of the following paragraph, and the adopted amendment replaces the paragraph in the minutes of the meeting.

Another speaker can then propose a new amendment, which must be **seconded**, to this new motion. Perhaps this amendment introduces a new element in the discussion and there are good reasons for not discussing it immediately; another speaker can then propose **that the amendment be tabled** (Art. 23). If his motion to table is seconded, he can justify it, and it is then voted upon without discussion. If the majority agrees to table the amendment, this may mean that the delegates want to come back to this question later, or perhaps on the contrary that they don't want to discuss the matter any further. Later, it is always possible for a delegate to ask that the debate on the motion thus tabled be revised, but it is entirely possible that the discussion will have clarified the situation in such a way as to render the revival of the point useless.

With the new amendment tabled, the meeting proceeds with the

discussion on the motion as already amended. A person who has not yet spoken can call for the vote, etc.

Proceedings continue in this fashion until the entire report, as amended during the debate, is adopted.

* * *

These are only a few examples of how to apply these rules or order. It is clearly a matter of rules to organize the debate so as to allow the widest possible expression of the point of view of both the majority and the minority. Only saboteurs and bureaucrats use rules as a way to stifle debate. They are then rapidly unmasked, because they directly attack the masses by trying to prevent them from expressing their opinions. To unmask these opportunists, it is necessary to understand these rules of order thoroughly and to always rely firmly on the masses. This instrument will thus serve the proletariat's struggle against the anti-democratism, obscurantism and opportunism of all those who, both inside and outside the working-class movement, try to stifle its cry for liberation.

* * *

ANNEX

This table presents a rapid resumé of how to use auxiliary motions.

	main motion	amendment	sub-amendment	no amendment	discussion and vote	vote without discussion	majority vote	2/3 majority	unanimity	notice of motion	second	no second	chairperson's decision
I- Ordinary motions (Art. 2 - 17)	x	x	x		x	x					x		
17: alternative motions	x	x	x		x	x					x		
16: exception													
- to amend the rules of order	x	x	x		x	x					x		
II- Auxiliary motions (Art. 18 - 39)													
Article													
19 to refer a question				x	x	x					x		
20 to produce a document				x	x	x					x		
21 objection				x	x	x	x					x	
22 adjournment				x	x	x						x	
23 tabling a motion				x	x	x						x	
24 to reconsider a vote				x	x	x			x	x			
25 committee of the whole					x	x					x		
26 to suspend a rule or order				x	x						x		
27 to examine a report para. by para.				x	x	x					x		
28 to divide a complex motion				x	x	x					x		
29 question of privilege				x	x	x					x		x
30 to proceed with the order of business				x	x	x						x	
31 to call for the vote				x								x	
32 previous question				x	x	x	x					x	
III- Varia													
40 to appeal a decision						x	x						x
41 point of order				x								x	x
42 nomination												x	
44 to reject a nomination				x	x	x	x					x	

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DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE CANADIAN PROLETARIAN PARTY

It is precisely with the aim of directly contributing to the realization of the conditions necessary for the creation of the party that the Canadian Marxist-Leninist group IN STRUGGLE! recently submitted its **Draft Program for the Canadian Proletarian Party** to its members and sympathizers, to the Canadian and international communist movement and to the proletariat and labouring masses in Canada.

FOR THE UNITY OF THE CANADIAN PROLETARIAT: BRIEF NOTES ON THE PRESENT CONJUNCTURE

"Analysis of the conjuncture does not in and of itself automatically produce tactics; **on the basis of the strategic line** we must go on to establish the means for transforming this situation in the direction of developing a revolutionary struggle." (Taken from **For the Unity of the Canadian Proletariat**, p. 31).

This is the essential message of these **Brief notes on the present conjuncture**, published by IN STRUGGLE! in April 1977. What tactics should we use at the present time in the class war against the bourgeoisie? Or more precisely, what tactics are necessitated by our current strategic objective, the building of the proletarian Party, in the present conjuncture?

In this pamphlet, the group IN STRUGGLE! defends orienting our current tactics to the development of the unity of the Canadian proletariat and people; it maintains that whatever hinders this unity reinforces the bourgeoisie.

Such a pamphlet is interesting because it links the national and the international situation, the struggle against opportunism within both the working-class movement and the communist movement, the conjuncture and the tasks that it implies for us, and the bourgeoisie's different crisis measures and policies. In short, **For the Unity of the Canadian Proletariat** is an analysis which links these various phenomena and indicates the key link in the chain.