

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

June 20, 21, 22, 23, 1974

Thursday, June 20, 1974

Convened by Barnes - 1:35 p.m.

Motion by Barnes: That Styron chair the first session.

Carried.

Attendance:

Regular: Barnes, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Chertov, DeBerry, Garza, Halstead, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, D. Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Ring, Seigle, Sharon, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Thomas, Tussey, Waters, Weinstein

Alternates: Scott, Evans, Reissner, Lund, L. Jenness, White, Wulp, Pulley, Styron, Roberts, Benson, Blackstock, Henderson, Stapleton, Morell, LaMont, Seidman, Boehm, Hawkins, McBride, Dixon, Mackler

Advisory: Dobbs, Kerry, Novack, Reed

Control Commission: Chester, Matson, Scheer

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Jones reported recommendations of the Political Committee on organization of plenum:

Motion: To approve the following procedural recommendations:

1. That in cases of procedural disputes, discussion be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
2. That general discussion be limited to ten minutes per speaker and that no one speak twice until all who wish to speak have already done so.
3. That the Presiding Committee consist of the Political Bureau (Barnes, Britton, Finkel, A. Hansen, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Stone).
4. To designate Hermes and Rupp as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the youth NEC, branch organizers, and special guests.

6. To give voice to organizers and department heads who are not members of the National Committee during discussion of the Informational Report on Opponents and the Party Tasks and Organization Report.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda:

1. World Situation Report
2. Political Committee Referral Concerning May 11 Actions
3. World Movement Reports
4. Political Situation in the United States Report
5. Informational Report on Opponents
6. Party Tasks and Organization Report
7. Informational Report on the Party's Fight for Democratic Rights
8. Youth Report

Carried.

2. WORLD SITUATION REPORT

Horowitz reported.

Supplementary Report on Portugal by Foley

Discussion: Roberts, Thomas, Barnes, White, Waters, Foley

Summary: Horowitz

Motion: To approve the general line of the World Situation Report.

Carried unanimously.

3. POLITICAL COMMITTEE REFERRAL CONCERNING MAY 11 ACTIONS

Jones reported. Members of the National Committee have before them the Political Committee motion referring the May 11 action to the National Committee. In addition National Committee members have before them the letters from comrades Massey and Barzman regarding the same events.

Motion by the Political Committee: As provided for in Article VI of the Party Constitution, the National Committee (1) turns over to the Control Commission the material concerning the May 11 action and the letters from comrades Massey and Barzman, and (2) designates comrade Horowitz as the National Committee member of the Control Commission.

Carried unanimously.

Motion by Stone for the Presiding Committee: That the following telegram be sent to the comrades of the PST of Argentina:
"The National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party sends revolutionary greetings to our sister party, the PST and voices its solidarity with the struggle against the growing repression. The consistent active participation of the PST in the Argentine workers movement and its dedication to the battle for a socialist Argentina has made it a target for terroristic acts by those benefitting from the oppression and exploitation of the working class.

"We hail your efforts to form a united front of all workers organizations and tendencies in defense of the democratic rights won by the Argentine workers through their mass struggles.

"Long live the PST!"

"Long live the Fourth International!"

Adopted by acclamation.

Recess -- 4:45 p.m.

Friday, June 21, 1974

Reconvene -- 3:05 p.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Hawkins chair the Friday session.

Carried.

Motion by Presiding Committee to concur with the request of the IMT delegation to postpone the world movement reports to Sunday.

Carried.

4. POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES REPORT

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Ring, Sharon, Morrison, Thomas, Roberts, Halstead, Henderson, Breitman, Tussey, Chertov, DeBerry

Summary: Barnes

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Situation in the United States Report.

Carried unanimously.

Recess -- 6:45 p.m.

Reconvene -- 8:25 p.m.

5. INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON OPPONENTS

D. Jenness reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Mackler, DeBerry

Recess -- 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, 1974

Reconvene -- 10:05 a.m.

Further discussion: Reissner, Breitman, Halstead, Pulley,
Evans, Waters, H. Myers, White, Ring, Kerry, Chainey,
Sharon

Motion: To grant Sharon a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Sharon

Summary D. Jenness

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Lund chair the Saturday
afternoon session.

Carried.

5. PARTY TASKS AND ORGANIZATION REPORT

Sheppard reported.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE PARTY'S FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATIC
RIGHTS

Seigle reported.

Discussion: Breitman, Mackler

Motion: To grant Mackler a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Mackler, Henderson

Motion: To grant Henderson a 3-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Henderson

Motion: To grant Henderson a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Henderson

Motion: To grant Henderson a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Henderson

Supplementary report on Coalition for Trade Union Women by
L. Jenness

Further discussion: Evans, Dixon

Motion: To grant Dixon a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Dixon, Weinstein, Hillary, Linger, Basley
Sharon

Motion: To grant Sharon a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Sharon, Carrillo, Kelly, Stone, Richter,
Chertov, Tussey, Lund, Brundy

Summary: Sheppard

Motion: To approve the general line of the Party Tasks and
Organization Report.

Carried unanimously.

Recess -- 7:10 p.m.

Sunday, June 23, 1974

Reconvene -- 10:15 a.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Blackstock chair the
Sunday session.

Carried.

Motion by the Presiding Committee: To concur with the request
of the International Majority Tendency delegation that
comrades Massey and Charles each be granted 10 minutes
speaking time during discussion, and that two guests
adhering to the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction be granted
an equivalent courtesy.

Carried.

7. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORTS

Waters reported for the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction.

Barzman reported for the International Majority Tendency.

Discussion: Kerry, Charles

Request by Charles for a 10-minute extension.

Ruling by chair that previous motion precludes extensions by International Majority Tendency or Leninist-Trotskyist Faction guests under this point.

Motion: To waive the rules and grant Charles a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: Charles, Mercedes, North

Motion: To grant North a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further discussion: North, Thomas, Massey, Barnes, Camejo

Summary by Charles for International Majority Tendency

Summary by Waters for Leninist-Trotskyist Faction

Recess -- 2:30 p.m.

Reconvene -- 3:15 p.m.

8. YOUTH REPORT

Finkel reported.

Discussion: Boehm, Ring, Novack, Breitman, Pulley

Motion: To approve the general line of the Youth Report.

Carried unanimously.

Singing of "The Internationale."

Plenum adjourned -- 5:00 p.m.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 20

2:30 - 2:45 Organization of Plenum (¼ hour)
2:45 - 3:45 World Situation Report (1 hour)
3:45 - 4:15 Supplementary Report on Portugal (½ hour)
4:15 - 6:15 Discussion (2 hours)
6:15 - 6:45 Summary, World Situation Report (½ hour)
6:45 - 7:15 Political Committee Referral Concerning May 11
Actions (½ hour)

Friday, June 21

3:00 - 3:45 World Movement Report - LTF (45 minutes)
3:45 - 4:30 World Movement Report - IMT (45 minutes)
4:30 - 6:00 Discussion (1½ hours)
6:00 - 6:15 Summary, World Movement Report - IMT (15 minutes)
6:15 - 6:30 Summary, World Movement Report - LTF (15 minutes)
6:30 - 8:00 Dinner
8:00 - 9:00 Political Situation in the United States Report
(1 hour)
9:00 - 10:00 Discussion (3 hours total)

Saturday, June 22

10:00 - 12:00 Discussion
12:00 - 12:30 Summary, Political Situation in the United States
Report (½ hour)
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch
2:00 - 3:00 Informational Report on Opponents (1 hour)
3:00 - 5:00 Discussion (2 hours)
5:00 - 5:15 Summary, Informational Report on Opponents
(15 minutes)
5:15 - 6:15 Party Tasks and Organization Report (1 hour)
6:15 - 7:00 Informational Report on the Party's Fight for
Democratic Rights (45 minutes)
7:00 - 8:30 Dinner
8:30 - 10:00 Discussion (3½ hours total)

Sunday, June 23

10:00 - 12:00 Discussion
12:00 - 12:30 Summary, Party Tasks and Organization Report
(½ hour)
12:30 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 Youth Report (1 hour)
2:00 - 4:00 Discussion (2 hours)
4:00 - 4:15 Summary, Youth Report (¼ hour)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 20

2:30 - 2:45 Organization of Plenum (¼ hour)
2:45 - 3:45 World Situation Report (1 hour)
3:45 - 4:15 Supplementary Report on Portugal (½ hour)
4:15 - 6:15 Discussion (2 hours)
6:15 - 6:45 Summary, World Situation Report (½ hour)
6:45 - 7:15 Political Committee Referral Concerning May 11
Actions (½ hour)

Friday, June 21

3:00 - 3:45 World Movement Report - LTF (45 minutes)
3:45 - 4:30 World Movement Report - IMT (45 minutes)
4:30 - 6:00 Discussion (1½ hours)
6:00 - 6:15 Summary, World Movement Report - IMT (15 minutes)
6:15 - 6:30 Summary, World Movement Report - LTF (15 minutes)
6:30 - 8:00 Dinner
8:00 - 9:00 Political Situation in the United States Report
(1 hour)
9:00 - 10:00 Discussion (3 hours total)

Saturday, June 22

10:00 - 12:00 Discussion
12:00 - 12:30 Summary, Political Situation in the United States
Report (½ hour)
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch
2:00 - 3:00 Informational Report on Opponents (1 hour)
3:00 - 5:00 Discussion (2 hours)
5:00 - 5:15 Summary, Informational Report on Opponents
(15 minutes)
5:15 - 6:15 Party Tasks and Organization Report (1 hour)
6:1 - 7:00 Informational Report on the Party's Fight for
Democratic Rights (45 minutes)
7:00 - 8:30 Dinner
8:30 - 10:00 Discussion (3½ hours total)

Sunday, June 23

10:00 - 12:00 Discussion
12:00 - 12:30 Summary, Party Tasks and Organization Report
(½ hour)
12:30 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 Youth Report (1 hour)
2:00 - 4:00 Discussion (2 hours)
4:00 - 4:15 Summary, Youth Report (¼ hour)

LENINIST TROTSKYIST FACTION MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 20

10:00 - 1:00 Faction Meeting (3 hours)
Report on the Internationalist Tendency
Plenum Agenda and Format
1:00 - 2:30 Lunch

Friday, June 21

10:00 - 1:30 Faction Meeting (3½ hours)
General Report (½ hour)
Latin America (½ hour)
Europe (½ hour)
Canada (½ hour)
Discussion (1¼ hour)
Summary (¼ hour)
1:30 - 3:00 Lunch

①

John Barzman - IMT report on world movement

this plenum will confirm a dangerous course

at world congress, the votes were not challenged

organizational recommendations - CTE/IMT

- no public attacks on sections
- no disciplinary actions taken of their views
- pledge to carry out line
- pledge to step up financial aid, staff

political diff's have broadened

pledges have not been honored

French Elections

SWP line = ultra-left sectarian position

not a vote for ~~SP~~^{SP}, but ~~vote for~~ an abstention

contrast with march elections in Chile

dogmatic + schematic analysis

Argentine - workers pole - = minimal

Pigeot - not around minimal demands

FCP = give solution to concrete problems
action program for a workers govt

(2)

{ Rev Front of Sailors, Soldiers + Airmen
{ Front for Defense of Drafters

LTF has the right to have its own analysis
= There was a public attack on the French section in the elections

to say a vote for Mitterand is class collaboration is
to publicly attack the French section — a public
attack on the policy of the French section

contrast this to Argentina

— Obregon
— progressive bourgeois
— 9 parties

/ nothing said about
this by SWP either publicly
or internally

different standard

reflects PST's desire to be a legal party — it is so
great that PST crosses class line — etc.

PST — no self-defense vs thugs

Portugal — LTFs = SWP doesn't favor, in addition to a
mass epgn around democratic + immediate demands, also a
epgn aimed at vanguard

implications: ^{LTF line - would} need defense guards vs mass vanguard
in defense of dem liberties ? ?

Bayman, cont'd

Portugal - how come Joleyt Blanco don't cooperate w/LCI

- ~~will SWP~~ respond to appeal for aid to LCI
or will it try to split LCI as in Spain

Puerto Rico - whose line is work being done around

FI - CIF promised to assign top cadre, step up contributions to

IT: we have been forced to ^(cut its) contribution to the ~~SWP~~ SWP because

IT - exec - IT elected to exec comms, but ~~since then~~ since then nothing has been done

CC has been called to investigate charges that we admit having done - we admit selling Old Mole + FI pubs. & we have the right to do this

CC => expulsion

blackmailing: pressure on IT to

O.C. will go on for a while to intimidate IT from exercising its rights we have no choice, but to go to higher bodies

(4)

Barzman

Q: is S&P heading for split?

Your course so far leads to split

Charles -

Spain - denies it -
French elections

Bill M.

CC - reserves

no facts in dispute
∴ no need for investigation
~~with the~~
won't refuse to do it again

Charles - summary

France

Argentina

Portugal